

**SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF & AM**

**OCTOBER**

# 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) 358-6224  
K\_JOHN87@YAHOO.COM

### **JUNIOR WARDEN**

**BILL WHELCHER**

CALL OR TEXT: (505) 980-5545

### **SECRETARY**

**EUGENE MORSE, PM**

CALL OR TEXT: (505) 527-7998

### **TREASURER**

**TIM DONOVAN, RWB**

TIM@TAXHELPRR.COM



## **SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76**

**1420 BARBARA LOOP SE  
RIO RANCHO, NM 87124**

**MEETS ON THE 2ND & 4TH  
MONDAY OF EACH MONTH  
LODGE OPENS AT 7:00 PM  
FESTIVEBOARD AT 6:00PM  
(\$10 CASH OR \$11 CARD)**

**VISITORS: To RSVP EMAIL  
BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM**



### **PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHT: THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS**

AT OUR SECOND STATED COMMUNICATION OF SEPTEMBER, WE HAD THE PLEASURE OF HEARING AN ENLIGHTENING PRESENTATION FROM OUR CHAPLAIN, REV. BROTHER LOGAN SKYE, ON THE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

BROTHER SKYE TRACED THE ORIGINS OF THE ORDER, FOUNDED DURING THE 19TH CENTURY, AND ITS PURPOSE AS A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO FRIENDSHIP, CHARITY, AND BENEVOLENCE. WHAT MADE THE PRESENTATION ESPECIALLY ENGAGING WAS THE WAY HE HIGHLIGHTED THE CONNECTIONS AND PARALLELS BETWEEN THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS AND FREEMASONRY. BOTH ORGANIZATIONS DRAW UPON RICH TRADITIONS OF ALLEGORY, MORAL INSTRUCTION, AND SYMBOLISM TO INSPIRE THEIR MEMBERS TOWARD UPRIGHT LIVING AND SERVICE TO HUMANITY.

WE LEARNED HOW THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS, THOUGH NOT MASONIC, REFLECT SIMILAR VALUES OF BROTHERHOOD, LOYALTY, AND MORAL CHARACTER, AND HOW THEY, LIKE MASONRY, USE RITUAL AND SYMBOLISM TO TEACH TIMELESS LESSONS. THE PRESENTATION SERVED AS A REMINDER THAT FREEMASONRY IS PART OF A BROADER TAPESTRY OF FRATERNAL ORDERS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE SHAPING OF COMMUNITIES, ENCOURAGED MUTUAL SUPPORT, AND PROMOTED VIRTUES THAT BUILD STRONGER MEN AND STRONGER SOCIETIES. HIS TALK NOT ONLY DEEPENED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS, BUT ALSO REMINDED US OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SEEKING LIGHT WHEREVER IT MAY BE FOUND IN THE BROADER FRATERNAL TRADITION. IT WAS A TIMELY LESSON IN APPRECIATING HOW THESE ORGANIZATIONS COMPLEMENT ONE ANOTHER IN REINFORCING THE VALUES WE HOLD DEAR AS MASONS.

OUR GRATITUDE GOES TO REV. BROTHER LOGAN SKYE FOR SHARING HIS KNOWLEDGE AND PERSPECTIVE WITH US, LEAVING US ALL WITH A GREATER APPRECIATION FOR THE TRADITIONS AND CONNECTIONS OF THE FRATERNAL WORLD.

SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF & AM

SEPTEMBER

# TRESTLEBOARD



A.: L.: 6025

## *FROM THE EAST - W.:M.: BURX NORROD*



BRETHREN,

IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNED THIS YEAR SERVING AS MASTER OF SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76, IT'S THAT IT IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO PLAN AN ENTIRE YEAR WITH CERTAINTY. NO MATTER HOW CAREFULLY ONE LAYS OUT A CALENDAR, UNKNOWN VARIABLES ALWAYS APPEAR ALONG THE WAY.

THERE ARE GUIDEBOOKS WRITTEN ON HOW TO PLAN YOUR YEAR IN THE EAST, AND WHILE THEY OFFER GOOD DIRECTION, I'VE FOUND THEM TO BE JUST THAT – A GUIDE. IN REALITY, ONE MUST ALSO LEAN ON THE LESSONS OF THE STOICS AS THE YEAR UNFOLDS:

**MARCUSAURELIUS** REMINDS US THAT “YOU HAVE POWER OVER YOUR MIND, NOT OUTSIDE EVENTS.” A MASTER CANNOT CONTROL EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE, BUT HE CAN CONTROL HIS RESPONSE TO THEM.

**EPICETUS** TEACHES THAT “IT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU, BUT HOW YOU REACT THAT MATTERS.” THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL YEAR IS FLEXIBILITY, NOT RIGIDITY.

**SENECA** TELLS US THAT “LUCK IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PREPARATION MEETS OPPORTUNITY.” EVEN AMID THE UNEXPECTED, PREPARATION ALLOWS US TO SEIZE THE MOMENT.

WITH THOSE LESSONS IN MIND, I AM SATISFIED WITH HOW OUR YEAR HAS PROGRESSED. WE HAVE ENSURED THAT OUR STATED COMMUNICATIONS WERE FILLED WITH MASONIC EDUCATION AND DEGREE WORK, WHILE KEEPING LENGTHY BUSINESS DISCUSSIONS CONFINED TO OUR ONLINE ZOOM MEETINGS ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

I TAKE EVERYTHING I DO SERIOUSLY, AND I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT SERVING AS MASTER HAS MADE THIS YEAR TEN TIMES BUSIER THAN EVER BEFORE. BETWEEN THE LODGE, MY WORK AS A MORTGAGE BROKER, AND KEEPING UP WITH MY TRAVELS AND HOBBIES, I HAVE LEARNED BALANCE IN A WHOLE NEW WAY.

TO ME, FREEMASONRY HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MYSTERY SCHOOL, AND NEXT YEAR I PLAN ON EXPANDING MY JOURNEY BY JOINING AND LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE YORK RITE OF FREEMASONRY. I ALSO HOPE TO TAKE THE PRINCIPLES WE'VE REFINED IN OUR BLUE LODGE AND APPLY THEM IN WAYS THAT MIGHT IMPACT OUR ENTIRE GRAND LODGE JURISDICTION.

I WOULD BE HAPPY TO SIT DOWN WITH ANY BROTHER WHO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT IT TAKES TO SUCCEED AS MASTER OF A LODGE AND TO SHARE, IN GREATER DEPTH, THE LESSONS I'VE LEARNED ALONG THE WAY.

THANK YOU, BRETHREN, FOR HELPING MAKE SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 THE SUCCESS THAT IT IS.  
IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO SERVE.

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## ***HONORING WB ROGER W. McDONALD***

**SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE MADE WB ROGER W. McDONALD AN HONORARY MASTER OF THE LODGE.**

**THIS HONOR IS IN RECOGNITION OF HIS TIRELESS DEDICATION AND THE TREMENDOUS WORK HE HAS DONE BEHIND THE SCENES TO ENSURE THAT OUR LODGE RUNS AS SMOOTHLY AND EFFICIENTLY AS IT SHOULD. WHILE MUCH OF HIS EFFORT MAY NOT ALWAYS BE VISIBLE ON THE SURFACE, EVERY BROTHER HAS BENEFITTED FROM HIS COMMITMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND WILLINGNESS TO STEP IN WHENEVER NEEDED.**

**FREEMASONRY IS SUSTAINED NOT ONLY BY RITUAL AND MEETINGS, BUT ALSO BY THE HARD WORK OF THOSE WHO QUIETLY KEEP EVERYTHING IN MOTION. WB McDONALD'S STEADY HAND AND DEVOTION TO**

**OUR LODGE EMBODY THE VERY PRINCIPLES OF SERVICE AND BROTHERHOOD UPON WHICH OUR CRAFT IS BUILT.**

**ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICERS AND BRETHREN OF SANDOVAL LODGE, WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO WB ROGER W. McDONALD FOR THIS WELL-DESERVED HONOR!**



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## ***AN EVENTFUL EVENING AT SANDOVAL LODGE IN SEPTEMBER!***

OUR FIRST STATED COMMUNICATION IN SEPTEMBER WAS PRECEDED BY A DELICIOUS SPAGHETTI DINNER PREPARED AND HOSTED BY THE TURQUOISE CHAPTER OF THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR (OES), UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF WORTHY MATRON AND WORTHY PATRON, LANA & KEITH ELDER.

FOLLOWING DINNER, THE BRETHREN WERE TREATED TO A PRESENTATION AND INTRODUCTIONS INTO THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR AND ITS MEMBERS WHO WERE IN ATTENDANCE. THIS PROVIDED A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ONE OF FREEMASONRY'S MOST ACTIVE AND SUPPORTIVE APPENDANT BODIES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING EVENTS FROM OES, WHOSE MISSION IS BEAUTIFULLY EXPRESSED:

***"TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD WITH CHARITABLE WORKLASTING FRIENDSHIPS, AND LOVING KINDNESS TO ALL MANKIND."***

THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR IS OPEN TO BOTH MEN AND WOMEN AND PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES TO:

TAKE PART IN CHARITABLE PROJECTS THAT DIRECTLY BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITIES.

BUILD LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS THROUGH FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE, AND SHARED VALUES.

GROW SPIRITUALLY AND MORALLY THROUGH THE LESSONS TAUGHT BY ITS FIVE HEROINES.

SUPPORT AND COMPLEMENT THE WORK OF FREEMASONRY WHILE WELCOMING FAMILY MEMBERS INTO A MASONIC SETTING.

FOR THOSE SEEKING A WAY TO DEEPEN THEIR CONNECTION TO FREEMASONRY, GIVE BACK THROUGH SERVICE, AND FORM BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP THAT LAST A LIFETIME, OES OFFERS A TRULY REWARDING AND FULFILLING PATH.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT: [WWW.EASTERNSTAR.ORG](http://WWW.EASTERNSTAR.ORG)



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## ***WIDOWS SONS – SONS OF LIGHT CHAPTER***

**SUBMITTED BY BRO. STUART “SASQUATCH” MILES**

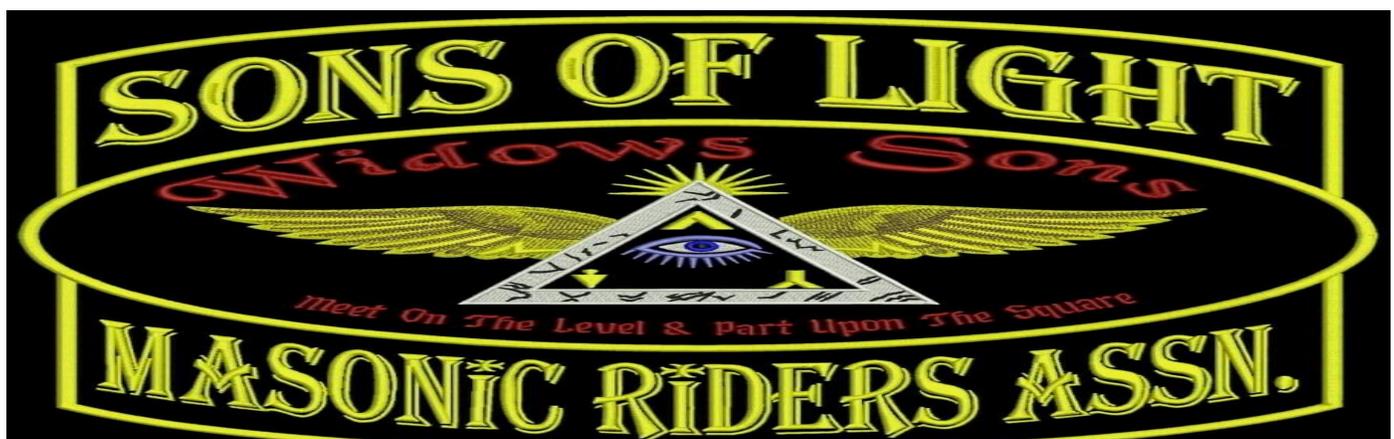
**OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, THE SONS OF LIGHT CHAPTER HAS BEEN ACTIVE ON THE ROAD, RIDING IN SUPPORT OF FELLOWSHIP AND CHARITABLE CAUSES.**

**ON AUGUST 24, 2025, OUR CHAPTER LED A MEMORABLE RIDE TO THE STRIKING LA VENTANA ARCH, SOUTH OF GRANTS, NM. ALONG THE WAY, WE ENJOYED GOOD FOOD AND CAMARADERIE WITH A STOP AT THE BIBO BAR & GRILL, REMINDING US THAT BROTHERHOOD IS OFTEN BEST SHARED OVER A MEAL AND OPEN ROADS.**

**ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2025, WE JOINED FORCES WITH THE MOOSE RIDERS CHARITY EVENT IN BELEN FOR THE UNITE AGAINST CANCER RIDE. IT WAS INSPIRING TO SEE SO MANY RIDERS COME TOGETHER IN A SHOW OF SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT FOR THOSE BATTLING THIS ILLNESS.**

**MOST RECENTLY, ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2025, THE CHAPTER PARTICIPATED IN THE CVMA PHIL’S RIDE, AN EVENT DEDICATED TO AIDING A VETERAN UNDERGOING CANCER TREATMENTS. THIS RIDE CARRIED SPECIAL MEANING, AS IT UNDERScoreD THE VALUES OF SERVICE AND SUPPORT THAT DEFINE US AS BOTH MASONS AND WIDOWS SONS.**

**THE SONS OF LIGHT CHAPTER REMAINS COMMITTED TO LIVING OUT THE TENETS OF FREEMASONRY ON TWO WHEELS – COMBINING BROTHERHOOD, CHARITY, AND THE JOY OF RIDING. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO JOINED AND SUPPORTED THESE EVENTS. YOUR PRESENCE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF MANY.**



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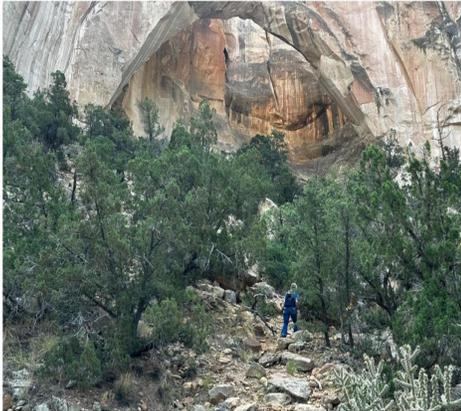
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## WHY I BECAME A MASON



*THIS NEW SECTION IS MEANT TO HIGHLIGHT, IN THE WORDS OF OUR MEMBERS, WHAT FIRST INSPIRED THEM TO JOIN FREEMASONRY. BY SHARING THESE PERSONAL STORIES, WE HOPE TO SHOW BOTH THE CRAFT AND THE PUBLIC WHY SO MANY GOOD MEN CONTINUE TO SEEK LIGHT WITHIN OUR DOORS.*

*"I BECAME A MASON WHILE LIVING IN THE D.C. AREA, AFTER CONSTANTLY ENCOUNTERING MASONIC SYMBOLS AND REALIZING THAT BOOKS LIKE FREEMASONS FOR DUMMIES COULDN'T FULLY ANSWER MY QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT TRULY HAPPENS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. I CHOSE TO STAY BECAUSE I DISCOVERED THAT MASONRY IS, IN MANY WAYS, A LIVING MYSTERY SCHOOL—ONE THAT CONTINUES TO CHALLENGE AND INSPIRE ME."*  
- BURX NORROD, MEMBER SINCE 2012

NO OTHER SUBMISSIONS WERE SENT FROM MEMBERS DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER - BUT HERE'S A FEW WORDS FROM FROM ONE WHO KNOCKED ON OUR DOORS, SEEKING ADMISSION:

*"REGARDING THE FOUR REASONS TO JOINING MASONRY WOULD BE HONESTLY ALL FOUR. BROTHERHOOD BECAUSE I'M WANTING TO BUILD CAMARADERIE WITH PEOPLE THAT ARE IN SEARCH OF ENLIGHTENMENT. PERSONAL GROWTH BECAUSE I'M WANTING TO BE A BETTER MAN, EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE IT IS OUR EVOLVING MISSION TO CONSTANTLY LEARN AND TO GAIN WISDOM THROUGH KNOWLEDGE. CHARITY IS VITAL TO ALL CIVILIZATION FOR IF WE ARE IN CONSTANT GREED AND SELFISHNESS SOCIETY WILL FALL AND WE WILL NEVER EXPERIENCE WISDOM THROUGH CHARITABLE ACTS. THE TRADITION OF MASONRY IS IMPORTANT TO ME THROUGH THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES AND ALSO THROUGH MY GRANDFATHER. I THINK THE TRADITIONS OF MASONRY SHOULD BE CARRIED THROUGHOUT HISTORY BECAUSE OF EVIDENTIAL GREATNESS THAT MANY MASONS ESTABLISHED AND CREATED."*

MR. JOSHUA L. FLOYD

**“LET’S FILL THIS PAGE, BRETHREN! MEMBERS FROM ANY LODGE ARE WELCOME TO CONTRIBUTE—THE MORE VOICES, THE BRIGHTER THE LIGHT. THE CRAFT SHINES BEST WHEN SHARED, SO LET’S SPREAD IT FAR AND WIDE!”**



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## ***SANDOVAL LODGE SOCIAL GATHERING: FIREARM SAFETY & FELLOWSHIP***

SANDOVAL LODGE MEMBERS RECENTLY ENJOYED A FANTASTIC SOCIAL GET-TOGETHER OUTSIDE OF THE LODGE BUILDING, STRENGTHENING OUR BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD IN A UNIQUE AND ENGAGING SETTING. WE WERE DELIGHTED TO BE JOINED BY A COUPLE OF BROTHERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY MOVED INTO THE AREA AND WHO, WHEN TIME ALLOWS, HAVE BEGUN ATTENDING OUR STATED COMMUNICATIONS. THEIR PRESENCE MADE THE FELLOWSHIP ALL THE MORE MEANINGFUL.

THE EVENT WAS HELD AT THE ALBUQUERQUE SHOOTING RANGE AND CENTERED AROUND A CLASS ON FIREARM SAFETY & EFFICIENCY, FACILITATED BY BURX NORROD. IN ADDITION TO LEADING SANDOVAL LODGE AS MASTER THIS YEAR, BURX IS ALSO AN NRA CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR AND COMPETITIVE SHOOTER, WHO TEACHES THROUGH HIS OWN INSTRUCTION COMPANY, [WWW.STRAIGHTLINEDEFENSE.COM](http://WWW.STRAIGHTLINEDEFENSE.COM) WHEN TIME ALLOWS..

PARTICIPANTS HAD THE BENEFIT OF BOTH CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION AND HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE AT A PRIVATE SHOOTING BERM, CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT TO LEARN, PRACTICE, AND IMPROVE SKILLS. IT WAS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE, BUT ALSO TO SHARE TIME TOGETHER OUTSIDE OF THE LODGE ROOM IN FELLOWSHIP AND TRUST.

THIS EVENT WAS A REMINDER THAT THE BONDS WE FORM AS MASONS EXTEND BEYOND RITUAL AND FORMAL MEETINGS—THEY ARE STRENGTHENED WHENEVER WE COME TOGETHER IN BROTHERHOOD, WHETHER IN THE LODGE ROOM OR OUT IN THE WORLD.





*GNOSTICISM AND THE HOLY SAINTS JOHN  
IN FREEMASONRY*

BY BURX NORROD

FROM THE VERY START OF OUR MASONIC JOURNEY, WE ENCOUNTER A CURIOUS PHRASE: “FROM A LODGE OF THE HOLY SAINTS JOHN AT JERUSALEM.” FOR MANY, IT’S REPEATED WITHOUT MUCH THOUGHT. YET IF WE PAUSE TO REFLECT, THIS SMALL STATEMENT OPENS A DOOR TO DEEPER QUESTIONS: WHO ARE THESE SAINTS JOHN, AND WHY DO THEY APPEAR AT THE THRESHOLD OF OUR INITIATION?

IN EXPLORING THIS, I TURNED TO BOTH HISTORICAL AND SPIRITUAL SOURCES. ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IS OFTEN SEEN THROUGH WHAT COULD BE CALLED A GNOSTIC LENS. HE PROCLAIMED A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING—A LIGHT BREAKING THROUGH THE DARKNESS OF THE WORLD. BY CONTRAST, ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST EMPHASIZED THE LOGOS, THE WORD MADE FLESH, GROUNDING THE DIVINE IN PHYSICAL REALITY. TWO JOHNS, TWO PERSPECTIVES—YET BOTH PRESERVED IN OUR CRAFT AS COMPLEMENTARY GUIDES.

THIS BALANCE BETWEEN SPIRIT AND MATTER LIES AT THE HEART OF GNOSTIC THOUGHT, WHICH SEEKS NOT MERELY BELIEF, BUT GNOSIS—INNER KNOWLEDGE OF THE DIVINE. FREEMASONRY, TOO, INVITES US ON THIS PATH. OUR RITUAL, ALLEGORY, AND SYMBOLS ARE NOT SIMPLY FORMS OF TRADITION; THEY ARE KEYS FOR UNLOCKING HIDDEN TRUTHS.

WHEN MASONS SPEAK OF “SEEKING LIGHT,” WE ECHO THE SAME PURSUIT THAT ANIMATED THE EARLY GNOSTICS: A QUEST TO PIERCE THE VEIL OF APPEARANCES AND REDISCOVER THE SPARK OF DIVINITY WITHIN OURSELVES. THE SAINTS JOHN STAND AS REMINDERS THAT LIGHT MAY BE SOUGHT IN BOTH THE SPIRITUAL AND THE MATERIAL, THE MYSTICAL AND THE PRACTICAL—EACH COMPLETING THE OTHER.

AS WE CONTINUE OUR OWN MASONIC JOURNEYS, MAY WE NOT OVERLOOK THESE EARLY SIGNPOSTS. THEY ARE MORE THAN RITUAL PHRASES. THEY ARE AN INVITATION TO LIFELONG REFLECTION ON WHERE WE COME FROM, AND WHERE WE ARE HEADED, AS SEEKERS OF LIGHT.

*FURTHER READING FOR THE CURIOUS MASON*

*THE MANDAEAN BOOK OF JOHN*

*THE SECRET TEACHINGS OF JESUS: FOUR GNOSTIC GOSPELS TRANSLATED BY MARVIN MEYER.*

*GNOSIS.ORG*

*— ONLINE RESOURCE OF GNOSTIC TEXTS AND COMMENTARY.*

*FREEMASONRY AND THE COMPASSES BY WILLIAM PRESTON — ON SYMBOLISM TIED TO THE SAINTS JOHN.*

*THE GNOSTICS AND THEIR REMAINS BY CHARLES WILLIAM KING — CLASSIC STUDY OF GNOSTIC SYMBOLS.*

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## *UNION LODGE No. 4 – KEEPING NEW MEXICO’S MOON LODGE ALIVE*

**BY BURX NORROD**

**UNION LODGE No. 4 IN WAGON MOUND HELD ANOTHER FANTASTIC STATED COMMUNICATION ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2025. TRUE TO ITS HERITAGE AS NEW MEXICO’S HISTORIC “MOON LODGE,” THE BRETHREN GATHER ON THE TUESDAY BEFORE THE FULL MOON OF EACH MONTH.**

**BECAUSE THIS YEAR’S OCTOBER FULL MOON FELL ON OCTOBER 6TH, THE LODGE MET IN SEPTEMBER INSTEAD. THIS MEANS THERE WILL BE NO STATED COMMUNICATION DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER ITSELF. THE NEXT GATHERING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, JUST BEFORE THE NOVEMBER FULL MOON.**

**UNION LODGE IS ONE OF THE OLDEST LODGES IN NEW MEXICO, HAVING RECEIVED ITS CHARTER IN OCTOBER 1877. FOR NEARLY 150 YEARS, IT HAS STOOD AS A BEACON OF MASONIC FELLOWSHIP IN WAGON MOUND AND REMAINS AN IMPORTANT REMINDER OF OUR STATE’S MASONIC HERITAGE. MANY OF ITS CURRENT MEMBERS TRAVEL FROM ALBUQUERQUE, RIO RANCHO, AND LAS VEGAS TO ENSURE THAT THIS HISTORIC LODGE CONTINUES TO THRIVE.**

**TWO OF OUR OWN BRETHREN – WM BURX NORROD AND RW LARRY MIKKELSEN – ARE PLURAL MEMBERS OF UNION LODGE No. 4. THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT, ALONG WITH THAT OF OTHERS WHO MAKE THE LONG JOURNEY NORTH, HELPS KEEP THE MOON LODGE ALIVE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

**KEEPING UNION LODGE OPEN IS MORE THAN A MATTER OF TRADITION – IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESERVE A UNIQUE MASONIC EXPERIENCE. THE FELLOWSHIP, THE HISTORY, AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BEING PART OF A MOON LODGE ARE TREASURES WORTH PROTECTING. EVERY VISIT, EVERY MEETING, AND EVERY HANDSHAKE IN ITS TILED HALL CARRIES FORWARD THE LEGACY OF THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE NEXT STATED COMMUNICATION ON NOVEMBER 4TH, REACH OUT TO ME AT [BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BurxNorrod@gmail.com). I WILL GLADLY DRIVE YOU THERE – IT’S ABOUT 2.5 HOURS FROM ALBUQUERQUE, SO PLAN ON A LONGER EVENING FILLED WITH MASONIC FELLOWSHIP AND HISTORY!**



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## *THE ESOTERIC LESSONS OF FREEMASONRY: ALIVE AND WELL*

THE ESOTERIC LESSONS OF FREEMASONRY ARE STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE, AS EVIDENCED BY A RECENT PRESENTATION DELIVERED BY WM BURX NORROD TO THE ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES OF OHIO. THE EVENT DREW AN ENTHUSIASTIC TURNOUT AND HIGHLIGHTED THE ENDURING INTEREST IN THE CRAFT'S SYMBOLIC AND PHILOSOPHICAL TEACHINGS.

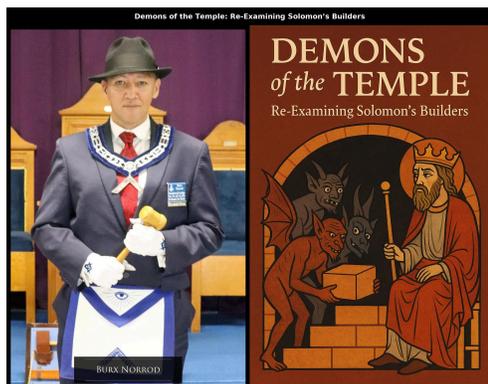
BURX'S PRESENTATION EXAMINED THE BUILDING OF KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE AS MORE THAN JUST AN ANCIENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – INSTEAD, AS A PROFOUND ALLEGORY OF MAN'S CONSCIOUSNESS. EACH STONE, TOOL, AND LABORER WAS INTERPRETED AS REPRESENTING ASPECTS OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT, REMINDING MASONS THAT THE TEMPLE IS NOT ONLY A PHYSICAL EDIFICE, BUT ALSO A METAPHOR FOR THE INNER LIFE EACH BROTHER BUILDS WITHIN HIMSELF.

THE RESPONSE FROM THE OHIO AMD COUNCIL WAS OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE. ONE BROTHER REMARKED:

*"THANKS FOR SHARING!!! THIS WAS A GREAT PRESENTATION AND I THINK IT IS SUCH A GREAT TOPIC, SO MUCH TO DISCUSS ON THIS THING AND I WAS WAITING TO HEAR ABOUT THE SHAMIR! THE WORM THAT COULD CUT THROUGH STONE. BUT IT WAS TRULY A GREAT DISCUSSION OVER THIS TOPIC. MUCH CAN BE SAID ABOUT THE 72 NAMES, ANGELS, SHEMHAMPHORASH, AND THE DEMONS – IT COULD EASILY BE A MASSIVE PRESENTATION ON THAT TOPIC. ALSO, I'M INTERESTED TO HEAR ABOUT HIS OTO EXPERIENCE! I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE WHO IS IN THE OTO AND I'VE ONLY HEARD LITTLE THINGS ABOUT IT. THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS HAPPEN BRO. ELLIOTT. I'M HAPPY TO HAVE SEEN THIS AND BE INCLUDED IN THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ABLE TO VIEW IT."*

THIS KIND OF FEEDBACK DEMONSTRATES THAT THE ESOTERIC DIMENSION OF FREEMASONRY REMAINS VIBRANT AND COMPELLING. THE ALLEGORIES SURROUNDING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE CONTINUE TO OPEN PATHWAYS INTO RICH DISCUSSIONS – FROM THE MYSTERY OF THE SHAMIR WORM, TO THE ANGELIC NAMES OF THE SHEMHAMPHORASH, TO BROADER EXPLORATIONS OF MYSTICAL TRADITIONS.

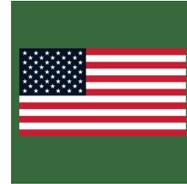
BY ENGAGING IN PRESENTATIONS LIKE THIS, BRETHERN ARE REMINDED THAT FREEMASONRY IS NOT STATIC RITUAL, BUT A LIVING SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY THAT GROWS DEEPER WITH STUDY AND SHARED REFLECTION. WM BURX NORROD'S PRESENTATION TO THE ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES OF OHIO MADE IT CLEAR: THE ESOTERIC SPIRIT OF FREEMASONRY IS NOT ONLY ALIVE, BUT THRIVING.



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***GUARDING THE WEST GATE***

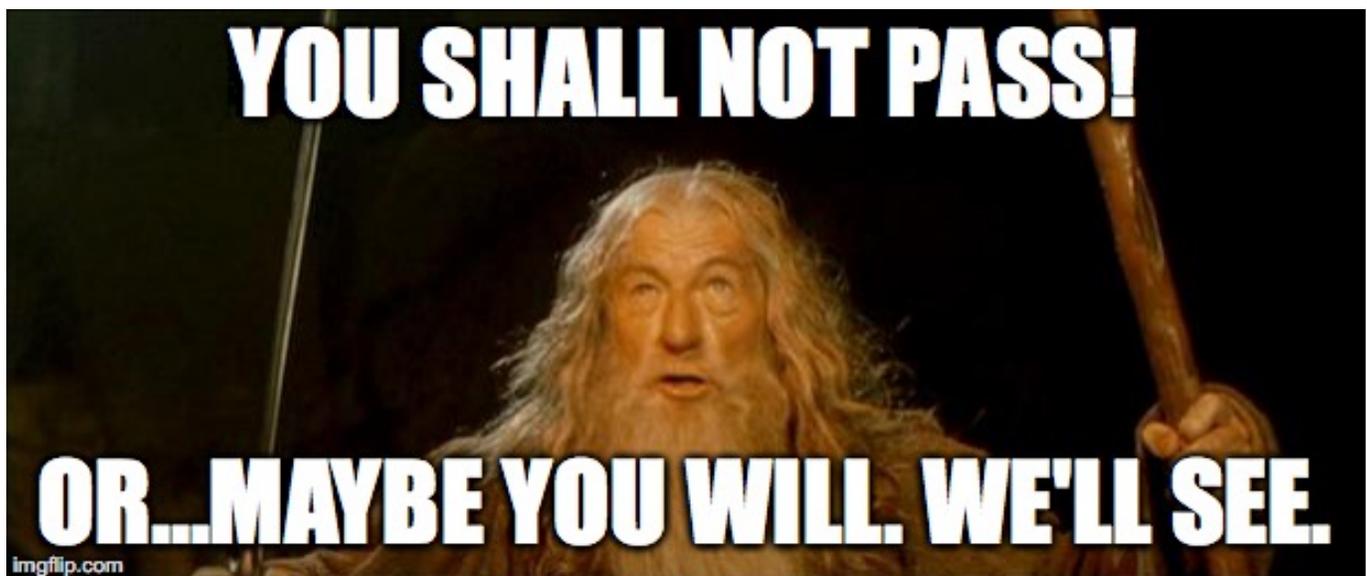
**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO BRO. JOHN KEEL, BRO. BOB TYLER, AND BRO. KENNETH FREEMAN FOR GIVING UP PART OF THEIR SUNDAY TO SERVE ON OUR MOST RECENT CANDIDATE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE.**

**GUARDING THE WEST GATE IS ONE OF THE MOST VITAL DUTIES WE HAVE AS MASONS. BY ENSURING THAT ONLY THOSE WHO ARE TRULY WORTHY AND WELL-QUALIFIED ARE ADMITTED, WE PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF OUR CRAFT AND HELP OUR LODGE REMAIN STRONG FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.**

**IT IS THROUGH THE COMMITMENT, SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE OF DEDICATED BRETHREN LIKE THESE THAT OUR LODGE CONTINUES TO GROW, OUR BONDS ARE STRENGTHENED, AND FREEMASONRY REMAINS ALIVE AND FLOURISHING.**

**IF YOU HAVEN'T YET HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE ON A CANDIDATE INVESTIGATION, CONSIDER JOINING ONE AT OUR NEXT READING OF A PETITION. IT'S AN EXCELLENT WAY TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT IT TRULY MEANS TO GUARD THE WEST GATE.**

**WELL DONE, BROTHERS – AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**



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A.: L.: 6025

## ***CONGRATULATIONS WB LEON ALDERETTE!***

WE EXTEND OUR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO WB LEON T. ALDERETTE ON HIS RECENT APPOINTMENT AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR DEMOLAY IN NEW MEXICO. THIS HONOR IS RICHLY DESERVED—BROTHER ALDERETTE HAS LONG BEEN COMMITTED TO YOUTH MENTORSHIP, SERVICE, AND THE IDEALS OF MASONIC YOUTH WORK IN OUR STATE. HIS TRACK RECORD AND HIS CAREFUL DEDICATION TO GUIDING YOUNG MEN IN DEMOLAY DEMONSTRATE THE FORESIGHT, INTEGRITY, AND LEADERSHIP NEEDED IN THIS ROLE. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT UNDER HIS DIRECTION, DEMOLAY IN NEW MEXICO WILL FLOURISH, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SUPPORTING HIM IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE.

WB ALDERETTE'S APPOINTMENT IS A REMINDER OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT MASONS PLAY IN SHAPING THE FUTURE BY INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION. BY NURTURING THE VALUES OF LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND BROTHERHOOD IN DEMOLAY, HE IS HELPING ENSURE THAT THE LESSONS OF FREEMASONRY CONTINUE TO INSPIRE YOUNG MEN AND PREPARE THEM TO BE LEADERS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. HIS EXAMPLE SHOWS US ALL HOW SERVICE AND MENTORSHIP CAN LEAVE A LASTING IMPACT.

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LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENT

**LEON T. ALDERETTE**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE  
OF DEMOLAY NEW MEXICO

A portrait of Leon T. Alderette, a man with a goatee, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a purple and yellow striped tie. He is standing in front of a blue background that features a large, faint Masonic seal. The seal includes the words "MASONRY" and "FOUNDER".

**SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF & AM**

**OCTOBER**

# TRESTLEBOARD



**A.: L.: 6025**

## ***FREEMASONRY: MORE THAN SUITS & ESOTERICS***

WHEN MOST PEOPLE THINK OF FREEMASONRY, THEY PICTURE MEN IN SUITS AND TIES, GATHERED IN SOLEMN DISCUSSION ABOUT THE HIDDEN MYSTERIES OF THE CRAFT, DEBATING THE SYMBOLISM OF THE SQUARE, COMPASSES, AND MAYBE EVEN THE METAPHYSICS OF KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE. AND YES, THAT HAPPENS... SOMETIMES.

BUT LET'S BE HONEST – JUST AS OFTEN, FREEMASONRY MEANS A BUNCH OF BROTHERS MEETING UP NEXT DOOR AT THE AMERICAN LEGION OR THE ELKS LODGE, SWAPPING STORIES, SHARING A FROSTY BEVERAGE, AND MERCILESSLY POKING FUN AT EACH OTHER. THE CONVERSATION MAY RANGE ANYWHERE FROM “THE DEEPER MEANING OF THE RITUAL” TO “WHO'S STILL BUYING NEW MEXICO CHILE IN A CAN INSTEAD OF ROASTING IT FRESH.”

ONE FAIR WARNING THOUGH: WE HAVE A LOT OF VETERANS IN THE LODGE – SO BEWARE OF THESE CONVERSATIONS. THEY CAN TURN INTO TALL TALES, GOOD-NATURED RIBBING, AND THE KIND OF HUMOR THAT ONLY COMES FROM YEARS OF SERVICE AND BROTHERHOOD.

IT'S IN THOSE MOMENTS – THE LAUGHS, THE CAMARADERIE, AND THE FRIENDLY TEASING – THAT WE'RE REMINDED FREEMASONRY IS NOT ONLY ABOUT BUILDING BETTER MEN IN THE LODGE ROOM, BUT ALSO ABOUT BUILDING LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS OUTSIDE OF IT. SUITS AND ESOTERICS HAVE THEIR PLACE, BUT SO DO JEANS, BOOTS, AND A COLD DRINK WITH BROTHERS WHO'VE GOT YOUR BACK.

AFTER ALL, WHAT GOOD IS A LODGE FULL OF WISDOM IF YOU CAN'T ALSO LAUGH UNTIL YOUR SIDES HURT?



**SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF & AM**

**OCTOBER**

# TRESTLEBOARD



**A.: L.: 6025**

## ***THE PILLARS OF FREEMASONRY: EDUCATION & RITUAL***

THERE ARE COUNTLESS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WORLD THAT DO GOOD – FROM THE LIONS CLUB TO THE ROTARY, KIWANIS, THE ELKS, AND COUNTLESS OTHERS. THEY RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITY, SUPPORT THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER FOR FELLOWSHIP. THESE GROUPS MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE, AND THEIR EFFORTS ARE COMMENDABLE.

SO WHAT MAKES FREEMASONRY DIFFERENT? WHY DOES OUR CRAFT STAND APART FROM OTHER WORTHY ORGANIZATIONS?

THE ANSWER LIES IN OUR TWO PILLARS: MASONIC EDUCATION AND RITUAL WORK.

UNLIKE OTHER GROUPS, FREEMASONRY DOES NOT SIMPLY FOCUS ON DOING GOOD WORKS – IT ALSO SEEKS TO TRANSFORM THE INDIVIDUAL BROTHER. THROUGH RITUAL, SYMBOLISM, AND ALLEGORY, WE ARE CALLED NOT ONLY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES BUT TO REFINE OURSELVES: TO CHIP AWAY THE ROUGH ASHLAR AND BUILD THE INNER TEMPLE OF CHARACTER, WISDOM, AND VIRTUE. THROUGH MASONIC EDUCATION, WE EXPAND UPON THOSE LESSONS, EXPLORING THE DEEPER MYSTERIES OF OUR CRAFT AND DISCOVERING HOW TIMELESS TRUTHS STILL APPLY TO THE MODERN MASON.

WHEN WE LOSE SIGHT OF THESE TWO PILLARS, FREEMASONRY RISKS BECOMING JUST ANOTHER CIVIC CLUB. BUT WHEN WE EMBRACE THEM, OUR LODGES BECOME TRUE SANCTUARIES OF LIGHT, WHERE A BROTHER CAN COME TO LEARN, GROW, AND BE INSPIRED TO LIVE OUT THE HIGHEST IDEALS OF THE CRAFT.

THIS IS WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO BRING ESOTERIC PRESENTATIONS BACK INTO OUR LODGES EVERYWHERE. DISCUSSIONS ON SYMBOLISM, PHILOSOPHY, ALLEGORY, AND THE SPIRITUAL LESSONS HIDDEN WITHIN OUR RITUAL ARE NOT OPTIONAL ADD-ONS – THEY ARE THE VERY HEART OF WHAT MAKES US MASONS.

SO LET US RETURN TO OUR ROOTS. LET US COMMIT TO NOT ONLY PERFORMING OUR RITUAL WITH PRECISION BUT ALSO TO DISCUSSING ITS MEANING. LET US ENCOURAGE BROTHERS TO RESEARCH, PRESENT, AND SHARE THE DEEPER LESSONS OF THE CRAFT. FOR IN DOING SO, WE PRESERVE WHAT MAKES FREEMASONRY TRULY UNIQUE – AND ENSURE THAT THE LIGHT OF OUR FRATERNITY SHINES BRIGHTER FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.



**SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF & AM**

**OCTOBER**

# TRESTLEBOARD



**A.: L.: 6025**

## ***WHAT DOES THE "G" STAND FOR IN FREEMASONRY?***

**ONE OF THE MOST RECOGNIZABLE SYMBOLS IN FREEMASONRY IS THE SQUARE AND COMPASSES WITH THE LETTER "G" AT ITS CENTER. FOR CENTURIES, THIS EMBLEM HAS INVITED REFLECTION, DISCUSSION, AND SOMETIMES DEBATE. WHAT DOES THE "G" REALLY STAND FOR?**

**TRADITIONALLY, TWO PRIMARY INTERPRETATIONS ARE GIVEN:**

**GOD – THE DIVINE ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE, THE SOURCE OF ALL LIGHT, WISDOM, AND TRUTH. BY PLACING "G" AT THE HEART OF OUR EMBLEM, MASONS ARE REMINDED THAT NO WORK CAN BE RIGHTLY BEGUN OR FINISHED WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE GREAT ARCHITECT.**

**GEOMETRY – THE SCIENCE UPON WHICH THE SUPERSTRUCTURE OF MASONRY IS BUILT. AS AN OPERATIVE ART, GEOMETRY WAS THE KEY TO BUILDING GREAT TEMPLES AND CATHEDRALS; AS A SPECULATIVE SCIENCE, IT REMINDS US OF ORDER, PROPORTION, AND HARMONY IN BOTH THE UNIVERSE AND OUR LIVES.**

**BUT IN THE ESOTERIC TRADITION, SOME MASONS HAVE CONSIDERED WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE ANOTHER LAYER OF MEANING. COULD THE "G" ALSO REPRESENT GNOSIS?**

**IN ITS TRUEST SENSE, GNOSIS IS NOT SIMPLY KNOWLEDGE, BUT ENLIGHTENED UNDERSTANDING – A SPIRITUAL INSIGHT THAT GOES BEYOND FACTS AND ENTERS INTO DIRECT EXPERIENCE OF TRUTH. FREEMASONRY, AS A SYSTEM OF ALLEGORY AND SYMBOL, HAS ALWAYS INVITED THE INITIATE TO SEEK MORE THAN SURFACE MEANING. TO CONSIDER "G" AS GNOSIS IS TO SEE IT AS AN EMBLEM OF INNER AWAKENING – THE KIND OF LIGHT WE PETITION FOR WHEN WE FIRST KNOCK AT THE LODGE DOOR.**

**SO, WHAT DOES THE "G" STAND FOR? PERHAPS THE ANSWER IS ALL OF THE ABOVE. GOD, GEOMETRY, AND GNOSIS ARE NOT CONTRADICTORY, BUT COMPLEMENTARY. TOGETHER THEY REMIND US THAT THE GREAT ARCHITECT IS BOTH TRANSCENDENT AND IMMANENT, THAT THE UNIVERSE IS BUILT ON HARMONY AND PROPORTION, AND THAT WITHIN EACH OF US LIES THE CAPACITY TO AWAKEN TO GREATER LIGHT.**

**ULTIMATELY, THE MEANING OF THE "G" IS A PERSONAL MEDITATION. EACH MASON MUST REFLECT UPON IT, NOT AS A SINGLE ANSWER CARVED IN STONE, BUT AS A SYMBOL THAT CONTINUES TO UNFOLD WITH EVERY STEP WE TAKE IN OUR MASONIC JOURNEY.**



**SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF & AM**

**OCTOBER**

**TRESTLEBOARD**



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***UPCOMING EVENTS AT SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76***

**BRETHREN, WE HAVE A BUSY AND EXCITING CALENDAR AHEAD – MARK YOUR DATES AND PLAN TO JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP, RITUAL, AND EDUCATION:**

**OCTOBER 13TH – 1ST STATED COMMUNICATION OF OCTOBER**

**WE WILL BE CONFERRING AN ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE, FOLLOWED BY A MASTER MASON PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION. THE EVENING WILL BE PRECEDED BY A HEARTY DINNER OF GREEN CHILE CHICKEN SOUP PREPARED BY BRO. KENNETH FREEMAN.**

**OCTOBER 27TH – 2ND STATED COMMUNICATION OF OCTOBER**

**OUR JUNIOR STEWARD, BRO. BENJAMIN COTE, WILL BE GIVING A PRESENTATION ON THE LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES OF FREEMASONRY – A CORNERSTONE OF MASONIC EDUCATION THAT TIES DIRECTLY INTO THE LESSONS OF THE FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE.**

**NOVEMBER 10TH – 1ST STATED COMMUNICATION OF NOVEMBER**

**PROGRAM TBD – DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON.**

**NOVEMBER 24TH – 2ND STATED COMMUNICATION OF NOVEMBER**

**ELECTION NIGHT. A REMINDER THAT THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR WARDEN OR MASTER INCLUDE HAVING YOUR 2026 DUES PAID IN FULL AS WELL AS BEING QUALIFIED FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF MASTER MASON PROFICIENCY. FOR THE OFFICES OF SECRETARY AND TREASURER, YOU MUST ALSO HAVE YOUR 2026 DUES PAID UP BY ELECTION NIGHT (NOVEMBER 24TH).**

**DECEMBER 8TH – 1ST STATED COMMUNICATION OF DECEMBER**

**THE CLOSING MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER. PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO 2ND STATED COMMUNICATION IN DECEMBER AS THE LODGE WILL GO DARK. THE MASTER-ELECT WILL USE THIS TIME TO PLAN HIS INSTALLATION.**

