

**SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76**

**DECEMBER**

# TRESTLEBOARD



**A:L.:  
6025**

## 2025 ELECTED LODGE OFFICERS

### **MASTER**

**BURX NORROD**

CALL OR TEXT: (208) 571-9705  
BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM

### **SENIOR WARDEN**

**JOHN KEEL**

CALL OR TEXT: (505) 358-3224  
K\_JOHN87@YAHOO.COM

### **JUNIOR WARDEN**

**BILL WHELCHER**

CALL OR TEXT: (505) 527-7998

### **SECRETARY**

**EUGENE MORSE, PM**

CALL OR TEXT: (505) 527-7998  
EUGENEMORSE46@GMAIL.COM

### **TREASURER**

**TIM DONOVAN, RWB**

TIM@TAXHELPRR.COM



**SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76**

**MEETS IN REGULAR**

**COMMUNICATION ON THE 2ND &**

**4TH MONDAY**

**DINNER AT 6:00 PM**

**(\$10 CASH OR \$11 CARD)**

**LODGE OPENS AT 7:00 PM**

**FIRST TIME VISITORS:**

**EMAIL BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM**



## **SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 – OFFICER ELECTIONS FOR A:L.: 6026**

SANDOVAL LODGE HELD ITS ANNUAL OFFICER ELECTIONS ON NOVEMBER 24, SELECTING THE LEADERSHIP TEAM THAT WILL GUIDE OUR LODGE INTO THE UPCOMING MASONIC YEAR. IT WAS AN EVENING MARKED BY UNITY, PURPOSE, AND GRATITUDE FOR THE CONTINUED GROWTH AND STRENGTH OF OUR FRATERNITY.

WE EXTEND OUR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS:

**MASTER-ELECT: BRO. JOHN KEEL**

**SENIOR WARDEN-ELECT: BRO. KEITH ELDER**

**JUNIOR WARDEN-ELECT: BRO. KENNETH FREEMAN**

**TREASURER-ELECT: WB RICHARD CULLEN**

**SECRETARY (FOR THE 3RD TIME): WB EUGENE MORSE**

EACH OF THESE BROTHERS HAS DEMONSTRATED DEDICATION TO THE CRAFT, COMMITMENT TO THE LODGE, AND A DESIRE TO SERVE WITH INTEGRITY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE VISION AND ENERGY THEY WILL BRING TO THE ENSUING YEAR.

### **UPCOMING INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

THE OFFICER INSTALLATION CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE ON  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13.

LODGE OPENS: 9:00AM

PUBLIC INSTALLATION: 9:30AM

WE INVITE ALL BRETHREN, FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND MEMBERS OF THE MASONIC COMMUNITY TO JOIN US FOR THIS IMPORTANT EVENT AS WE SUPPORT OUR INCOMING LEADERS AND CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER PRODUCTIVE AND INSPIRING MASONIC YEAR AT SANDOVAL LODGE.

**MESSAGE FROM THE EAST**  
*WORSHIPFUL MASTER BURX NORROD*



**BRETHREN,**

**AS WE CLOSE OUT A:L.: 6025, I FIND MYSELF REFLECTING ON WHAT HAS TRULY BEEN THE BUSIEST—AND MOST REWARDING—YEAR OF MY LIFE. HAVING THE HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO SERVE SANDOVAL LODGE FROM THE EAST HAS BEEN AN EXPERIENCE I WILL ALWAYS TREASURE. IN MY 13 YEARS AS A MASON, I HAVE NOW SERVED IN EVERY LINE OFFICER POSITION ACROSS THREE DIFFERENT GRAND LODGE JURISDICTIONS, BEGINNING AS JUNIOR STEWARD. THOSE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, MENTORSHIP, AND GROWTH HAVE ALLOWED ME TO SHAPE OUR LODGE WITH INTENTION AND PURPOSE.**

**THIS YEAR’S THEME, “BUILDING THE INNER TEMPLE,” HAS NOT ONLY GUIDED MY PERSONAL JOURNEY BUT HAS**

**SHAPED THE DIRECTION OF SANDOVAL LODGE. BY PLACING RITUAL WORK AND MASONIC EDUCATION AT THE FOREFRONT, OUR LODGE HAS STRENGTHENED ITS FOUNDATION, DEEPENED ITS UNDERSTANDING OF THE CRAFT, AND CONTINUED TO GROW IN BOTH MEMBERSHIP AND SPIRIT. I AM PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER.**

**I EXTEND MY HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO BRO. JOHN KEEL ON HIS ELECTION TO THE EAST. HE BRINGS A STEADY HAND, A THOUGHTFUL MIND, AND A DEDICATION TO THE CRAFT THAT I KNOW WILL SERVE OUR LODGE WELL. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE WORK HE WILL CARRY FORWARD IN THE YEAR AHEAD.**

**THOUGH YOU MAY SEE ME A LITTLE LESS ACTIVE NEXT YEAR, IT WILL NOT BE FROM A PLACE OF DISENGAGEMENT—BUT RATHER FROM REFOCUSING ON OTHER IMPORTANT ENDEAVORS. I INTEND TO JOIN THE SHRINE AND THE YORK RITE, CONTINUING MY SEARCH FOR FURTHER LIGHT AND THE LESSONS CONTAINED WITHIN THOSE BEAUTIFUL DEGREES. I WILL ALSO BE DEDICATING MORE TIME TO MY PROFESSIONAL LIFE AS A MORTGAGE BROKER, ENSURING I CONTINUE TO SERVE MY CLIENTS AND COMMUNITY WITH EXCELLENCE.**

**EVEN SO, MY HEART REMAINS FIRMLY WITH SANDOVAL LODGE. I WILL CONTINUE TEACHING OUR BRETHREN THEIR PROFICIENCY WORK, AND WILL GLADLY PARTICIPATE IN OUR DEGREE CONFERRALS WHENEVER CALLED UPON. SERVICE TO THE CRAFT DOES NOT END WHEN ONE STEPS DOWN FROM THE EAST—IT SIMPLY TAKES ON A NEW FORM.**

**FINALLY, I AM EXCITED TO SHARE THAT I WILL BE PUBLISHING A BOOK TITLED “BUILDING THE INNER TEMPLE.” THIS WORK IS A COMPILATION OF MY EXPERIENCES FROM THE MOMENT I FIRST KNOCKED ON THE DOORS OF FREEMASONRY IN 2012, THROUGH MY TRAVELS ACROSS JURISDICTIONS, AND ULTIMATELY TO THE EAST IN 2025. IT IS WRITTEN FOR BOTH PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS AND SEASONED MASONS ALIKE, WITH THE HOPE OF ILLUMINATING WHAT IT TRULY MEANS TO BUILD ONE’S INNER TEMPLE THROUGH THE LESSONS OF OUR CRAFT.**

**THANK YOU, BRETHREN, FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT, TRUST, AND BROTHERHOOD THROUGHOUT THIS REMARKABLE YEAR.**

**IT HAS BEEN THE HONOR OF MY MASONIC LIFE TO SERVE YOU /G\**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO BROTHER STUART MILES –  
RECIPIENT OF THE SANDOVAL LODGE CHALLENGE COIN**

SANDOVAL LODGE PROUDLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY CONGRATULATES BROTHER STUART MILES ON RECEIVING THE COVETED SANDOVAL LODGE CHALLENGE COIN, PRESENTED BY DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER RW LARRY MIKKELSEN. THIS RECOGNITION IS NOT SIMPLY A TOKEN—IT REPRESENTS DEVOTION, PERSISTENCE, AND A GENUINE COMMITMENT TO THE CRAFT. IT IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST SYMBOLIC HONORS OUR LODGE BESTOWS UPON A BROTHER FOR PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN MASONIC STUDY AND PROFICIENCY.

THE SANDOVAL LODGE CHALLENGE COIN IS AWARDED ONLY TO MASTER MASONS WHO COMPLETE THEIR MASTER MASON CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY, A MILESTONE THAT REQUIRES DEDICATION, TIME, AND A HEARTFELT DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND THE DEEPER MEANING BEHIND THE RITUAL. UNLIKE THE PROFICIENCIES OF THE ENTERED APPRENTICE AND FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES—BOTH OF WHICH ARE REQUIRED FOR ADVANCEMENT—THE MASTER MASON PROFICIENCY IS NOT MANDATED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW MEXICO. A BROTHER WHO CHOOSES TO PURSUE IT DOES SO PURELY OUT OF COMMITMENT, DISCIPLINE, AND LOVE FOR THE CRAFT.

BROTHER STUART TOOK ON THIS CHALLENGE WILLINGLY, DEMONSTRATING NOT ONLY MASTERY OF THE WORDS, BUT A SINCERE UNDERSTANDING OF THE TEACHINGS BEHIND THEM. HIS ACCOMPLISHMENT SHOWS WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED WHEN A MASON EMBRACES THE WORK FULLY—NOT OUT OF OBLIGATION, BUT OUT OF ASPIRATION. IT IS A TESTAMENT TO HIS CHARACTER, PERSEVERANCE, AND DESIRE TO CONTINUE BUILDING THE INNER TEMPLE LONG AFTER BEING RAISED.

IN COMPLETING THIS JOURNEY, BROTHER STUART JOINS A DISTINGUISHED GROUP OF SANDOVAL LODGE MEMBERS WHO HAVE PUSHED THEMSELVES TO GO DEEPER, TO LEARN MORE, AND TO RISE ABOVE WHAT IS REQUIRED. HIS DEDICATION SETS A POWERFUL EXAMPLE FOR EVERY BROTHER IN OUR LODGE. ACHIEVEMENTS LIKE THIS STRENGTHEN NOT ONLY THE INDIVIDUAL MASON, BUT THE LODGE AS A WHOLE—REMINING US OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUAL LEARNING, SELF-IMPROVEMENT, AND A LIFELONG PURSUIT OF LIGHT.

WE EXTEND OUR WARMEST AND MOST SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS ONCE AGAIN TO BROTHER STUART MILES. YOUR HARD WORK HONORS BOTH YOURSELF AND SANDOVAL LODGE, AND WE ARE PROUD TO CELEBRATE THIS MILESTONE WITH YOU.

**NOW, BRETHERN, THE QUESTION STANDS:**

**WHO WILL BE THE NEXT TO COMPLETE THEIR MASTER MASON PROFICIENCY AND EARN THIS DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION?**

**LET BROTHER STUART'S ACHIEVEMENT BE AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL AS WE CONTINUE OUR MASONIC JOURNEYS WITH PURPOSE AND PASSION.**



# ***DEMONS OF THE TEMPLE: RE-EXAMINING SOLOMON'S BUILDERS***

PRESENTED TO KELSO LODGE No. 94, GRAND LODGE OF WASHINGTON

BY WM BURX NORROD

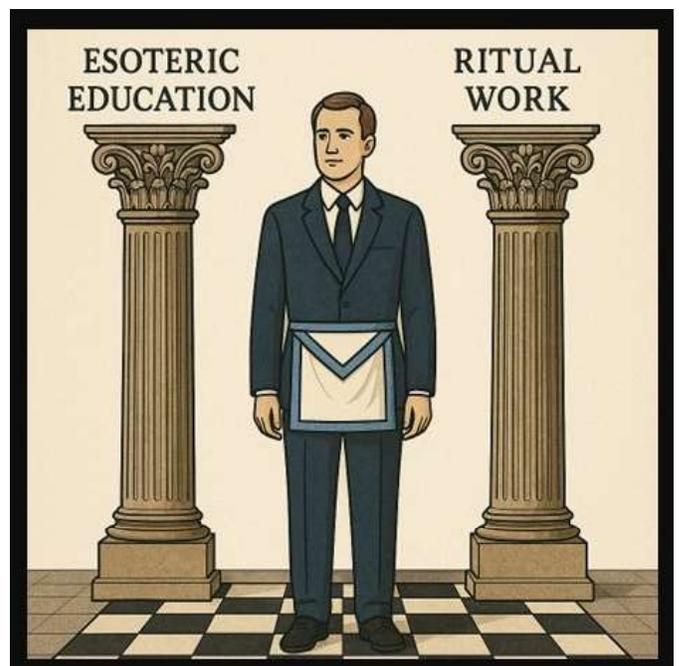
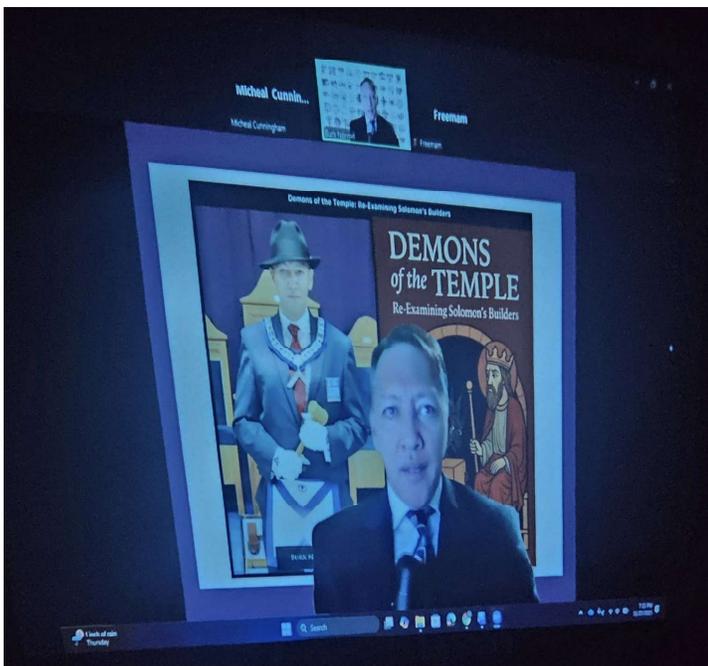
EARLIER THIS MONTH, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF DELIVERING MY PRESENTATION **DEMONS OF THE TEMPLE: RE-EXAMINING SOLOMON'S BUILDERS** TO THE BRETHREN OF KELSO LODGE No. 94 UNDER THE GRAND LODGE OF WASHINGTON. THE TALK WAS PRESENTED VIA ZOOM—FITTING, CONSIDERING THAT IT WAS INSPIRED BY THE EXCELLENT VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS GIVEN TO SANDOVAL LODGE EARLIER THIS YEAR BY SEVERAL RESPECTED MASONIC SCHOLARS.

FOR SANDOVAL LODGE, THESE VIRTUAL EVENTS HELPED REINFORCE ONE OF OUR MAJOR PILLARS FOR THE YEAR: STRENGTHENING OUR CULTURE OF MASONIC EDUCATION. IT WAS THROUGH THIS INSPIRATION THAT I SOUGHT TO CONTINUE PROMOTING THAT SAME SPIRIT OF LEARNING BEYOND OUR LODGE, SHARING A BLEND OF RITUAL CONTEXT, SYMBOLISM, AND THE TIMELESS MASONIC THEME OF INNER TRANSFORMATION.

IN UNDER THIRTY MINUTES, WE EXPLORED HOW THE ALLEGORICAL “BUILDERS” OF KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE—AND EVEN THE ADVERSARIAL FORCES SURROUNDING THEM—RELATE TO OUR PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL SELF-IMPROVEMENT. BY REVISITING THE NARRATIVE FROM A SYMBOLIC PERSPECTIVE RATHER THAN A LITERAL ONE, THE BRETHREN OF KELSO LODGE WERE ABLE TO REFLECT ON THE DEEPER MEANING BEHIND THE CRAFT'S TEACHINGS, AND HOW OUR RITUAL WORK IS MORE THAN MEMORIZATION—IT IS A GUIDE TOWARD INTERNAL REFINEMENT.

I EMPHASIZED HOW LEARNING RITUAL WORK IS MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN PAIRED WITH EDUCATION, CONTEXT, AND DISCUSSION. WHEN WE UNDERSTAND WHY THE RITUAL SAYS WHAT IT DOES, AND WHAT ITS ALLEGORIES POINT US TOWARD, OUR OBLIGATIONS AND WORKING TOOLS TAKE ON A NEW LIFE. THIS INTEGRATED APPROACH NOT ONLY STRENGTHENS PROFICIENCY, BUT ENRICHES OUR EXPERIENCE OF FREEMASONRY ITSELF.

MY THANKS GO TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER AND THE BRETHREN OF KELSO LODGE No. 94 FOR THEIR WARM WELCOME AND ENGAGEMENT. OPPORTUNITIES LIKE THESE REMIND US THAT MASONIC EDUCATION IS NOT LIMITED BY JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES—OUR LIGHT IS MEANT TO BE SHARED WIDELY, AND EVERY TIME WE REVISIT THE SYMBOLS OF THE CRAFT, WE ILLUMINATE A LITTLE MORE WITHIN OURSELVES.



## ***RECOGNIZING BROTHERS KENNETH FREEMAN AND BENJAMIN COTE***

**FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING DEDICATION IN THE KITCHEN**

**ONE OF THE MOST CONSISTENT AND UPLIFTING ASPECTS OF OUR LODGE GATHERINGS THIS YEAR HAS BEEN THE WARM, WELCOMING MEALS PREPARED FOR US—MEALS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE DEDICATION OF BROTHER KENNETH FREEMAN, ASSISTED FAITHFULLY BY BROTHER BENJAMIN COTE.**

**FOR NEARLY THE ENTIRE YEAR, BRO. KENNETH HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN PLANNING, PREPARING, AND COOKING OUR DINNERS, ENSURING THAT EVERY MEETING BEGINS WITH FELLOWSHIP AROUND THE TABLE. WHAT MAKES HIS COMMITMENT EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE IS THAT HE LIVES AND WORKS IN LOS LUNAS—YET DESPITE THE LONG DRIVE, HE STILL ARRIVES EARLY TO SANDOVAL LODGE EACH MEETING NIGHT TO MAKE SURE THE MEAL IS READY BY 6 P.M.**

**HIS BROTHERLY DEVOTION DOESN'T END ONCE DINNER IS SERVED. BRO. KENNETH REMAINS AFTER THE MEAL TO ENSURE THE KITCHEN IS THOROUGHLY CLEANED, ALLOWING THE REST OF US TO TRANSITION SMOOTHLY INTO OUR EVENING'S WORK WITHOUT WORRY OR DISTRACTION. HIS RELIABILITY, CONSISTENCY, AND QUIET SERVICE ARE SHINING EXAMPLES OF WHAT IT MEANS TO LABOR IN THE QUARRIES OF FREEMASONRY.**

**WE ALSO EXTEND OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO BROTHER BENJAMIN COTE FOR STANDING AT HIS SIDE, ASSISTING WITH PREPARATION AND CLEANUP THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. THEIR TEAMWORK HAS NOT ONLY KEPT OUR MEALS RUNNING SMOOTHLY BUT HAS STRENGTHENED THE BONDS OF FELLOWSHIP THAT MAKE OUR LODGE THRIVE.**

**TO BROTHERS KENNETH AND BENJAMIN—THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIRELESS EFFORTS, YOUR POSITIVE SPIRIT, AND YOUR COMMITMENT TO HELPING THE LODGE FUNCTION AT ITS BEST. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE MADE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE THIS YEAR, AND THE BRETHREN OF SANDOVAL LODGE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL.**



## ***SANDOVAL LODGE HONORS THE 250TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS***

**SANDOVAL LODGE'S FIRST STATED COMMUNICATION OF NOVEMBER—HELD ON THE 10TH—FELL ON A SIGNIFICANT OCCASION: THE 250TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS. TO MARK THIS HISTORIC MILESTONE, THE LODGE HOSTED A SPECIAL PRESENTATION ON THE BIRTH OF THE MARINE CORPS AND ITS MASONIC CONNECTION, EXPLORING THE DEEP TIES BETWEEN THE CORPS' ORIGINS AND THE CRAFT.**

**THE PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTED THE FOUNDING OF THE MARINE CORPS AT TUN TAVERN IN PHILADELPHIA—AN ESTABLISHMENT HISTORICALLY USED AS A MASONIC LODGE. IT ALSO EMPHASIZED THE MASONIC HERITAGE OF TWO OF THE CORPS' EARLIEST FIGURES: ITS FIRST COMMANDANT, SAMUEL NICHOLAS, AND ITS FIRST RECRUITER, ROBERT MULLAN, BOTH OF WHOM WERE FREEMASONS. THEIR LEADERSHIP, CHARACTER, AND DEDICATION HELPED SHAPE THE ETHOS OF THE MARINE CORPS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, INTERTWINING ITS LEGACY WITH MASONIC PRINCIPLES OF HONOR, DUTY, AND BROTHERHOOD.**

**THE EVENING WAS WELL ATTENDED BY BRETHREN, FRIENDS, AND VISITORS, CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE OF FELLOWSHIP AND REFLECTION. WE WERE ALSO PLEASED TO WELCOME KEVIN OPSAHL OF THE RIO RANCHO OBSERVER, WHO COVERED THE EVENT AND LATER PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTING SANDOVAL LODGE'S EFFORTS TO CELEBRATE THIS REMARKABLE ANNIVERSARY AND HONOR OUR VETERANS.**

**IT WAS A NIGHT FILLED WITH PRIDE, HISTORY, AND FRATERNAL SPIRIT.**

**SEMPER FI!**



## ***HONORING THE LEGACY OF BROTHER BAEI SISNEROS***

### **A YEAR OF REMEMBRANCE AND SUPPORT**

**NOVEMBER MARKED THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGIC AND UNTIMELY PASSING OF OUR BROTHER, BAEI SISNEROS. HIS LOSS CONTINUES TO BE FELT DEEPLY THROUGHOUT OUR MASONIC FAMILY AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY HE TOUCHED WITH HIS CREATIVITY, GENEROSITY, AND SPIRIT.**

**TO HONOR HIS MEMORY AND CONTINUE THE GOOD HE INSPIRED IN LIFE, A MASON GALA WAS ORGANIZED THIS MONTH IN SUPPORT OF THE BAEI SISNEROS FOUNDATION—A CHARITABLE EFFORT DEDICATED TO PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS PURSUING STUDIES IN THE ARTS, A FIELD BROTHER BAEI WAS PASSIONATE ABOUT AND CHAMPIONED THROUGH HIS WORK.**

**THE EVENT WAS A COMPLETE SELLOUT, A TESTAMENT TO THE IMPACT BROTHER BAEI MADE AND THE LOVE SO MANY CONTINUE TO HOLD FOR HIM. FITTINGLY, THE GALA WAS HELD AT POR VIDA TATTOO, THE VERY SHOP HE OWNED AND POURED HIS HEART INTO. SURROUNDED BY HIS ARTWORK, HIS FRIENDS, HIS BROTHERS, AND SUPPORTERS FROM ACROSS THE COMMUNITY, ATTENDEES GATHERED TO CELEBRATE HIS LIFE, UPLIFT HIS LEGACY, AND ENSURE THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS OF YOUNG ARTISTS HAVE OPPORTUNITIES THAT REFLECT HIS VISION AND CREATIVITY.**

**THE EVENING CONCLUDED WITH A LINEUP OF COMEDIANS WHO BROUGHT LAUGHTER AND WARMTH TO AN EMOTIONAL NIGHT. BROTHER LOY LEE CLOSED THE HOUSE AS THE FINAL ACT, BRINGING THE EVENT TO A MEMORABLE AND HEARTFELT FINISH—JUST THE KIND OF ENERGY BROTHER BAEI HIMSELF WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED.**

**BROTHER BAEI MAY BE GONE, BUT THE LIGHT HE BROUGHT INTO THE WORLD CONTINUES TO SHINE—NOW THROUGH THE PROMISING FUTURES OF STUDENTS WHOSE PATHS WILL BE SHAPED BY THE FOUNDATION CREATED IN HIS HONOR.**



## ***SANDOVAL LODGE SUPPORTING UNION LODGE No. 4***

### **PRESERVING THE LEGACY OF NEW MEXICO'S HISTORIC MOON LODGE**

**SEVERAL MEMBERS OF SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 PROUDLY SERVE AS PLURAL MEMBERS OF UNION LODGE No. 4 IN WAGON MOUND—ONE OF THE OLDEST AND MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT LODGES IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO. EVERY MONTH, THESE DEDICATED BROTHERS MAKE THE 2.5-HOUR JOURNEY NORTH TO ENSURE THAT UNION LODGE REMAINS OPEN, ACTIVE, AND VIBRANT.**

**UNION LODGE No. 4 IS UNIQUE AMONG NEW MEXICO LODGES: IT IS ONE OF THE LAST REMAINING “MOON LODGES.” HISTORICALLY, MOON LODGES MET ACCORDING TO THE LUNAR CYCLE—ON OR BEFORE THE FULL MOON—SO THAT TRAVELING BROTHERS IN THE 1800S COULD NAVIGATE SAFELY BY MOONLIGHT BEFORE THE ADVENT OF HIGHWAYS, STREETLIGHTS, AND MODERN TRANSPORTATION. THIS TRADITION CONTINUES TODAY, PRESERVING A LIVING CONNECTION TO OUR FRONTIER PAST AND TO THE EARLIEST DAYS OF MASONRY IN THE TERRITORY.**

**THE NEXT STATED COMMUNICATION OF UNION LODGE No. 4 WILL TAKE PLACE ON DECEMBER 2ND AT 4:00 P.M., AND SANDOVAL LODGE MEMBERS WILL ONCE AGAIN BE IN ATTENDANCE TO SUPPORT THE WORK, FELLOWSHIP, AND PRESERVATION OF THIS HISTORIC LODGE.**

**BY MAINTAINING THIS TRADITION OF TRAVEL AND SERVICE, OUR BROTHERS HELP ENSURE THAT UNION LODGE—THE 4TH OLDEST MASONIC LODGE IN NEW MEXICO—REMAINS A VIBRANT PART OF OUR MASONIC HERITAGE. THEIR EFFORTS REFLECT THE TRUE SPIRIT OF MASONIC BROTHERHOOD: SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER, STRENGTHENING OUR INSTITUTIONS, AND PRESERVING THE LEGACY ENTRUSTED TO US BY GENERATIONS OF MASONS WHO CAME BEFORE.**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF UNION LODGE No. 4 AND CONTRIBUTING TO KEEPING ITS DOORS OPEN FOR YEARS TO COME, CONSIDER BECOMING A PLURAL MEMBER. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL [BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BurxNorrod@gmail.com)**



# CHRISTMAS PARTY

**FUN!**



*Get your picture taken with*

**SANTA & CLOWNS**

**COME ONE**

**AND ALL**

**December 2**

**5pm - 7pm**

*where?*

**UNION MASONIC LODGE NO. 4**

600 Calhoun Street,

Wagon Mound, New Mexico

## CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AND FUN FOR ALL!

For more information or to RSVP, email [BurxNorrod@gmail.com](mailto:BurxNorrod@gmail.com)



### ***ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE CONFERRAL FOR BROTHER JOSHUA FLOYD***

**SANDOVAL LODGE BEGAN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER IN TRUE MASONIC SPIRIT WITH A WELL-ATTENDED CALLED COMMUNICATIONS ON DECEMBER 1ST FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFERRING THE ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE UPON OUR NEWEST BROTHER, JOSHUA FLOYD. THE ENERGY IN THE LODGE ROOM WAS VIBRANT, THE TURNOUT STRONG, AND THE WORK—NOTHING SHORT OF EXEMPLARY.**

**WM-ELECT BROTHER JOHN KEEL LED THE EVENING WITH AN OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN CONFERRING THE DEGREE. HIS DELIVERY WAS CONFIDENT, DIGNIFIED, AND DEEPLY REFLECTIVE OF THE COMMITMENT HE BRINGS AS HE PREPARES TO ASSUME THE ORIENTAL CHAIR IN THE COMING YEAR.**

**WE WERE THEN TREATED TO A BEAUTIFULLY DELIVERED ENTERED APPRENTICE LECTURE BY WB BERT DALTON, WHOSE MASTERY OF BOTH RITUAL AND MUSIC ADDED TREMENDOUS DEPTH TO THE NIGHT'S WORK. HIS MUSICAL CONTRIBUTIONS BROUGHT THE LODGE TO LIFE IN A WAY FEW CAN, ELEVATING THE ATMOSPHERE AND MARKING THE OCCASION AS TRULY SPECIAL.**

**WB MICHAEL MCINERNEY FOLLOWED WITH THE GAVEL LECTURE, DELIVERED WITH HIS SIGNATURE POISE—SOUNDING, AS ALWAYS, LIKE THE MOST AUTHENTICALLY MASONIC VOICE AMONG US WITH HIS DISTINGUISHED ENGLISH ACCENT. HIS WORDS CARRIED BOTH WEIGHT AND WARMTH, OFFERING BROTHER FLOYD A MEMORABLE AND MEANINGFUL FOUNDATION ON WHICH TO BEGIN HIS MASONIC JOURNEY.**

**THE EVENING WAS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF WHAT SANDOVAL LODGE STRIVES FOR: STRONG RITUAL, HEARTFELT FELLOWSHIP, AND THE WELCOMING OF GOOD MEN INTO THE CRAFT. CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN TO BROTHER JOSHUA FLOYD, NEW MEXICO'S NEWEST ENTERED APPRENTICE MASON. MAY HIS JOURNEY IN FREEMASONRY BE ENRICHING, PURPOSEFUL, AND GUIDED BY LIGHT.**

**SALVE FRATER!**

***UNION LODGE No. 4 Hosts Its Annual Christmas Celebration in Wagon Mound***  
**STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY, TRADITION, AND THE LEGACY OF NEW MEXICO'S HISTORIC MOON LODGE**

**UNION LODGE No. 4 in Wagon Mound once again opened its doors—and its heart—to the local community during its annual Christmas party, held immediately following December's stated communications. This cherished tradition continues to serve as one of the most meaningful ways the lodge connects with, supports, and celebrates the families of Wagon Mound.**

**The evening was made especially memorable with the official visit of Grand Junior Warden RW James Bungard, whose presence highlighted the significance of this historic lodge and its ongoing contributions to northern New Mexico. We were also honored to welcome WB Robert "Anchors the Clown" Fike, who made the long drive from Las Cruces to participate. His joyful spirit and dedication brought smiles to the children and adults alike as he entertained the crowd leading up to the arrival of the evening's special guests—Santa and Mrs. Claus, who distributed presents to the children of Wagon Mound.**

**For a town as small and close-knit as Wagon Mound, events like this are more than seasonal celebrations—they are essential threads in the fabric of community life. Union Lodge No. 4, known widely as New Mexico's historic "Moon Lodge" for its tradition of meeting on the Tuesday before the full moon, has been a foundational institution here since the 1800s. Its presence provides a unique connection to the region's cultural and Masonic heritage, serving as both a gathering place and a symbol of continuity in a rural town where every act of service and fellowship matters deeply.**

**This year's Christmas party was not only well attended, but heartfelt, uplifting, and full of genuine connection. Union Lodge continues to play an important role in preserving community identity, supporting local families, and representing Freemasonry's enduring values of charity, brotherly love, and relief.**

**A sincere thank you to all the brothers, visiting officers, community members, and volunteers who helped make the evening a success. It was a beautiful reminder of why Union Lodge No. 4 remains vital—and why its legacy is worth preserving for generations to come.**

***To view pictures of the event - visit [www.facebook.com/SandovalLodge76](http://www.facebook.com/SandovalLodge76)***





# **ALL MASONIC Christmas Party**

**December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

**4-8pm**

**Shrine Center 6600 Zuni SE**

*It will be a potluck and  
White Elephant gift exchange*

sponsored by  
New Mexico Grand Court  
Amaranth

# WHY FREEMASONRY?

## ***REFLECTIONS FROM OUR CURRENT & PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS***

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, SANDOVAL LODGE HAS WELCOMED NEW CANDIDATES, NEWLY RAISED MASTER MASONS, AFFILIATED BROTHERS, AND LONGTIME MEMBERS WHO CONTINUE TO REDISCOVER THE MEANING OF THE CRAFT. EACH MAN BRINGS A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE—YET ALL ARE UNITED BY THE SAME SEARCH FOR LIGHT, IMPROVEMENT, AND BROTHERHOOD.

THIS NEW SECTION OF OUR NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS PERSONAL REFLECTIONS FROM MEMBERS ON WHAT FREEMASONRY MEANS TO THEM. IN THEIR OWN WORDS, WE CELEBRATE THE DIVERSE MOTIVATIONS AND SHARED IDEALS THAT BRING GOOD MEN TOGETHER AND INSPIRE THEM TO BECOME BETTER.

FROM MR. JOSHUA FLOYD

***“FREEMASONRY MEANS TO ME AND FEELS LIKE A JOURNEY THAT’S NECESSARY. LIKE IT’S MEANT TO BE. IT MEANS TO HAVE GOOD PRACTICE AND FOLLOW LAWS NECESSARY IN THE EYES OF GOD. TO BE GOOD. GOOD IN CHARACTER. GOOD IN MARRIAGE. GOOD IN BEING A NEIGHBOR. GOOD IN BEING A BROTHER.”***

***“FREEMASONRY REPRESENTS A MULTITUDE OF THINGS. IT REPRESENTS GOD AND COUNTRY. LAW AND TRADITION. BROTHERHOOD, LOYALTY, AND HONOR. A SCHOOL OF STUDY MUCH BIGGER THAN MYSELF. DIRECTION IN THE RIGHT PATH.”***

FROM MR. NICHOLAS URIOSTE

***“MASONRY HAS BLESSED ME WITH TALENTED MASON’S WHO’VE BEEN AMAZING TEACHER’S THROUGHOUT MY LIFE THAT HAVE TAUGHT ME KNOWLEDGE OF MUSIC AND PHILOSOPHY WHICH HAVE SHOWN ME WHAT MY TALENTS AND HOBBIES ARE. I BELIEVE MASONRY’S PURPOSE IS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE AND WORLD PROGRESS. OUR FREE NATION WAS FOUNDED UPON THE STRUCTURE OF FREEMASONS.***

***I’M EXCITED TO BEGIN MY MASONIC JOURNEY.”***

# ***DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

AS WE CLOSE OUT ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE AND REWARDING YEARS IN RECENT MEMORY, DECEMBER BRINGS DEGREE WORK, OUR FINAL STATED COMMUNICATIONS OF THE YEAR, AND THE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR A.:L.: 6026. PLEASE REVIEW THE MONTH'S SCHEDULE CAREFULLY – THERE IS NO SECOND STATED COMMUNICATIONS IN DECEMBER, AS THE LODGE TRADITIONALLY GOES DARK ON THE 4TH MONDAY.

*THE MONTH BEGINS WITH A CALLED MEETING DEDICATED TO WELCOMING A NEW BROTHER INTO THE CRAFT. DEGREE TEAM MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ARRIVE EARLY AND PREPARED.*

## **DECEMBER 1ST – CALLED MEETING**

**PURPOSE: CONFERRAL OF THE ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE**

**TIME: 7:00 PM**

**6:00PM: PIZZA & SODAS**

## **DECEMBER 8TH – STATED COMMUNICATIONS**

**TIME: 7:00PM**

**6:00PM: FESTIVE BOARD**

**THIS WILL SERVE AS OUR FINAL STATED COMMUNICATIONS OF THE YEAR, AND WILL INCLUDE:**

**ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE**

**ENTERED APPRENTICE PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION**

**MASTER'S CLOSING MESSAGE OF THE YEAR**

**ALL BRETHREN ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AS WE CONCLUDE A PRODUCTIVE YEAR UNDER THE THEME OF BUILDING THE INNER TEMPLE.**

## **DECEMBER 13TH – INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR A.:L.: 6026 (SATURDAY MORNING)**

**LODGE OPENS: 9:00 AM**

**PUBLIC INSTALLATION: 9:30 AM**

**REFRESHMENTS: BREAKFAST BURRITOS PROVIDED**

**JOIN US AS WE PUBLICLY INSTALL THE NEWLY ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS FOR THE COMING MASONIC YEAR. FAMILY, FRIENDS, VISITING BRETHREN, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE WARMLY INVITED TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT CEREMONY.**

**\*\* IMPORTANT REMINDER \*\***

**THERE WILL BE NO 2ND STATED COMMUNICATIONS IN DECEMBER. THE 4TH MONDAY IS THE ONLY EVENING OF THE YEAR THE LODGE GOES DARK, GIVING OUR BRETHREN TIME FOR HOLIDAY TRAVEL, REST, AND TIME WITH FAMILY.**