

# THE TRESTLE BOARD



John Williams  
President of the  
1850-1851

William H. Hall  
President of the  
1851-1852

James H. Hall  
President of the  
1852-1853

Andrew Johnson  
President of the  
1853-1854

Alicia McKenzie  
President of the  
1854-1855

## LEADERS OF NATIONS

**Newsletter Issue No. 05 May, 2022**

# *In This Issue*

*From the East- Happy Mother's Day*



*From the West - The Powers of the Worshipful Master*



*From the South - Accomplishments & Future Events*



*New Mexico DeMolay Visit to Frank Marshall*



*Vows of Fidelity*



*Observing the Craft, a Book Review*



*Masonic Travels*



happy  
Mother's  
day

# THE POWERS OF THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Pt.1

By: Unknown

Presented By: Bro. Tyler McKenzie SW

The incumbent of the Oriental Chair has powers peculiar to his station; powers far greater than those of the President of a society or the Chairman of a meeting of any kind. President and Chairman are elected by the body over which they preside, and may be removed by that body. A Master is elected by his lodge, but he cannot be removed by it; only by the grand Master or Grand Lodge. The presiding officer is bound by rules of order adopted by the body and by its by-laws. A lodge cannot pass by-laws to alter, amend or curtail the powers of a Master. Its by-laws are subject to approval by the proper Grand Lodge Committee or by the Grand Master; seldom are any approved which infringe upon his ancient prerogatives and powers; in those few instances in which improper by-laws have been approved, subsequent rulings have often declared the Master right in disregarding them.

Grand Lodges differ in their interpretation of some of the "ancient usages and customs" of the Fraternity; what applies in one Jurisdiction does not necessarily apply in another. But certain powers of a Master are so well recognized that they may be considered universal. The occasional exceptions, if any, but prove the rule. The Master may congregate his lodge when he pleases, and for what purpose he wishes, "provided" it does not interfere with the laws of the Grand Lodge. For instance, he may assemble his lodge as a Special Communication to confer degrees, at his pleasure; but he must not, in so doing, contravene that requirement of the grand Lodge which calls for proper notice to the brethren, nor may a Master confer a degree in less than the statutory time following a preceding degree without a dispensation from the Grand Master.



The Master has the right of presiding over and controlling his lodge, and only the Grand Master, or his Deputy, may suspend him. He may put any brother in the East to preside or to confer a degree; he may then resume the gavel at his pleasure - even in the middle of a sentence if he wants to! But even when he has delegated authority temporarily, the Master is not relieved from responsibility for what occurs in his lodge.

It is the Master's right to control lodge business and work. It is in a very real sense "his" lodge. He decides all points of order and no appeal from his decision may be taken to the lodge. He can initiate and terminate debate at his pleasure, he can second any motion, propose any motion, vote twice in the case of a tie (not universal), open and close at his pleasure, with the usual exception that he may not open a Special Communication at an hour earlier than that given in the notice, or a Stated Communication earlier than the hour stated in the by-laws, without dispensation from the Grand Master. He is responsible only to the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge, the obligations he assumed when he was installed, his conscience and his God.

# THE POWERS OF THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Pt.2

By: Unknown

Presented By: Bro. Tyler McKenzie SW

The Master has the undoubted right to say who shall enter, and who must leave the lodge room. He may deny any visitor entrance; indeed, he may deny a member the right to enter his own lodge, but he must have a good and sufficient reason therefore, otherwise his Grand Lodge will unquestionably rule such a drastic step arbitrary and punish accordingly. "Per contra," if he permits entry of a visitor to whom some member has objected, he may also subject himself to Grand Lodge discipline. In other words, his "power" to admit or exclude is absolute; his "right" to admit or exclude is hedged about by pledges he takes at his installation and the rules of the Grand Lodge.

A very important power of the Master is that of appointing committees. No lodge may appoint a committee. The lodge may pass a resolution that a committee be appointed, but the selection of that committee is an inherent right of the Master. He is, "ex officio," a member of all committees he appoints. The reason is obvious; he is responsible for the conduct of his lodge to the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge. If the lodge could appoint committees and act upon their recommendations, the Master would be in the anomalous position of having great responsibilities, and no power to carry out their performance. The Master, and only the Master, may order a committee to examine a visiting brother. It is his responsibility to see that no cowan or eavesdropper comes within the tiled door. Therefore, it is for him to pick a committee in which he has confidence. So, also, with the committees which report upon petitioners. He is responsible for the accuracy, fair-mindedness, the speed and intelligence of such investigations. It is, therefore, for him to say to whom shall be delegated this necessary and important duty.



It is generally, not exclusively, held that only the Master can issue a summons. The dispute, where it exists, is over the right of members present at a Stated Communication to summons the whole membership.

It may now be interesting to look for a moment at some matters in which the Worshipful Master is not supreme, and catalog a few things he may "not" do.

The Master, and only the Master appoints the appointive officers in his lodge. In most Jurisdictions he may remove such appointed officers at his pleasure. But, he cannot suspend, or deprive of his station or place, any officer elected by the lodge. The Grand Master or his Deputy, may do this; the Worshipful Master may not.

A Master may not spend lodge money without the consent of the lodge. As a matter of convenience, a Master frequently does pay out money in sudden emergencies, looking to the lodge for reimbursement. But he cannot spend any lodge funds without the permission of the lodge. Some Jurisdictions do allow the lodge by-laws to permit the Master to spend emergency funds up to a specified amount without prior consent of the lodge.

# THE POWERS OF THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Pt.3

By: Unknown

Presented By: Bro. Tyler McKenzie SW

A Master cannot accept a petition, or confer a degree without the consent of the lodge.

It is for the lodge, not the Master, to say from what men it will receive an application, or a petition; and upon what candidates degrees shall be conferred. The Master has the same power to "reject" through the "black cube" as any member has, but no power whatever to "accept" any candidate against the will of the lodge.

The lodge, not the Master, must approve or disapprove the minutes of the preceding meeting. The Master cannot approve them; had he that power he might, with the connivance of the secretary, "run wild" in his lodge, and still his minutes would show no trace of his improper conduct. But the Master may refuse to put a motion to confirm or approve minutes which he believes to be inaccurate or incomplete; in this way he can prevent a careless, headstrong Secretary from doing what he wants with his minutes! Should a Master refuse to permit minutes to be confirmed, the matter would naturally be brought before the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master for settlement.

A Master cannot suspend the by-laws. He must not permit the lodge to suspend the by-laws. If the lodge wishes to change them, the means are available, not in suspension; but, in amendment. An odd exception may be noted, which has occurred in at least one Grand Jurisdiction, and doubtless may occur in others. A very old lodge adopted by-laws shortly after it was constituted, which by-laws were approved by a young Grand Lodge before that body had, apparently, devoted much attention to these important rules.

For many years this lodge carried in its by-laws and "order of business" which specified, among other things, that following the reading of the minutes, the next business was balloting. As the time of meeting of this lodge was early (seven o'clock) this by-law worked a hardship for years, compelling brethren who wished to vote to hurry to lodge, often at great inconvenience.



At last a Master was elected who saw that the by-law interfered with his right to conduct the business of the lodge as he thought proper. He balloted at what he thought was the proper time, the last order of business, not the first. An indignant committee of Past Masters, who preferred the old order, applied to the Grand Master for relief. The Grand Master promptly ruled that "order of business" in the by-laws could be no more than suggestive, not mandatory; and that the Worshipful Master had the power to order a ballot on a petition at the hour which seemed to him wise, provided - and this was stressed - that he ruled wisely, and did not postpone a ballot until after a degree, or until so late in the evening that brethren wishing to vote upon it had left the lodge room.

# THE POWERS OF THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Pt.4

By: Unknown  
Presented By: Bro. Tyler McKenzie SW

A Worshipful Master has no more right to invade the privacy which shrouds the use of the "Black Cube" (or Ball), or which conceals the reason for an objection to an elected candidate receiving the degrees, than the humblest member of the lodge. He cannot demand disclosure of action or motive from any brother, and should he do so, he would be subject to the severest discipline from the Grand Lodge.

Grand Lodges usually argue that a dereliction of duty by a brother who possesses the ability and character to attain the East, is worse than that of some less informed brother. The Worshipful Master receives great honor, has great privileges, enjoys great prerogatives and powers. Therefore, he must measure up to great responsibilities. A Worshipful Master cannot resign. Vacancies occur in the East through death, suspension by a Grand Master, expulsion from the Fraternity. No power can make a Master attend to his duties if he desires to neglect them. If he will not, or does not attend to them, the Senior Warden presides. He is, however, still Senior Warden; he does not become Master until elected and installed.

In broad outline, these are the important and principal powers and responsibilities of a Worshipful Master, considered entirely from the standpoint of the "ancient usages and customs of the Craft." Nothing is said here of the moral and spiritual duties which devolve upon a Master. Volumes might be and some have been written upon how a Worshipful Master should preside, in what ways he can "give the brethren good and wholesome instruction," and upon his undoubted moral responsibility to do his best to leave his lodge better than he found it. Here we are concerned only with the legal aspect of his powers and duties.

Briefly then, if he keeps within the laws, resolutions and edicts of his Grand Lodge on the one hand, and the Landmarks, Old Charges, Constitutions and "ancient usages and customs" on the other, the power of the Worshipful Master is that of an absolute monarch. His responsibilities and his duties are those of an apostle of Light!

He is a gifted brother who can fully measure up to the use of his power and the power of his leadership.



# From South

Greetings Brethren,

*Spring is in full swing blooming and blossoming and so is Sandoval Lodge! For those of you who have not been to the Lodge lately, the Mosaic Pavement and Blazing Star have been installed and it is beautiful! A huge thank you to all of those involved, and the fundraiser is still going on so you can purchase a tile for \$20 in someone's name and it will be displayed on a plaque in the Lodge.*



*Also at our first stated meeting in May we plan to pass Br. Ken Szillus to the degree of Fellowcraft. Br. Ken has been working hard on getting proficient and was able to overcome some obstacles and is now ready for Further Light! Dinner will be served so come hungry and let's show Brother Ken our support as he is passed to the degree of Fellow Craft.*

*On a special note MASONICon is coming soon and this year it will be in person! And to make it even more special, Table Lodge is Back! If you have never attended a table lodge, now is the time. It will be followed by a day full of Masonic light and education. MASONICon is scheduled for July 29th and 30th at the Ballut Abyad Shrine in Albuquerque, and more information and registration details will be coming out soon. If you would like to be a speaker, or present at MASONICon please out to me at [dteague505@gmail.com](mailto:dteague505@gmail.com) and we will get you on the schedule.*

*Peace and blessings!*

*Br. Davin B Teague*

*JW Sandoval Lodge 76*

GRAND LODGE OF NEW MEXICO AF&AM PRESENTS:

## MASONICon

2022

A Singular Opportunity to Share Masonic Light in New Mexico

Ballut Abyad Shrine  
6600 ZUNI RD SE ALBUQUERQUE NM 87108

### Table Lodge is Back!

**Starts Friday July 29th**  
Cocktails 6pm  
Table Lodge Dinner 7pm (Prime Rib, Baked Potato, fixings, \$25 per plate) Mason's Wives and Significant others are welcomed!

**Saturday July 30th**  
Gate opens at 6:30am  
Grand Master Opening remarks 7:30am  
Lunch \$10

<https://sites.google.com/view/nmshrines/events/masonicon>  
Everyone will need to register and pay by July 22  
Schedule to follow soon  
If you are interested in speaking or presenting please reach out to WB Harry Jenkins @ [hwjenkins2@gmail.com](mailto:hwjenkins2@gmail.com) or Br. Davin Teague @ [dteague505@gmail.com](mailto:dteague505@gmail.com)



# DEMOLAY

## Installation of Officers

Mesa DeMolay Chapter & Squire Manor

Saturday, May 21, 2022

12:00 pm Celebration Meal

1:00 pm Installation Ceremony

Mesa Lodge 68

529 Chama St NE

(505)361-7833

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# New Mexico DeMolay Visit to Frank Marshall

March 25 through 27th, Mason chapter of DeMolay competed at the Frank Marshall tournament. Brian Borawski, Leon Aldrette, and two other parents escorted four competitors to Fort Worth, Texas for this national competition. New Mexico DeMolay competed against individuals as far away as California and Indiana. Our three first year competitors all one in their division ritual competition and our Ceremony of Light competitor was the word perfect. If our appeal is approved, the fourth competitor would have also tied for first. We could not be more pleased with their performance or proud of their efforts. With children of these pages, one might expect a lot of trouble and mischief, but their behavior is excellent and they were a jolt to take on this trip.

The weekend was filled with fun and fellowship including a visit to the Mediaeval times. Adults and youth all enjoyed cheering for the black and white knight, whose shield was emblazoned with the Templar Cross. This is just one example of the great experiences Masonic youth have, and I encourage all Freemasons to be involved in creating a welcoming and supporting environment for the next generation to grow.



# Vows of Fidelity

In Freemasonry I made vows to keep the secrets of each of the degrees in Craft Masonry and that of the other Orders that I joined. All lasting promises of significance.

James Hough, a Catholic who teaches catechism writing for Quora, explains the difference between a vow and a covenant:

A vow 'is a one-sided arrangement from a man to God.' A covenant is a 'two-sided arrangement usually between God and man'. A person making a vow commits a serious sin for which they are punishable if that vow is broken.

The obligation in the First Degree ceremony goes quite vividly into the punishment for breaking such a vow, quoting 17th Century law. But more importantly God's punishment by showing a lack of integrity, that of being branded a person of little or no moral worth.

# Observing the Craft

A Book Review

Author: Andrew Hammer, PM



As of this writing, our Lodge now has a beautiful Mosaic Pavement that served its first Stated Communications. At the same time - a motion was passed to finally remove the 3 lightbulbs that represented the 3 Lesser Lights with actual Burning Tapers. Am duly & truly looking forward to seeing flickering Lights at our next Stated! This inspired me to do a book review on Observing The Craft ... one book that references these very things that help to make Freemasons more observant of our Craft.

There are very few books that have made a solid impact on my Masonic journey, as most I've read have been historical in nature, helping me to understand where a piece of ritual originated from, or how the Masonic Apron evolved. While merely trivial to most - my curiosity behind everything that is in our Craft is part of the reason why it led me to knock on its doors a decade ago, in 2012 while living in Northern Virginia, the D.C. Area.

As a newly minted Master Mason, I stumbled upon the book Observing the Craft while looking for Masonic books of interest - and ordered it due to its intriguing title and book cover. "The Pursuit of Masonic In Masonic Labour and Observance" on its cover page caught my eye - after reading the book - my thoughts have never wavered from it, influencing me in my journey all the way through. It is my hope that you - whether you're an Entered Apprentice, or one who's been in our Craft for quite some time, will take the time to get this book, and maybe obtain a refreshed view of how our beautiful Craft we call Freemasonry can, and should be observed.

It's a short book - only 145 pages - nothing as nearly as complicated as any writings by Brother Albert Pike or some others of his era ... it's written by a Past Master of the Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, a Lodge in Alexandria, Virginia. I had no idea that the author was the Secretary of this Lodge at the time ... so I reached out to him, letting him know I read his book and that I would be visiting his Lodge, which was located maybe 30 minutes away due to traffic. A fantastic conversation was had after an enlightening experience at his Lodge - that was followed by a 'Festive Board' as they called it, not a dinner. It was also a catered meal, and thus had my eye opening discussion with WB Andrew Hammer over meat and drink. And - we discussed the matters of the Craft that he outlined in his book, that contained 8 Chapters.

In Chapter 1, titled "Why Does Observing the Craft Matter?" - I especially liked the paragraph that I think summarized this:

"Observing the Craft is understanding the things we do definitely have meaning, and when we discover that meaning, we understand why it is important that the meaning be observed and respected as we go about our Masonic labour. It is not resigning to the response of 'That's just the way it's always been done', but endeavoring to find out, even if we might never be sure, why it might be done that way. The men who established our rituals and codified the structure of the Craft would be appalled at the notion that nothing was ever to be questioned, studied or understood, but merely followed in a manner more befitting sheep than seekers of light."

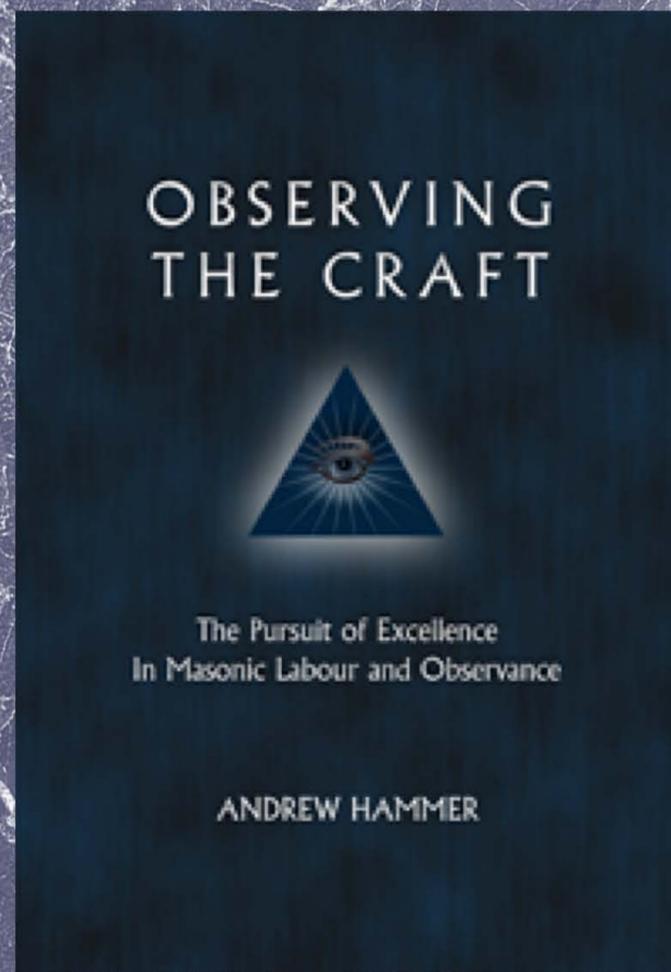
Because I myself tend to question everything - this right here resonated with me - and kept my interest throughout - as I could see the author and myself were like minds. Observance is focusing on the 3 Degrees of the Blue Lodge ... so much that we learn not only our rituals that allow us to progress through the Degrees, but to take it a step further and to learn the lectures, charges, and other ritual - as it is said that to be able to memorize something, you can internalize it.

This book talks about the 'distractions' that we as Masons are often having to deal with. These are not too obvious to most, as many are knocking on the doors of Freemasonry due to wanting to contribute to their community, or otherwise associate our ancient fraternity as an organization of good men who do good deeds, and want to be a part of it. There's nothing wrong with this thought process - but if that becomes the main focus, there's no distinction between the many wonderful other fraternities that exist - take the Veterans or Foreign Wars club, or the Elks that are 2 doors down from our own Lodge.

# Observing the Craft

A Book Review

**Author: Andrew Hammer, PM**



**“To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government.” - sound vaguely familiar? It’s the mission statement of the Elks.**

**There are also numerous appedent / concordant bodies ... all having its own flavor of Degree work based upon the thought process of its own founders - which can have a tendency to cause a bit of confusion within the Craft. As Freemasons, we’re taught that we include men of all faiths who affirm a Supreme Being, without elevating one particular faith or denomination over in the Craft, however are given opportunity to petition groups such as the Knights Templar, and become a Christian Crusader. These illustrate philosophical conflicts with the Craft - seemingly wiping away the Masonic principle of universality of faith.**

**There are quite a few other examples of groups that are considered ‘Masonic’, yet either don’t subscribe to the principles laid out in the ‘Symbolic’ Lodge for one reason or another - or groups that are formed in order to expand Masonry into the profane world. This can lead to a watering down of what Speculative Masonry set out to be. William Preston said it best in his Illustrations of Masonry, “Were the privileges of Masonry to be common, or indiscriminately bestowed, the design of the institution would be subverted; for being familiar, like many other important matters, they would soon lose their value, and sink into disregard.”**

**WB Andrew Hammer puts his book together in a very easy to read compilation that consist of 8 chapters, consisting of:**

- 1: Why Does Observing the Craft Matter? 2: What is Observance?**
- 3: Dealing with Distractions**
- 4: The Pursuit of Excellence**
- 5: Dress**
- 6: Ritual**
- 7: The Festive Board**
- 8: The Observant Lodge**

**If you’ve been a Freemason for any period of time AND feel that there’s something missing from the lessons learned from the first 3 Degrees of the Craft ... this book may be worth going online and getting, to see how you yourself can see what issues (if any) there may be ... and more importantly, see how you yourself can be an Observant Mason in an ever growing environment where Freemasonry seems to be no different than those many other do-good fraternities that abound. /G\**

**Scientia Est Potentia!  
Burx Norrod**

# Masonic Travels

## 11 states in 16 Days and So Many Brethren



Hello brethren,  
During most of the month of April, my wife and I went on a trip across most of the Southern United States. Part of it was for leisure, the other part; Freemasonry. Our travels started with leaving an EA degree at our lodge and going to another EA degree in Lubbock Texas. We went through Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, a little bit of Kansas, Colorado and back home. Along the way and at many stops, I met with many brethren in person that I've met through TikTok.

We stopped at many Masonic lodges and Grand Lodges which most were not open due to the times we were on the road. It was nice stopping and admiring the architecture and flora around most lodges. There were a few that we received private tours of either solo or another brother showed us around.

Through my travels, I've realized how much Freemasonry has been involved in the physical building of America throughout history. Even some buildings we stopped at or near that were not lodges were somehow intertwined with Freemasonry.

Every single brother we met was very welcoming and hospitable towards us, and of course bearing tokens of pins and coins.

If you have not traveled to meet other lodges whether in your own state or out, I absolutely recommend it and as much as possible. It's great having brotherhood where ever I went and knowing that I'm meeting with men I can trust.

