

THE NEW MEXICO FREEMASON

VOL. 80

Winter 2016

No. 4

Grand Master's Message



Dennis D. Anderson
Grand Master of Masons
in New Mexico 2016-17

Brethren, sadly we must say goodbye for now to a pillar of our Fraternity for many, many years. Most Worshipful Brother Ernie Hazelwood has laid down his working tools, and we will meet him on earth no more. He was and always will be an inspiration to all who seek light in our Fraternity, a shining example of a life well lived.

While we who must remain know something has gone out of our lives that can never be again, he has begun his journey through that undiscovered country. We anticipate the day when we will meet him and greet him there, to be parted never

more, forever and forever. Farewell for now, old friend, we take comfort in knowing the first words you heard from Him who sitteth as Judge Supreme were simply these: Well done, thou good and faithful servant, well done.

Next year, Deputy Grand Master Ernie Shoup is issuing a challenge of 140 new masons for our 140th anniversary. A loftier goal would be 300 for 300, but we will take 140 as it would be one of the better years in many and is a laudable goal. I hope to see it accomplished, see his article below for details.

This may be a repeat, but I want to emphasize the overall goal we are trying to achieve in all we as Masons and Brothers try to do – to please each other, and to unite in the grand design of being happy, and communicating happiness. A story by Jim Tresner, “Written On the Wind,” in the Scottish Rite Journal many years ago is in my Top Ten section. The story, a bittersweet tale of a

Grand Master - Continued on Page 3

Deputy Grand Master



Ernie Shoup
Deputy
Grand Master

Brethren,

Membership is but one of the many challenges we face today as well as in the upcoming years. We all know our membership numbers have been declining for far too many years, but this particular issue may be one of if not the most important item we must get under control. The fall 2016 issue of *The New*

Mexico Freemason provided many examples of the issues (Suspension for non-payment of dues (SNPD), membership retainage, and membership advancement), statistics, and some possible answers to this concern.

By the time you read this, the Annual Budget meeting will have concluded, and you will already have heard many of these, or very similar numbers. Since the first Budget meeting in 2012, we have lost approx. 1,031

Dues paying members (from Rolls 11/2/16), which relates to \$40,240 less revenue in those four years. This equates to 257 members a year loss and \$10,000 loss in revenue per year. And yes, membership directly affects our annual budget. Brothers, this decline cannot continue!

Therefore, with the permission of Most Worshipful Anderson, we are rolling out the “140 for 140th Grand Lodge of New Mexico Anniversary Membership Challenge,” as 2017 will be our 140th Anniversary. The challenge is for the Lodges to add statewide a minimum of 140 new, proficient Master Masons starting January 2017 thru the Annual Session in March of 2018. In reality, the 140 number should be something like 250-300 in order to turn things around and meet our membership goals.

Here are some of the proposed guidelines and goals for this challenge:

Deputy Grand Master - Continued on Page 3

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From the Editor



This is the third of four planned issues of *The New Mexico Freemason* for 2016-2017. We hope that you enjoy reading our newspaper and that you find the articles informative and interesting.

Be sure that your contact information on file with Grand Lodge is current so that you do not miss any important communications. Send your updated contact information to gndsec@nmmasons.org.

The submission deadline for the remaining and only printed issue of the 2016-2017 Masonic Year is January 25 2017.

If you would like to let everyone know the history of your lodge, send it to us. If your lodge hosts a special event, send us an article. If you want to write about a particular Brother or about our Fraternity in general, send us an article. If you have photographs to go with your article, send them also but, please, make sure you let us know who and what we are seeing.

With the previous issue of *The New Mexico Freemason* we introduced our new OpEd feature. Here is an opportunity for you to sound off on what's bugging

Grand Master - Continued from Page 1

hard day with many seemingly big issues, ends with his being “brought up short” by a young boy’s school assignment, found in the litter blown into his yard. The brief note simply said, “My weekend was sad and stressful because my father died and I kept thinking about him.” Suddenly all the irritations of the day became very petty. His conclusion: That is what the lessons in Freemasonry do, they bring you up short, and make you profoundly ashamed of pettiness. Brethren, the shortcuts we seem to have to take only to consume hours of frustration to clean up remind me of this. I hate pettiness, and hate hearing about a lodge balloting for officers by a show of hands or taking shortcuts on petitions. There is nothing petty about having to contemplate disciplinary action for failing to follow procedure. All members need to hold their officers accountable to see things are done as per our code and obligations. Failing to do so will only see us slide farther down the slope.

With the holidays are coming up, I wish all the very best for the season. To the outgoing Masters, thank you for a job well done. To the incoming Officers, one and all, best of luck in your year and thank you for stepping up. Our best days are coming; the helping hand we are looking for is at the end of our own arm. Your Masonic experience starts with you.

Dennis Anderson
Grand Master



Deputy Grand Master - Continued from Page 1

Goals:

- Long-term membership growth (Masons) by starting with a minimum of 140 new Master Masons who are properly proficient in their work.
- Increase number of Masons (Members) by at least 5% annually. We currently have 3850 active members, thus the 140 new Masons is more or less equivalent to +-3.5%. This, more or less, works out to 3 new Masons per lodge.
- Improve ritual within lodges and districts.
- Improve advancement of Masons (from EA to MM) and retainage (SNPD).
- Keep in mind; this is a membership growth challenge and NOT a ‘cattle call’ where we just go after numbers. Part of the long-term goal here is to retain these new Master Masons for many years to come.

Guidelines:

- Use proper Petition and investigation processes.
- No short cuts (i.e., time, petitions and investigations, ritual, proficiencies, etc.).
- Use of traditional proficiencies; mentoring and coaching; lodge and Masonic education.
- Use the Grand Lodge Candidate Education Course (if not already doing so).
- Proper use of ritual and lectures, etc. If your lodge needs help, ask your neighboring lodges, the Grand Lecturer, or your District Deputy Grand Lecturer. Let’s help each other attain our goals and we might find our ritual will improve along the way.
- With proper notification and consideration and approved Dispensation, a District or joint lodge degree or a Continuation Day may be considered. However, it is preferred the lodges do the work.
- Some ways to find new Masons:
 - Social media (i.e., Facebook, etc.).
 - Open House (dinner to honor Police/Fire, etc.).
 - Booth at county fairs, community gatherings (i.e. Highland games, local celebrations etc.).
 - Grand Lodge Public Relations Committee has several ideas for lodges.
 - Invite community dignitaries to the lodge to speak, provide a dinner.
 - Invite a Grand Lodge Officer to visit during your event.

There may be more goals and guidelines added along the way, but this is a start. For the past several years, you have heard many of my predecessors, including our current officers promoting and getting back to the basics of Freemasonry. Here is one more opportunity to do the things we used to do and how they should be done. As you may notice, this is a *challenge* and not a directive or mandate. However, as one Mason to another, our Fraternity, and our lodges must find a way to turn around the decades’ long drop in numbers of Masons. Are you ready for the Challenge and to meet or exceed these goals?

I leave you with this quote from Sir and Brother Winston Churchill, “It is not enough we do our best; sometimes we have to do what’s required.”

Fraternally,
Ernie Shoup
Deputy Grand Master



Senior Grand Warden



Adam Hathaway
Senior
Grand Warden

Good Brothers,

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity.

As usual, the best part of being a Grand Lodge Officer is visiting with all of you. Since the previous issue of the New Mexico Freemason, I held my official visitation at Gate City Lodge No. 11, by invitation presented *An Introduction to the Golden Ratio*

at Sacramento Lodge No. 24 and *A Knight Templar in the Amaranth Court* at the New Mexico Order of Amaranth Grand Court, attended the New Mexico Order of the Eastern Star Grand Sessions, represented the Grand Master at the Scottish Rite Valley of Santa Fe Reunion, attended the District 5 Barbecue, attended the Grand Lodge Regional Communication/ Back to the Turn of the Century hosted by Kingston Lodge No. 16., visited Five Points Lodge No 1137 in El Paso, TX, and participated in the cornerstone ceremony for the Unitarian Church in Los Alamos hosted by Pajarito Lodge No. 66. Thank you, my Brothers, for your unparalleled hospitality, brotherly love, warmth, and welcome. Please contact me if I may be of service at any of your meetings.

Traditionally the Senior Grand Warden chairs the Grand Lodge Long Range Planning Committee and I am honored to be appointed by the Grand Master. The Long Range Plan provides direction to the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, so it is important that all brethren have an opportunity to provide input. The current Long Range Plan is the result of years of contributions from the Craft and modifying it as goals are met and implementation expands.

The overarching goals of the Long Range plan are:

No. 1 Membership is increased to 6,000 exceptional Masons through scrupulous recruitment and brotherly retention methodologies.

No. 2 Lodge officers are trained in their duties and training their successors.

No. 3 The Grand Lodge, Lodge of Research, and Constituent Lodges provide regular Masonic education programs

No. 4 The Grand Lodge has a fully implemented public relations plan implemented by the Grand

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Lodge Public Relations Committee and constituent lodges.

No. 5 All Lodges are fully proficient in the ritual.

No. 6 The Grand Lodge, including constituent lodges, is enjoying financial stability.

No. 7 Electronic Communication and media technology are used to the fullest.

The above is not the entire plan. There are currently several supporting objectives that continue to be tweaked, based on your input. Recently, at the Grand Lodge Regional Communication at Kingston Lodge, the Brethren participated in an exercise I like to encourage, designed to get at what they truly envision for the future of Freemasonry in New Mexico. I asked them to close their eyes and think of how this sentence should end: “As a Freemason, I really wish we had more . . . “ Below are the answers from the brethren and two ladies in attendance.

- Community activities.
- Historical lectures.
- Diversity in all aspects of membership.
- Money.
- Planning of activities.
- Community activities involving lodges.
- Members – active and participating. (Had 5 similar responses)
- Public relations opportunities.
- Time.
- More focus on youth groups.
- Opportunity for lodge participation in communities.
- More opportunity for ladies to participate.
- More participation of Brothers at lodge level.
- Inter-lodge cooperation.
- More involvement of lodge members.
- Positive media coverage.
- More floor work in ritual – visual demonstration.
- More on-line ritual instruction. (these two were referring to computer generated instructions made earlier by RWB Steve Balke)
- District Workshops that are targeted at activities, expectations, and instructions from the GM to the DDGMs.

Senior Grand Warden - Continued from Page 4

- Candidate education programs at lodge level.
- Education on how to run a lodge as a business.
- Know who we are – worth the money.
- GL provide scholarships with meaningful money.
- Better informed members coming to GL Annual Communication.
- Building in everything we do – 3-legged stool.

So far this year, a Long Range Plan brainstorming session was held at MASONICon and the above exercise was conducted at both Grand Lodge Regional Communications (please see this year’s previous issues of *The New Mexico Freemason* for those detailed reports). I have also received a large amount of input during visitations and other meetings.

I now invite you to the last open session of the year of the Long Range Plan to be held January 15, 2017, at 1 pm, in offices of the Grand Lodge. If you are unable to attend, please forward your thoughts to me in advance, I will see that they are entered into the discussion. Together, we can make it better. Together, we will succeed.

May brotherly prevail and every moral and social virtue cement us.

Fraternally and Sincerely,
Adam Hathaway
Senior Grand Warden



Junior Grand Warden



Ralph A. Easley
Junior
Grand Warden

Brethren,
It’s been a busy year for me as the Junior Grand Warden for New Mexico Masons. I have been fortunate to spend my time this year visiting many lodges across the state sharing friendship and brotherly love with many brothers and friends.

It has proved to be a truly rewarding year that has provided me with patience and understanding as a Mason. This was a year as full of many Masonic opportunities including attending Nevada, and Idaho Grand Lodges, and the Rocky Mountain Conference in Idaho Falls.

I look forward to spending the remainder of this year

continuing this great adventure. My main focus remains with my brothers in lodges across New Mexico and working together to promote the ideals of Masonry in a positive way. I believe communication between brothers and maintaining our standards is the key to success. I hope to see you in Albuquerque in March.

Bless those who are ill or distressed.

Fraternally,
Ralph Easley
Junior Grand Warden



Junior Grand Deacon



Jonathan Andrews
Junior
Grand Deacon

The last few months have been a time of learning and a time of change. Local and national elections took place and voters selected leadership to direct the future of this great country and our local governments. Similarly, every lodge in the state has completed their election of officers, and new officers will be installed in the coming weeks.

I am confident in the leadership of every lodge and happy to see what new ideas and concepts the leaders of each lodge bring into the fold of our ancient and honorable institution.

By the time you read this article, you will have passed an annual budget for the Grand Lodge. I am again confident that the leadership of each lodge was present to discuss the financials and plan for the future of our institution. I know the Accounts, Ways and Means Committee put a lot of work into their suggested budget for the membership to discuss, modify as they wish, and vote. Remember that your vote directs to Grand Lodge expenditures.

For those unable to attend the Regional Communication in Hillsboro, NM, you missed a spectacular day of fellowship, presentations, and great food. Kingston Lodge No. 16 held its ‘Turn Of The Century’ meeting during the Grand Lodge Regional meeting, with many brethren attending in period clothing. The Grand Marshal regaled the attendees with historical stories of the old mining towns of Southwest New Mexico. MWB Jimmie Berkey tied the Masonic history of John Wayne to the

Old West of New Mexico, and we heard a first-hand account of the great flood of 1914 that decimated the town of Hillsboro. Finally, Kingston Lodge organized a spectacular steak lunch. No one left hungry!

I would like to take this opportunity to remind every Mason in New Mexico of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico Facebook page, which is full of information on meetings and events for lodges, districts, and the Grand Lodge. If there is something you want to see on the Facebook page that is missing, please contact any Grand Lodge Officer, we will make sure to update the page to maximize its use.

Enjoy your winter months and the holidays with friends and family, and let's all make 2017 a great year for masonry in New Mexico.

Jonathan Andrews
Junior Grand Deacon



Grand Secretary



Dan Sutcliffe
Grand Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL BUDGET COMMUNICATION GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. OF NEW MEXICO November 19, 2016

The UNM Continuing Education Complex in Albuquerque, New Mexico, was the site of the Annual Budget Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of New Mexico. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. Voting members present were 6 Grand Lodge Officers, 5 Past Grand Masters, 1 Past Elected Grand Lodge Officer, 14 Worshipful Masters, 11 Senior Wardens, 14 Junior Wardens, and 34 proxies for a total of 85 voting members. There were 18 non-voting members present for a total of 103 members in attendance.

Lodges not represented by a voting member were: Mimbres Lodge No. 10, Kingston Lodge No. 16, Eddy Lodge No. 21 Tucumcari Lodge No. 27, Cimarron Lodge No. 37, Melrose Lodge No. 39, Bent Lodge No. 42, Santa Rita Lodge No. 44, Lovington Lodge No. 46, Mount Moriah Lodge No. 54, Bethesda Lodge No. 64, Eunice Lodge No. 67, Valley Lodge No. 69, and Malpais

Lodge No. 71.

Informational materials associated with development of the 2017-18 draft budget was provided, and then the budget was presented. After discussion the budget was approved. Total expected revenue is \$204,832 with total expenses being \$200,962 leaving a balance of \$3,870.

A short presentation and discussion of the Annual Return process requested by the lodges was presented.

A handout that had been provided on the work of the Endowed Task Force was discussed. A number of options to address the failings of the Fund were recommended to the Task Force during numerous visits to the lodges. The suggestions had been evaluated and it was recommended that several might be combined. The combination would include:

- If Endowed Membership purchases are to continue the calculation factor should be 30-35 times the dues to include per capita at the time.
- Any new endowed membership purchasers will continue to pay yearly dues and per capita. The endowment fund will begin distribution at the time of the death of the member.
- The Code be modified to allow 100% yearly distribution from the Fund regardless of the effect on the corpus of the fund.

Additional discussions of the options will occur between now and the Annual Communication in March. Final direction for modifications will be determined at that Communication.

The Annual Budget Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of New Mexico closed in modified form after a prayer and declaration by the Grand Marshal, peace and harmony prevailing.

Given under my hand and Seal of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, this 22nd day of November 2016, A.L. 6016.

Daniel H. Sutcliffe
Grand Secretary



**The New Mexico Freemason
2017-2018 APPROVED BUDGET**

| | 2017-18 Approved Budget |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Account | |
| Ordinary Income/Expense | |
| Income | |
| 4010.1 · Donations | 0 |
| 4020.1 · Fees | |
| EA Fees | 3,400 |
| Late Fee | 0 |
| Reinstatement Fee | 250 |
| Total 4020.1 · Fees | 3,650 |
| 4049.1 · Member Donations | |
| Reserve Fund Transfer | |
| 4050.1 · Per Capita Dues | |
| From Lodges | 114,680 |
| From Endowed Fund | 28,160 |
| Total 4050.1 · Per Capita Dues | 142,840 |
| 4055.1 Assessments | |
| 4060.1 · Reimbursements Revenue | |
| Background Check Reimbursements | 4,500 |
| Liability Insurance | 19,947 |
| Reimbursements | 1,000 |
| Travel Reimbursement | 0 |
| Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference | 5,000 |
| Utility Reimbursement - Sandia Mountain | 6,000 |
| 4060.1 · Reimbursements Revenue - Other | 0 |
| Total 4060.1 · Reimbursements Revenue | 36,447 |
| 4070.1 · Sale - Supplies | |
| 25 & 50 Year Pins | 1,000 |
| Book Sales | 0 |
| 4070.1 · Sale - Supplies - Other | 2,400 |
| Total 4070.1 · Sale - Supplies | 3,400 |
| 4080.1 · Grand Lodge Communication | |
| Registration | |
| Total 4080.1 · Grand Lodge Communication | 0 |
| 4089.1 · Uncategorized Income | 18,090 |
| Total Income | 204,427 |
| Cost of Goods Sold | |
| 4520.1 Purchases | |
| Lodge Supplies | |
| Total 4520.1 Purchases | |
| Gross Profit | 204,427 |

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Expense

| | |
|--|---------------|
| 5010.1 · Assistance to Organizations | |
| Committee on Masonic Youth | 5,000 |
| Veterans Hospital Visitation | 2,000 |
| Total 5010.1 · Assistance to Organizations | <u>7,000</u> |
| | |
| 5020.1 · Benefits Paid to/for Members | |
| Payroll Taxes | <u>2,634</u> |
| FICA | |
| FUTA | |
| Medicare | |
| SUTA | |
| 6560 · Payroll Expenses | |
| Total Payroll Taxes | <u>2,634</u> |
| Retirement distributions | |
| Carpenter | 18,090 |
| Reserve for Future Distributions | 5,000 |
| Retirement distributions - Other | |
| Total Retirement distributions | <u>23,090</u> |
| | |
| Salaries Gr Secretary & Dep | |
| Salaries Grand Secretary | 33,437 |
| Total Salaries Gr Secretary & Dep | <u>33,437</u> |
| Total 5020.1 · Benefits Paid to/for Members | <u>59,162</u> |
| | |
| 5030.1 · Fees for Services | |
| Investment Management | 850 |
| IPN Fees | |
| 5030.1 · Fees for Services - Other | |
| Total 5030.1 · Fees for Services | <u>850</u> |
| | |
| 5075.1 · Payments to Affiliates | <u>0</u> |
| Dues & Perp. To Lodges | |
| Total 5075.1 · Payments to Affiliates | |
| | |
| 5080.1 · Program Services | |
| Conferences and Meetings | |
| Annual Communication | 3,000 |
| Conference Membership | |
| Conferences and Meetings - Other | |
| Masonicon | 2,000 |
| Masonic Education | 0 |
| Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference (ABQ) | 5,000 |
| Total Conferences and Meetings | <u>10,000</u> |
| Information Technology | |
| Computer Expense | 1,000 |
| Web Hosting | 1,300 |
| Information Technology - Other | 1,700 |
| Total Information Technology | <u>4,000</u> |

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| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Insurance | |
| Directors and Officers | 1,375 |
| Insurance - Liability | 19,947 |
| Workers Compensation | 1,000 |
| Total Insurance | <u>22,322</u> |
| Occupancy | |
| Bldg. Maintenance | 400 |
| Building Maintenance | 5,000 |
| Bldg. Maintenance - Other | 5,400 |
| Total Bldg. Maintenance | |
| Utilities | |
| Gas & Electric | 7,931 |
| Telephone | 2,546 |
| Water | 2,266 |
| Total Utilities | <u>12,743</u> |
| Total Occupancy | <u>18,143</u> |
| Office Expenses | |
| Equipment rental | 2,400 |
| Office | 4,500 |
| Office Expenses - Other | 100 |
| Total Office Expenses | <u>7,000</u> |
| Other Program Services | |
| Awards and presentations | 1,150 |
| Awards Presentation | |
| Kit Carson Award | |
| Awards and presentations - Other | 100 |
| Total Awards and presentations | <u>1,250</u> |
| Background Check | 4,500 |
| Bank Charge | 50 |
| Dues | |
| G. Washington Fund | 500 |
| GM & GS Conference | 550 |
| Masonic Relief Association | 325 |
| Dues - Other | |
| Total Dues | <u>1,375</u> |
| Library | 100 |
| Meals | 0 |
| Refund | 0 |
| Taxes | |
| State | 10 |
| Total Taxes | <u>10</u> |

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| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Total Other Program Services | 7,285 |
| Printing Publications & Postage | |
| Annual Proceedings | 500 |
| NM Freemason | 4,000 |
| Postage | 2,000 |
| PR Committee | 1,000 |
| Printing | 2,000 |
| Total Printing Publications & Postage | <u>9,500</u> |
| Travel | |
| Grand Lodge Officers | |
| Grand Master | 12,500 |
| Deputy Grand Master | 7,400 |
| Senior Grand Warden | 7,600 |
| Junior Grand Warden | 7,400 |
| Grand Treasurer | 1,500 |
| Grand Secretary | 5,100 |
| Senior Grand Deacon | 4,000 |
| Junior Grand Deacon | 4,600 |
| Grand Lecturer | 5,000 |
| Committee Chairs & Board | 600 |
| Total Grand Lodge Officers | <u>55,700</u> |
| Total Travel | <u>55,700</u> |
| Total 5080.1 · Program Services | <u>133,950</u> |
| 5080.2 Program Services EMF Bank Service Charge | |
| Total Expense | <u>200,962</u> |
| Net Ordinary Income | (35) |
| Other Income/Expense | |
| Other Income | |
| 6012.1 · Dividend | 0 |
| 6050.1 · Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets | 0 |
| Cost Basis | 0 |
| Sale Proceeds | 330 |
| Total 6050.1 · Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets | <u>330</u> |
| 6100.1 · Interest | |
| Interest Income | 75 |
| Total 6100.1 · Interest | <u>75</u> |
| Total Other Income | <u>405</u> |
| Net Other Income | 405 |
| Net Income | <u><u>3,870</u></u> |

Chaplain's Corner



Dave Ring
Grand Chaplain

Two Kinds of Lives, Two Kinds of Endings

One of the particular duties of the Grand Chaplain is officiating at funerals and/or memorial services for deceased Masons. So although it's a somewhat 'heavy' subject, I would describe to you two funerals at which I officiated some years ago. Neither was a Masonic service, but the point I would

make is unaffected thereby.

The first such funeral was that of Faye Thomas. That wasn't her actual name; I've changed it for obvious reasons. Faye was a completely self-centered, blatantly negative person for as long as anyone who knew her could remember. Many had tried to befriend her over the years but she eventually drove them all away. She had a grown daughter and a son and a couple of grandkids; none of them maintained more than tenuous contact with her. When she died, alone in her small home, three days passed before anyone realized it. The funeral director called me because a neighbor suggested my name; he was struggling to put together a low-cost funeral since neither of her children wanted to pay much to plant the old woman.

At the graveside service there were maybe twelve people. Her son and daughter both showed up. It was a deeply depressing situation; to employ a Biblical phrase there was "weeping and gnashing of teeth." I tried to offer at least some hope, because, after all, funerals are for the living. But no one present was fooled; they all realized that this woman had died—for eternity.

The second funeral was that of Mel Dickinson. Mel was the kind of man who was always doing something for someone else. Although he himself lived on relatively modest means, I know that he helped out dozens of folks who got into financial binds. He was a wonderful grandfather to his six grandkids and a loving husband to his wife, Millie. He was an active leader in his church. When, eight months before his death, he was diagnosed with cancer, his personal faith, which had long been a quiet part of his character, rose to the fore. And as he neared death, despite the constant pain and suffering he faced, he waxed excited about moving beyond this life to meet God in person.

At the funeral itself over 300 persons gathered to

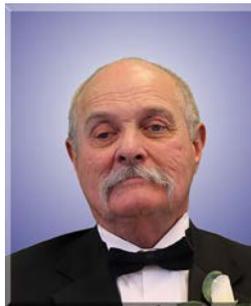
celebrate Mel's passing from this earth. There were a few tears shed, of course, but a lot more laughter. The stories shared, the fond memories, the loving remembrances of Mel could have filled half a dozen books. All present rejoiced that he had entered the Kingdom of Heaven for eternity.

Someday, sooner for some, later for others, each of us will move beyond this life. As Masons we most certainly want our lives to more closely resemble that of Mel than of Faye. What we do today and tomorrow makes all the difference. When death comes, as it inevitably will for each of us, which kind of funeral will yours be?

Dave Ring
Grand Chaplain



Grand Historian



David L. Millis
Grand Historian

"Juan Largo" (Long John)

Juan Largo stood 6' 5" tall. He was a tall, thin angular man with prominent cheekbones. The Mexican population of New Mexico gave him the name due to his unusual appearance.

"Big Casino"-----"Little Casino"

Big Casino was 8 to 10 years older than Little Casino with whom he became good friends. Their age difference didn't make any difference. Little Casino stood 5' 8" and weighed 110 pounds. They played cards, drank, entertained dance hall girls, attended fandangos, and took long horseback rides into the country together. Little Casino was a buck-toothed kid named William Harrison Bonney (alias Henry McCarty, Henry Antrim, and Billy the Kid) who could do remarkable things with a .44-40 pistol.

Patrick Floyd "Pat" Garrett

Patrick Floyd Garrett was born on June 5th, 1850 in Chambers, Alabama. He grew up fast and tall. Pat was raised on a prosperous Louisiana plantation near Haynesville in northern Clairborne Parish near the Arkansas state line. Pat, one of six children, had a comfortable young life where he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and horseback riding. He was rudely awakened when both of his parents died within a year of each other. After a bitter estate battle with a brother-in-law, which he

The New Mexico Freemason

lost in 1869, he moved west and worked as a cowboy in Dallas County, Texas at the age of nineteen. He moved on to buffalo hunting in Texas where he killed his first man, Joe Briscoe, a fellow hunter. They apparently got into a quarrel around the campfire when Briscoe charged Pat with an axe. Pat drew his weapon and shot his partner. While dying in Pat's arms, Joe apologized to him for the axe assault whereupon Pat wept. It was buffalo hunting as usual with his partner Skelton Glenn until the Comanche raided and stole their goods. The partnership dissolved in 1877 and Pat drifted further west ending up in Fort Sumner, New Mexico where he met and worked for Pete Maxwell. Pat loved the nightlife and soon partnered with Beaver Smith in a saloon/gambling house venture. He really attempted to settle down and married Juanita Gutierrez in 1879. Juanita died within year. Pat remarried in 1880 to Apolinaria Gutierrez, Juanita's sister. The couple had four children. While he was a bartender, he served many of the west's famous cowboys, including Billy-the-Kid. They spent a lot of time swapping stories and drinking into the night.

As Billy moved further from the law, Big Casino moved closer to it, being sworn in as a Deputy to Sheriff George Kimball of Lincoln County in the summer of 1880. Later that same year Pat won the election and became Sheriff. The Lincoln County War was developing and Pat vowed to bring it to an end. Of course that meant bringing in the War's most murdering culprit, Billy the Kid. The Kid wiggled out of a wintry trap in Fort Sumner on December 19, 1880. Pat's posse caught up with the Kid and his gang in Stinking Springs a couple of days later. The Kid's horse and Charlie Bowdre were killed during the fracas after which Pat arrested Billy. Billy was brought to Mesilla, New Mexico for trial where he was tried and convicted in April for the murder of Sheriff William Brady. He was sentenced to be hanged on May 13, 1881. Pat left the Kid in jail while we went out of town to purchase wood for the gallows. Billy escaped on April 18, 1881 after killing both jailers, J.W. Bell and Robert Olinger. It is reported that Billy retrieved a pistol from the outhouse that was left there by a friend. Governor (and Brother) Lew Wallace, personally placed a \$500.00 bounty on Billy's capture

On a visit to Fort Sumner on July 14, 1881, Pat learned that Billy was staying with a mutual friend, Pedro Maxwell. Pat went to the house around midnight. Billy had gotten up to slice some meat in the smokehouse. When he returned he heard someone in the dark of the

house. He questioned in Spanish "¿Quien es? ¿Quien es?" Pat responded with two shots from his pistol, the first hitting Billy in the heart and the second missing. There are varying accounts of how Billy was killed, but the fact remains that Pat had killed him!

Pat did not run for re-election. Instead he teamed up with a ghostwriter, Ashmun Upson to write a book about his life and times with Billy-the-Kid. It was a grand biography intermingling fact and fiction, but the public failed to make it a best seller. Pat never received the \$500.00 reward offered by Governor Lew Wallace.

He ran for Sheriff of Grant County in 1882 but was defeated. In 1884 he ran and lost the election for the New Mexico State Senate. Pat left New Mexico that year and helped found a company of Texas Rangers as a Captain. Pat returned to New Mexico and ran for Sheriff of Chaves County in October 1889. He lost the election and his rather rough disposition was beginning to wear thin when much of the people of New Mexico despised his less than admirable killing of Billy-the-Kid. Pat left New Mexico in 1891 to raise horses in Uvalde County, Texas. Pat returned to New Mexico to investigate the disappearance of Brother Albert Jennings Fountain and his young son, Henry. Brother Garrett was appointed Dona Ana County Sheriff on August 10, 1896 and was elected to the position on January 4, 1897. With Albert B. Fall in control of the courts, Pat knew he wouldn't get a fair hearing for the suspects, Deputy Sheriffs William McNew, James Gililand, and Oliver M. Lee. Pat waited nearly two full years before presenting his evidence before the court and securing indictments for the men. McNew was arrested and Lee and Gililand went into hiding. Lee and Gililand were caught on July 12, 1898. Both stood trial and both were acquitted. The location of the Fountain's bodies remains a mystery.

President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Pat as a customs collector in El Paso on December 20, 1901. Pat served in this position for five years. President Roosevelt did not reappoint him because Pat had embarrassed him by showing up at a San Antonio Rough Riders reunion with a notorious gambler, Tom Powers. Garrett had Powers pose in a group photograph that resulted in bad publicity for the President. Powers had also beat his own father into a coma and had been run out of the State of Wisconsin. Pat took Powers with him to visit personally with the President. Roosevelt very plainly informed him that he would not be reappointed.

The New Mexico Freemason

Grand Historian - Continued from Page 12

Pat returned to his ranch in New Mexico broke and heavily in debt. His main creditor, W.W. Cox, the brother-in-law of Oliver M. Lee, put together a deal to repay his debt by using Pat's quarter horse ranch in the San Andres Mountains for grazing. Pat agreed to the deal not knowing that Jesse Wayne Brazel would be raising goats (and/or sheep) on the property. Of course Pat objected to the grazing of goats (and/or sheep) saying that it would decrease the value of his property. On February 29, 1908 Pat and a prospective purchaser of the ranch, Mr. Carl Adamson rode out in Adamson's wagon from Las Cruces to inspect the land. On the trail, Brazel showed up on horseback. An argument ensued about goats (and/or sheep) grazing on the land. At this point there are several descriptions of what happened next. One version indicates that Pat reached for an ever-present shotgun on the floor of the wagon and was shot once in the head and once in the stomach by Brazel. Another version describes a face-to-face shoot out with handguns. This version doesn't really fit because Pat was shot in the back of the head. Another account indicates that Pat got down from the wagon during the argument and was standing at the side of the trail urinating when Brazel shot him dead. Adamson and Brazel left the body alongside the road and rode on into Las Cruces where Brazel confessed to the murder to Sheriff Felipe Lucero. The dispatched posse found Pat's body in the ditch along the trail. Of course both Adamson and Brazel claimed "self-defense." A year later, Brazel, defended by Albert B. Fall and an old friend of Oliver Lee and the cattle thieves, acquitted Brazel on the "self-defense" claim. No attention was paid to Investigator Captain Fred Fornoff's important findings at the kill site. They include unexplained hoof prints, horse dung, and a fired Winchester rifle cartridge casing. Was someone else involved? Several theories have been proposed for the murder, such as a hired gun known as Jim Miller, W.W. Cox himself, Oliver Lee, and Carl Adamson. One theory is that W.W. Cox shot Pat and his employee, Jesse Wayne Brazel, confessed to cover up for his boss.

There are no records in the Grand Lodge of New Mexico archives regarding Brother Patrick Floyd Garrett. However, the Aztec Lodge #3 lodge file contains copies of several documents that refer to Pat as "Brother Garrett." A hand written note on a post it says that Pat Garrett was a member of Montezuma Lodge #1. This may be true, but Pat spent most of his life in the south and southeast portions of New Mexico. Once again, the

member files in the archives do not list Patrick Floyd Garrett.

Patrick Floyd Garrett was laid to rest in the Masonic Cemetery at Las Cruces, New Mexico, on March 5, 1908. His body was too tall for a premade coffin so, by special order, one had to be shipped from El Paso. A very unimpressive marker indicates the location of his burial.



David L. Millis
Grand Historian

Editor - Continued from Page 2

you. Whatever is on your mind, this is the place to let everyone know. Remember, non-Masons also read this publication, so keep things 'within due bounds.' Send your articles to thefreemason@nmmasons.org.

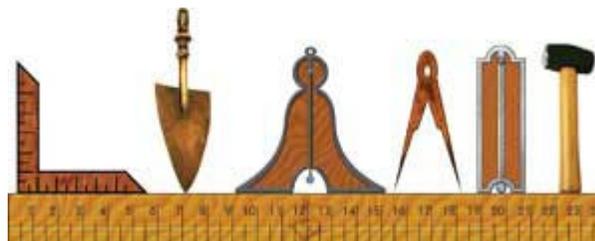
General guidelines for an article are 750-800 words (about 1½ pages) in Times New Roman 12 point font, with 1" margins top, bottom and both sides. Please check with me for available space should your article exceed the recommended length. For accompanying photographs, please identify the location, name, and date of the event, and list the people shown from left to right.

At the top left of your article, please include your name, your lodge name and number, your phone number, and your email address.

For more information on submitting an article, or if I can be of help to you in any way, write to me at thefreemason@nmmasons.org.

We may not be able to publish everything you send, but we'll do our best for you.

Fraternally,
Noah Shapiro
Editor





Celebrates its 50th Installation

December 9 2016

The lodge will open at 5:30 pm

The Celebration begins at 6:00 pm

Followed by installation of the 2017 Officers

In the lodge room of Sandia Mountain Lodge No.72, Albuquerque, NM

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Master: | WB Noah Shapiro |
| Senior Warden: | RWB James Overfelt |
| Junior Warden: | WB Esteban Aguilar |
| Secretary: | WB Tyler Anderson |
| Treasurer: | WB Phillip Houtz |
| Senior Deacon: | RWB Bobby Clark |
| Junior Deacon: | WB Jay Williams |
| Senior Steward: | WB Jaime Reynoso |
| Junior Steward: | Bro. Joseph Bryant |
| Chaplain: | WB Kenneth Davis |
| Marshal: | Bro. Alex Cosby |
| Tyler: | WB Teddy Adams |

Installation Team

Master: MWB Jefferson H. Jordan, Grand Master 2015

Marshal: RWB Adam Hathaway, Senior Grand Warden 2016

Chaplain: RWB Robin Justice, past DDGM, District 2

**The celebration and installation are not tyled.
Join us, and bring your family and friends.**

Broken Column - 2016

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------|
| Robert J. Johannessen | Temple No. 6 | 8/18/2016 |
| Richard L. Wallace | Zia Daylight No. 77 | 8/21/2016 |
| Wayne W. Dallas | Animas No. 15 | 8/22/2016 |
| William R. Van Huss, Jr. | Four Corners Daylight No. 80 & San Juan No. 25 & | 9/4/2016 |
| Paul L. Payne | Four Corners Daylight No. 80 & San Juan No. 25 & | 9/5/2016 |
| Thomas M. Gossett | Portales No. 26 | 9/5/2016 |
| Milton R. Shaw | Sandoval No. 76 | 9/6/2016 |
| William K. Gore | Bethlem No. 56 | 9/23/2016 |
| Richard Corn, Jr. | Mesa No. 68 | 9/30/2016 |
| Robert E. Ferguson | Felix No. 29 | 10/3/2016 |
| Roy W. Fincher | Temple No. 6 | 10/6/2016 |
| Richard A. Burke | Clovis No. 40 | 10/6/2016 |
| Wayne E. Murphy | Mimbres No. 10 | 10/10/2016 |
| Phillip D. Smith | San Juan No. 25 | 10/12/2016 |
| Charles A. Goddard | Chapman No. 2 | 10/24/2016 |
| James D. Clay | San Juan No. 25 | 10/28/2016 |
| Raymond C. Wells | Bethesda No. 64 | 11/1/2016 |
| Kurt Brian Parkinson | Chapman No. 2 | 11/11/2016 |
| William R. Reustle | Edgewood No. 82 | 11/12/2016 |
| Carrol L. Bentley | Mesa No. 68 | 11/17/2016 |
| Jack W. McCarty, Sr. | Tucumcari No. 27 | 11/21/2016 |

The Northeast Corner - 2016

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Peter E. Carmany | Lovington No. 46 | 8/18/2016 |
| Gilbert E. Morales | Albuquerque No. 60 | 8/24/2016 |
| Chadwick Z. Haller | Eunice No. 67 | 9/7/2016 |
| Juan I. Pohl | Edgewood No. 82 | 9/12/2016 |
| Stephen R. Fernandez | Chapman No. 2 | 10/6/2016 |
| Shane W. Browne | Animas No. 15 | 10/18/2016 |
| Curtis R. Elifritz | San Jaun No. 25 | 11/7/2016 |
| Charles E. Oliver | Roswell No. 18 | 11/16/2016 |

Fellowcraft - 2016

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Julian C. Jaramillo | Chapman No 2 | 9/1/2016 |
| James L. Tullos | Chapman No. 2 | 9/1/2016 |
| Ricky J. Reichard | Hiram No. 13 | 9/7/2016 |
| Paul O. Tack | Sacramento No. 24 | 9/8/2016 |
| Christopher M. Orton | Socorro No. 9 | 9/20/2016 |
| Stephen P. Bruketta | Pajarito No. 66 | 9/27/2016 |
| Richard L. Glenn | Roswell No. 18 | 10/19/2016 |
| Jeremy D. Townsend | Clovis No. 40 | 10/20/2016 |
| Robert D. Townsend | Clovis No. 40 | 10/20/2016 |
| Austin E. Smith | Animas No. 15 | 11/1/2016 |
| William E. Smith | Animas No. 15 | 11/1/2016 |

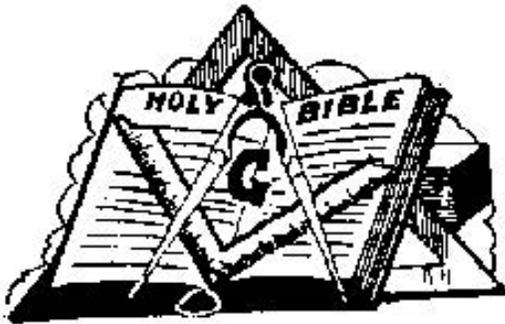
Master Mason - 2016

| Name | Lodge | MM Date | MM Proficiency |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Brian S. Bearden | Lovington No. 46 | 1/7/2016 | |
| Ryan Cedric Roberts | Lovington No. 46 | 1/9/2016 | |
| Robert Eugene Calabro | Gate City No. 11 | 1/19/2016 | |
| James Napoleon Christopher | Sandia Mountain No. 72 | 1/26/2016 | 4/26/2016 |
| Jeremy R. Acosta | Jornanda No. 70 | 1/27/2016 | |
| Travis Lee Kreuzsch | Bethlehem no. 56 | 1/28/2016 | 6/23/2016 |
| Charles William Anderson | Temple No. 6 | 1/28/2016 | |
| Sean Ellory Sorlie | Temple No. 6 | 1/28/2016 | |
| Clark Noel Kadlec | Temple No. 6 | 1/28/2016 | |
| Jeremy Clerven Parson | Sandia Mountain No. 72 | 2/23/2016 | |
| Justin James Jacobsen | Sandia Mountain No. 72 | 2/23/2016 | 4/5/2016 |
| Lancelot Alexander McClain | Temple No. 6 | 2/25/2016 | |
| Joseph James Grigg | Socorro No. 9 | 3/1/2016 | |
| Kenneth Gayle Sawyer | Deming No. 12 | 3/26/2016 | |
| Curtis Derrick Fortney | Lebanon No. 22 | 3/28/2016 | |
| Christopher Michael Wisneski | Temple No. 6 | 3/31/2016 | |
| Peter Edward Hackett | Temple No. 6 | 3/31/2016 | |
| Patrick Howard Kelley | Edgewood No. 82 | 4/5/2016 | 4/5/2016 |
| John William Mitchell | Deming No. 12 | 4/6/2016 | |
| Harry Vasbinder Kelley | Tularosa No. 49 | 4/6/2016 | |
| Anthony Alex Chavez | Bethesda Nop. 64 | 4/7/2016 | |
| Alen Daniel Escobedo | Sandia Mountain No. 72 | 4/26/2016 | |
| Nikolas Brown Aston | Albuquerque No. 60 | 4/27/2016 | 7/13/2016 |
| George Partick Sims | Edgewood No. 82 | 5/7/2016 | |
| Jay Bartlett Hill | Ruidoso No. 73 | 5/10/2016 | |
| Justin Patrick Glover | Mesa No. 68 | 5/12/2016 | |

The New Mexico Freemason
Master Mason - 2016 (Continued)

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Jay Rieben Mueller | Mesa No. 68 | 5/12/2016 | |
| David James O'leary | Clovis No. 40 | 5/22/2016 | 7/5/2016 |
| Roman F. Villarreal | Eddy No. 21 | 6/4/2016 | |
| Jeffery Lewis Robertson | Eddy No. 21 | 6/4/2016 | 6/4/2016 |
| Carlos Eli Conner | Eunice No. 67 | 6/9/2016 | |
| Sean Joseph Torrealba | Aztec No. 3 | 6/16/2016 | |
| Charles Anthony Hannaford | Montezuma No. 1 | 6/20/2016 | 8/17/2016 |
| Marcus B. Hollan | Sandoval No. 76 | 6/20/2016 | |
| David Earl Shriver | Ruidoso No. 73 | 6/21/2016 | 9/12/2016 |
| Jacob James Shriver | Ruidoso No. 73 | 6/21/2016 | 9/12/2016 |
| Joseph Levi Beckham | Dona Ana Daylight No. 78 | 6/25/2016 | 7/19/2016 |
| James Dale Adams | Mountaintop Daylight No. 81 | 7/2/2016 | |
| Frank Anthony Fisher | Temple No. 6 | 7/7/2016 | 9/29/2016 |
| Thomas Joseph Francl | Temple No. 6 | 7/7/2016 | |
| Roger Wayne McDonald | Sandoval No. 76 | 7/11/2016 | |
| Dagoberto Saenz | Sandia Mountain No. 72 | 7/19/2016 | |
| Theodore Charles Bailey | Socorro No. 9 | 7/26/2016 | |
| Nachima Riley Coriz | Sandoval No. 76 | 8/8/2016 | |
| Timothy Jason Huffman | Sacramento No. 24 | 8/17/2016 | |
| James Olliver Reese | Mesa No. 68 | 8/18/2016 | |
| Oliver Backe | Sacramento No. 24 | 9/1/2016 | |
| Arlie A. Cates | Feliz No. 29 | 9/8/2016 | |
| Nicholas P. Stamets | Animas No. 15 | 9/20/2016 | |
| Leonard E. Roughgarden | Hiram No. 13 | 9/21/2016 | |
| Ricky J. Reichard | Hiram No. 13 | 9/21/2019 | |
| Jamie C. Emms | Zia Dalight No. 77 | 9/29/2016 | |
| Cormac G. O'Kelly | Clovis No. 40 | 10/11/2016 | |
| Paul O. Tack | Sacramento No. 24 | 10/16/2016 | |
| Richard L. Glenn | Roswell No. 18 | 10/19/2016 | |
| Christopher M. Orton | Socorro No. 9 | 10/25/2016 | |

Coaches and candidates, please remember that the MM degree is not fully complete until the MM proficiency has been given.



Masonic Youth News
August 2016



As I pen this article I am listening to the news of the shooting in Milwaukee and subsequent events there. The father of the man who was killed is bemoaning his role as a father clearly sad that he was not a better role model for his son. Listening to his grief my mind immediately has gone to thinking of all the dedicated Rainbow, Job's Daughters, and DeMolay Advisors in New Mexico who with dedication unparalleled give their gifts and talents to the responsibility of being a Role Model and Mentor for our youth.

As men of this Ancient Craft we all knelt and obligated ourselves to becoming better men and made the commitment to aid and assist others in doing the same ... I ponder where that obligation begins ... do we wait until they are petitioning our Craft or do we take it from the beginning ... becoming mentors and role models for our youth to enable their growth into good men and women to shape the future of our civilization? I continue to confront Plato's questions ... What are we going to teach our young people? ... and ... Who is going to teach them?

A thought for each of us to ponder as well, we know that character is formed early in life and certainly prior to reaching the age to petition our Lodges or Appendant Bodies hence the call to each of us to take up the mantle of mentor and role model ... for if not us ... WHO?

I suggest that if we are not dedicated to this cause we are perhaps failing to internalize one of our most important lessons as men of the Craft.

One of the most important goals of the Masonic Youth Committee is to find new and dynamic ways and events to promote new membership as well as continue the enthusiasm of current members. To that end we promoted a new event for our youth ... a Back to School Movie event. We acquired the use of a theater and invited our youths to attend and bring prospects. We filled the room to about two-thirds capacity and had nearly 20 prospects in attendance. One of our Lodge

brothers, who understands the importance of our work, went down his street, chatted with a neighbor with the flier for the event and invited the mom and her two boys ... they came and had a great time and we look forward to their future with our youth! With the success of the event we will do it again next year and expand to Farmington and Las Cruces. We have banners in the Lobby of the theater and along the wall outside the theater we used, giving the Grand Lodge and our Youth Groups wonderful exposure and had interest from other folks in the theater as well.

We have provided support to our Rainbow Girls in attending their Supreme Session; support to our Job's Daughters in their outreach presence. We are planning our Advisors Retreat weekend for late 2016 or early 2017 and of course anticipate our Annual Toys for Tots dinner and dance on December 10 at Temple 6. We also look forward with anticipation to the annual distribution of food baskets for those in need ... our young people have great enthusiasm for this annual event.

We congratulate New Mexico DeMolay on a successful convention and wish their new State Officers the best in the coming year.

We continue to encourage your efforts on behalf of our youth ... visit a Chapter, Assembly, or Bethel meeting to let them know of your support for their organization. Consider the wonder of possibilities for our future by giving of your time and effort in an Advisory role ... there are never enough Advisors, Role Models and Mentors and the impact of your presence in their lives cannot be overstated.

Bruce Baily
Chairman
Masonic Youth Committee



The Masonic Society

Point to Heaven . . .

My Masonic e-mail signature block includes the line “President, The Masonic Society.” However, the line before that carries another Masonic title, “Chaplain, Albuquerque Lodge No. 60 and the Lodge of Research of New Mexico.” I value deeply my office in TMS, but I value equally the honor of serving as a chaplain. (I fully understand, of course, that like any appointed officer, I serve at the pleasure of my worshipful masters).

As chaplain, I try (succeeding only in part, of course) to follow the injunction given me when I was installed:

“Reverend Brother . . . it is your special duty to conduct the devotions of the Lodge, and to present before the throne of Heavenly Grace the spiritual needs of your Brethren. In all your intercourse with your Lodge, it is expected that you will ‘point to Heaven and lead the way.’”

As chaplain, I of course recite the opening and closing prayers, as well as the prayers within degrees. But I also love—though I am a layman—the occasional opportunities to be “pastoral” for my brothers.

When we elect a new candidate for degrees, and after the secretary has called him, I give the candidate a phone call. I introduce myself, extend my congratulations, and ask him three things.

First, I ask him what Volume of Sacred Law he wishes to take his obligations on. I tell him that no one, at least in the context of Blue Lodge Masonry, will ask about his specific religious tradition again. As our twenty-first landmark requires (in the version within the New Mexican monitor), “that a Book of the Law, a religious code of some kind purporting to be an exemplar of the revealed will of God, shall form an essential part of the furniture of every Lodge.”

I often ask the candidate to check the website of the Grand Lodge of Israel. In that highly contentious country the seal of the Grand Lodge of Israel displays the Jewish Star of David, the Christian Cross, and the Muslim Crescent.

Second, I ask the newly elected candidate to not read any details of the degree rituals, so he can experience the degrees without foreknowledge and preconceptions.

And third, I tell him about chambers of reflection. Like, I suppose, most North American lodges, the two blue lodges of which I’ve been a member do not have such chambers. So I ask the candidate to find three blocks of time between then and the degree—at least fifteen minutes each—when he can sit alone, in the dark and in silence, and meditate on his past, present, and future, including his eventual death.

(Incidentally, though I don’t have a skull on my personal home “altar,” I do have the polished box, provided by our cremation service that will one day hold my ashes. That’s a pretty good *memento mori* for me.)

The most moving event in my service as chaplain happened in June of 2016. John Baker, Albuquerque No. 60’s Marshal, and oldest active member, passed away. I had sat next to him in lodge for several years, and had come to rely on his friendship, advice, and occasional prompting.

While John was hospitalized, I had visited him and said a prayer, but a Masonic commitment in Ohio prevented my attending his funeral. So I was grateful to be invited to his cremation. Three members of Albuquerque were there, along with John’s son-in-law, an artist.

We gathered around the uncovered cardboard box in which John’s unembalmed body lay. We each said our goodbyes, and I offered prayers. John’s son-in-law, though not a Mason, had painted on wood an abstract image of an all-seeing eye. He laid it on John’s chest, and asked him to personally present it as an offering to God.

With the funeral director, we put the cover on the box, wheeled it into the cremation room, and slid it through the open door of the furnace. The funeral director closed the door, and the other four of us together pushed the green button that started the flames. I had never before felt so powerfully the reality of the words from Ecclesiastes 12:7 recited in the master mason degree: “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.” I tangibly felt John’s spirit making its final exit from his body.

Thanks for letting me honor John by telling that story. And by the way, an excellent source for Masonic prayers, for many occasions, is the pocket-sized *Compendium of Masonic Prayers and Graces*, by Rev. Neville Barker Cryer, published by Lewis Masonic.

Kenneth W. Davis

Chaplain, Albuquerque Lodge No. 60, and the Lodge of Research of New Mexico

President, The Masonic Society

(This article was adapted from the president’s column in Issue 33 of the *Journal of The Masonic Society*.)

Publication Guidelines

General guidelines for an article are 750-800 words (about 1½ pages) in Times New Roman 12 point font, with 1” margins top, bottom and both sides. Please check with me for available space should your article exceed the recommended length. For accompanying photographs, please identify the location, name and date of the event, and list the people shown from left to right.

Noah Shapiro, Editor

thefreemason@nmmasons.org

THE NEW MEXICO
FREEMASON

Winter 2016 - Vol. 80 No. 4

Grand Lodge of New Mexico

AF&AM

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