



VOICE of the ORIENT

SCOTTISH RITE, Orient of Arkansas

September, 2020

In Token of your Sincerity

On a beautiful spring day in 1945, our Brother and President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, sat for a commissioned portrait at his retreat of choice that he affectionately referred to as the "Little White House" in Warm Springs, Georgia. On the twelfth day of April 1945, life left this extraordinary man that had led our country for an unprecedented twelve years which included a Great Depression and most of the Second World War. On this fateful day, a peaceful transition of power that is so incredibly unique to our democracy was set into motion.

Along our Masonic journeys, how many times have we been prompted by the words, "In token of your sincerity"? On that clear spring day in 1945, over 700 miles away in Washington, D.C., an unsuspecting Vice-President and Mason from Missouri would soon have the weight of the world thrust upon his shoulders, and it is doubtful these five words were present in his thoughts as he discerned what had just happened to him. More often than not, traumatic and startling events tend to highlight our instincts and principles. How those instincts and principles are formed and molded. Where do they come from? Our families? Our religion? Our fraternity? Hopefully, the answer is 'all of the above'.

Throughout his life, Brother Truman had been known for being straight-forward, assertive and blunt, a fact that only intensified as he ascended the political ranks. On one occasion, as Truman railed against his opponents during a speech, a supporter shouted, "Give 'em Hell, Harry!" To which Truman quickly replied, "I never gave anybody hell! I just told the truth and they thought it was hell." This endeared him to the people, as he stood for plain-talking, fair-dealing and truth. Even though these attributes were refreshing, virtually no one believed he was equipped to be President, least of all, himself.



In the context of our fraternity, a token is defined as a visible or tangible representation of a fact, quality or feeling. Sincerity is the quality of being free from pretense, deceit or hypocrisy. With this understanding, the true meaning and power of that token is revealed. At 7:00 PM on April 12, 1945, Brother Truman was conducted to the cabinet room of the White House and sworn in as the 33rd President of the United States. At the conclusion of the Oath of Office and before shaking the hand of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court that had just administered the oath, Truman bowed his head and kissed the Holy Bible upon which he had just taken

the Oath of Office. In the most monumental moment, of the most overwhelming day of his life, Truman immediately harkened back to his experiences in our fraternity and declared his mind and conscious free from any pretense, deceit or hypocrisy by sealing this solemn oath with his Token of Sincerity. Brother Truman was a failed businessman from rural

Missouri that would go on to become arguably one of the greatest Presidents in our nation's history. His life and actions showed us that he never lost sight of that Great Light and those guiding principles our fraternity champions.

So, what does this mean for you or me, or the upcoming generation of Masons in this country? Our country is divided, and our world is hurting. But what if the miseries of today are the birthing pains of a new and much needed enlightenment? Turn on the news for a few minutes and then recite the Creed of the Scottish Rite. This country, and the world, needs Freemasonry more than ever. We must be that light that shines through the darkness. Just as Brother Truman did, on the darkest day or during the most burdensome situation of our lives, we must stand up, with sincerity of purpose, and be the example that the world needs so badly.

Arkansas Double Eagle

A NEWLY EXPANDED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF THE
ALBERT PIKE MEMORIAL TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND

III. C. JAMES GRAHAM, 33°
SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL IN ARKANSAS

PATRON OF THE DOUBLE EAGLE

\$3,000-\$4,999

CERTIFICATE, NAME LISTED ON GROUP PLAQUE, LAPEL PIN & NECK MEDALLION

MASTER OF THE DOUBLE EAGLE

\$5,000-\$9,999

CERTIFICATE, NAME LISTED ON GROUP PLAQUE, LAPEL PIN & NECK MEDALLION

PATRIARCH OF THE ROSENBAUM SOCIETY

\$10,000-\$32,999

CERTIFICATE, NAME LISTED ON SOCIETY PLAQUE, LAPEL PIN & CUSTOM POCKET
JEWEL

PATRIARCH OF THE PIKE SOCIETY

\$33,000-\$49,999

CERTIFICATE, NAME LISTED ON SOCIETY PLAQUE, LAPEL PIN & CUSTOM POCKET
JEWEL

EQUES PRAECEPTOREM BENIVOLENTIA

"KNIGHT COMMANDER OF BENELOVENCE"

\$50,000-\$99,000

CERTIFICATE, LAPEL PIN & 3D CAST BRONZE PLAQUE FEATURING THE DONORS
LIKENESS, MASONIC RANK & SHORT BIO TO BE HUNG IN THE TEMPLE

PRINCEPS OPUS MAGNUM

"PRINCE OF GREAT WORK"

\$100,000+

CERTIFICATE, LAPEL PIN & CUSTOM PAINTING OF DONOR AND/OR DONORS SPOUSE,
ALONG WITH 3D CAST BRONZE PLAQUE FEATURING THE DONORS MASONIC RANK &
SHORT BIO TO BE HUNG IN THE TEMPLE

ALBERT PIKE MEMORIAL TEMPLE NAMING RECOGNITION LEVELS

AUDITORIUM: \$1 MILLION

BANQUET HALL: \$500,000

LODGE OF PERFECTION: \$250,000

NORTH END FOYER & ATRIUM: \$100,000

FRATERNAL ROOM: \$75,000

ROBING ROOM: \$35,000

Where do we go from here?

Not sure about you, but I never would have expected such a situation in my lifetime. A global pandemic, which has killed far too many people, but also has caused major disruptions in our work, in our economy, and also in our Freemasonry! All of us, to one extent or another, have felt the effects. Some have lost their jobs, some have gotten sick, and some have not been able to be with loved ones in the hospital, some have had travel cancelled. All of us have seen the effects of this invisible menace which we have labeled COVID.

As with so many other situations in life, I turn again to our degree work. Hiram Abiff never expected what would happen to him. In the 15th degree, Zerubbabel never would have expected that Cyrus would have permitted the Israelites to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. They had been in exile for 70 years, must have been a terribly dark time, but suddenly they got freedom to go back to their homeland. Our degrees are full of "unexpected" events.

Likewise, our degrees teach us how to approach difficult times. Like many of you, I suspect, the 18th degree of the Scottish Rite is one of my favorites among all the degrees and ceremonies of all the Rites I belong to. The 18th degree begins with the Dark Chamber, a place filled with misery and misanthropy. A terrible place truly. While there, no one knows how long it will last or if or when there will come a better day. But inevitably, the Light Chamber always follows the Dark Chamber. That is because we have a loving God who

From The Desk Of:

ILL. C. James Graham, 33°, PGM
S.G.I.G. Orient Of Arkansas,
Active Member Of The Supreme Council



brings us his grace and love; even in those dark times in life. To a greater or lesser extent, we are all living through a dark time at present. Our Masonic lodges have been dark, and are just beginning to reopen. But even the reopening is not the same as before. We wear masks and practice social distancing, which is not what we as Masons are accustomed to! We want to shake hands and enjoy the fellowship of our brotherhood! And yet, we know, just as in the 18th degree that the Light Chamber will come, our complete fellowship will someday return as well. In the meantime, we should cling tightly to our Masonic ideals. They are needed more today than ever before. We are in an uncertain time. The teachings of fortitude, prudence, temperance, and justice; the virtues of honor, loyalty, and integrity are more important than ever.

Brethren, please stay safe and well in this difficult time. If you need help, do not hesitate to reach out to a brother. And we all look forward to the time when we meet again in our lodges, in our Scottish Rite Bodies, and in all other Masonic bodies!

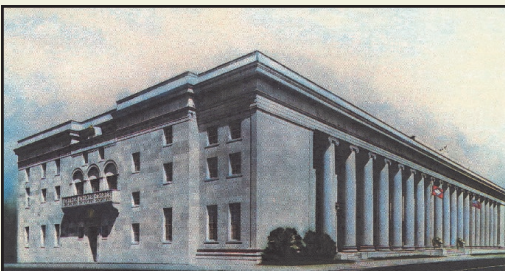
Jurisdiction of Supreme Council

The Jurisdiction of the Supreme Council includes all the territory over which the United States of America exercises domain of powers of government, except the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, which were apportioned by the Supreme Council to the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States. The jurisdiction of this Supreme Council also includes those countries where it has established, or may hereafter establish, Bodies of the Rite, and over which countries no regular Supreme Council has acquired jurisdiction.

HAVE YOU
UPDATED YOUR
MEMBERSHIP RECORD
RECENTLY?

YES? ▶ *Thank you!*
NO? ▶ *It's easy!*

1. Visit <https://my.scottishrite.org>.
2. Sign in with your existing account. If you don't already have one, follow the prompts to create an account.
3. You can update your record AND even pay your membership dues!



Valley of Little Rock Calendar of Events

Tuesday, September 8, 2020
6:00 P.M. Feast of Tishri
.....(Closed, Members only)

Tuesday, October 13, 2020
6:00 P.M. Dinner
7:00 P.M. Stated Meeting

Saturday, October 24, 2020 Fall Reunion
7:00 A.M. Registration Begins
8:00 A.M. Degrees Begin

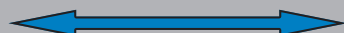
Tuesday, November 10, 2020
6:00 P.M. Dinner
7:00 P.M. Stated Meeting

Saturday, November 14, 2020 KSA Meeting
10:00 A.M. Meeting Begins

Tuesday, December 8, 2020
6:00 P.M. Christmas Party

Saturday, January 9, 2021 KSA Meeting
10:00 A.M. Meeting Begins

Tuesday, January 12, 2021
6:00 P.M. Dinner
7:00 P.M. Open Installation of Officers



2020 Officers

Little Rock Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master Ill. J. D. Sexton, 33°
Senior Warden Jeffrey Squires, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden Monty Fulmer, 32° KCCH
Valley Treasurer Ill. John Strange, 33°
Valley Secretary Ill. Paul Wilson, 33°
Almoner Ill. Tom Liles, 33°

Little Rock Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master Ill. James Morehead, 33°
Senior Warden Ill. Troy Cole, 33°
Junior Warden Billy Britt, 32° KSA

Little Rock Council of Kadosh

Commander Thomas Lampirez, KCCH
1st Lt. Commander Mark Kalkbrenner, KCCH
2nd Lt. Commander Jacob Davis, 32°

Little Rock Consistory

Master of Kadosh Ill Angelo Coppola, 33°
Prior Robert Kemp, 32° KCCH
Preceptor Max Easter, 32° KCCH

The Valley of Little Rock

Chartered October 19, 1892

Stated Meeting on the second Tuesday of each month

712 Scott Street, Little Rock, AR 72203

**** Behind the Curtain, a Department Spotlight ****

For years, men have joined the Scottish Rite for various reasons. Some of them are “search for further Masonic light” or “being part of something bigger than themselves”. A man can join our great fraternity and find some of what he is searching for through the lessons taught in the degrees, reunions, education programs, and supporting community organizations. What many do not realize is there is so much more to be gained by getting involved and connecting in one of our service areas. There are opportunities for enlightenment on a different level. Shortly after joining, a brother invited me to work backstage during the next reunion. I showed up not really knowing what to expect but was intrigued by what I had seen while sitting through my degrees earlier that year. My technical background had me interested in working with the latest technology, circa 1924. My entrance that morning through the swinging doors to the backstage area took me to another world. I had seen the resulting scenes from the auditorium but had no idea what it took to construct those images. It did not take long to realize the men putting it all together had a bond that went above simple friendships. They communicated without the need to speak, moved seamlessly through the numerous scenes, and was clearly focused on delivering the best experience possible for the candidates. They were led by Stage Director, Ill. John Penrod, 33°, a man I came to respect and value as a mentor and brother.

I spent the next several years trying to learn all aspects of the stage and John was accommodating with his knowledge and opportunities to get real life experience. The stage crew worked hard but never missed an opportunity for some fun when time allowed. Each of us knew our responsibilities but none were afraid to help others when needed. We recognized our work was in vain without the Ritualists and other service areas but the determination to do our best job on stage was never in question. The atmosphere reflected our leadership. Our bonds grew stronger each time we came together. I often joked with John that he joined Masonry the same year I was born. It was mostly met with a snarky comment about my youth but would sometimes refer to his retirement from the stage. John retired as Stage Director several years ago and I was honored when asked to step into that position. Most of the original crew had since left but others have responded to the call to walk through those same swinging doors to become part of a team. I must admit John Penrod has probably forgotten more about the stage than I will ever know. But my hope as Stage Director has always been that I can provide an environment like the one I was welcomed into. One that models developing bonds of brotherhood to a level far deeper than casual friendships. And produces a team of men who can count on each other in good and difficult times.

I am humbled by the members of the stage crew each time we gather. These men sacrifice their time and efforts for the purpose of celebrating our craft and welcoming new brethren to the fraternity during our meetings, feasts, and reunions throughout the year. They work behind a curtain and are rarely seen.

There are not enough words to describe my appreciation for what they do but I do know it is an honor to truly call each of them my brother. I have found so much more over the years working with the stage crew. More than I ever expected when I joined the fraternity. But I am not the only one. Many of you have had similar experiences and that is valuable information when engaging with prospective and inactive members. Let them see the “light” you have found and invite them to join us. (Submitted by Ill. Gary Henningsen, 33°)



Membership Committee Spotlight

This column is about taking one member on the committee and placing a spotlight on him as a person and giving all the brothers a little insight as to what, when, and why they became a Freemason. The brother chosen this issue is a diligent craftsman in the quarry. We would like to introduce you to Brother Jerry Dean Rapier Jr.



Brother Jerry first became interested in Freemasonry after discovering that his father was a Mason in Elgin, OK. That prompted him to want to know more about Freemasonry and after much thought and seeing the way our great fraternity strives daily to improve themselves and communities he made the decision to petition his local lodge. "What some of you wouldn't know is that my first attempt to join our fraternity was an unsuccessful one." Brother Jerry said. He then did what was required; "to wait a time with patience" and repetition the lodge. We can all agree that we're glad he chose to do just that as our great fraternity is far better having him in our ranks.

Brother Jerry was initiated on 12/23/2004, Passed on 04/04/2005, and Raised on 05/20/2005. He, being a true steward of ritual and having a drive to want to study the craft, worked diligently to learn each station within the line. Those efforts paid off when he was elected and served as Worshipful Master of Iron Springs Lodge #342.

He then asked himself "what were other ways to improve him and aid his lodge?" He found his answer by applying the same hard work and dedication when he received his Officer's Proficiency and Lecturer's Card.

Brother Jerry received the Pillars of Solomon award in 2015 and Mason of the Year from his home lodge, Iron Springs #342 in 2007. Before its closing, Bro. Jerry also held a dual membership and served as Master of the Lodge at Gavel Lodge #532 in ICO, AR. Bro. Jerry is a member of the Scottish Rite - Valley of Little Rock where he was invited to join the Knights of St. Andrews. He has served in all 3 principal officer offices, and currently serves as Preceptor. Brother Jerry works on the kitchen staff, and is the Secretary for the Color Guard. He also continues to display his passion for Freemasonry within the ranks of the Bendamere Grotto and its Color Guard.

When asked, why become a Mason? Bro. Jerry said, "It's about sharing the light of our organization. It's about the brothers, the friendship, the camaraderie, and the genuine concern for one another. I have always been told that a person is truly blessed to find one true friend and brother and with our great brotherhood he found an entire family and I do not know what I would do without them." Brother Jerry is a true overseer of our craft and one of the finest assets within our great fraternity. (Submitted by Jason Graves 32°)



In July the brethren were greeted with a return to the original floorplan of the Albert Pike Memorial Temple south-east entrance.

The half wall that had been dividing the entry in half was removed and the wall separating the entry from the Grand Hallway was removed as well. Lucas Minton 32° KCCH





Valley of Jonesboro Calendar of Events

Monday, September 14, 2020
 5:30 PM..... Advisory Conference
 6:30 PM..... Feast of Tishri
 7:30 PM..... Stated Meeting/Presentation

Saturday, October 10, 2020
 5:00 P.M. KSA Fundraiser
 Chili Cook-Off & Dessert Auction

Monday, October 12, 2020
 5:30 PM..... Advisory Conference
 6:30 PM..... Dinner
 7:30 PM..... Stated Meeting

Monday, November 9, 2020
 5:30 PM..... Advisory Conference
 6:30 PM..... Thanksgiving Dinner
 7:30 PM..... Stated Meeting

Monday, December 14, 2020
 5:30 PM..... Advisory Conference
 6:30 PM..... Christmas Dinner
 7:30 PM..... Open Meeting
 & Entertainment

Knights of St. Andrew Stated Meetings

2nd Monday of each month after the Lodge of
 Perfection Meeting

2020 Officers

Jonesboro Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master..... Ill Brad Phillips, 33°
 Senior Warden Kyle Rowe, 32° KCCH
 Junior Warden Colin Miller, 32° KSA
 Valley Treasurer Ill Gary Miley, 33°
 Valley Secretary..... Jon Walter, 32° KCCH
 Almoner..... Curtis Pace, 32° KCCH

Jonesboro Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master Ill .Rufus Ray, 33°
 Senior Warden Ill. Brent Howton, 33°
 Junior Warden John Warnock, 32° KCCH

Jonesboro Council of Kadosh

Commander..... Ill Gary Miley, 33°
 1st Lt. Commander..... Dean Lamberth, 32°
 2nd Lt. Commander..... Jim Fraser, 32°

Jonesboro Consistory

Master of Kadosh John Shipley, 32° KCCH
 Prior..... Joseph Kirby, 32° KCCH
 Preceptor..... Ill. Brent Howton, 33°

The Valley of Jonesboro

Chartered June 17, 1974

Stated Meeting on the second Monday of each month

2206 W. Washington Ave, Jonesboro, AR 72401

Happy 46th Anniversary – June 17, 2020



In February 1974, Ill. William Nash, 33°, S.G.I.G. in Arkansas announced his interest in establishing a set of Scottish Rite Bodies in the eastern portion of Arkansas. He explained that the Valleys at Little Rock and Fort Smith were very strong, but the travelling distance for members in eastern Arkansas was too great for them to be active in either one. Thus, it was difficult for Little Rock to recruit and enlarge membership from eastern Arkansas.

The "Letters Temporary", forming the Eastern Arkansas Scottish Rite Bodies was signed on June 17, 1974 by 29 brothers from the Valley of Little Rock. It was decided that the Valley would be located in West Memphis. On July 22, 1974, the first public session of all four Eastern Arkansas Scottish Rite Bodies was called into labor at the Eugene Woods Civic Center in West Memphis for the purpose of installing the first officers. After the ceremony, members repaired to the West Memphis Masonic Temple, located at 307 North Missouri St, for their first official business meeting with 52 members present. The first reunion was held on July 19, 1975 in the Civic Center with 114 candidates. By October 1975, when the permanent charters were issued for the Eastern Arkansas Scottish Rite Bodies, there were 853 members.

In 1982, the William Nash Scottish Rite Temple was completed on 650 South Service Rd in West Memphis. This continued to be the home of the Bodies until 2006, when they moved to the newly created Valley of Jonesboro.

Reunion Update

As you are now aware, because we have not been able to meet the past few months, have no candidate petitions, have not been able to practice, and feel like it's too early to hold degrees that will be difficult to perform with social distancing, we "postponed" the August Reunion until a future to-be-determined date.

It is very likely that this postponement could turn into a complete cancellation until March 2021, but we will keep you informed. Please visit our web page - Jonesboro-ScottishRite.org.

Help us keep you updated on what's going on, send an email to secretary@jonesboroscottishrite.org or call the secretary at (870) 759-2793 and add your email address to our database.



Members of Jonesboro Lodge #129, including many from our Valley, have been busy over the past few months with building improvement projects.

JROTC Medals presented



The following JROTC Medals were presented this year:

Cadet George Baker - Brookland High School

Cadet Dalton Hale - Westside High School

Cadet Kaylee Rodgers - Marked Tree High School

Cadet Amarianna Short - Osceola High School

Cadet Zachary White - Rivercrest High School

Unknown Cadet - Wynne High School

The following ROTC Medal was presented this year

Cadet Payton Dunn - Arkansas State University (Lyon College ROTC)

2020 Scholarship Recipients

On April 1st, a request for donations toward our 2020 Scholarship Fund was emailed out to our members. At the time we had \$1,202 collected - enough for two \$500 scholarships. In just a few weeks we gathered \$524 more dollars for our fund. This allowed us to add a third scholarship for 2020 and have \$226 remaining for a head-start for 2021. In addition, the Knights of St Andrew once again funded \$500, making four scholarships for this year. Thank you to all that have supported our scholarship fund throughout the years.

Abigail McQuary – Maynard – Black River Technical College

Macy Qualls – Highland – ASU – Mountain Home

Emily Roberts – Wynne – Hendrix College

Hanah Jo Carle (KSA Scholarship) – Buffalo Island Central – ASU - Jonesboro



Abigail McQuary



Emily Roberts



Hanah Jo Carle



Macy Qualls



\$10
Donation

for food & entertainment

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2020 ★ 5 PM



Scottish Rite Valley of Jonesboro
2206 W. Washington Ave



In Memoriam

Roy L. Latimer, 32°
Piggott #545
8/20/2019

Donald E. Timms, 32°
Monette #558
10/10/2019

James E. Ferrell, 32°
Chickasawba #134
12/24/2019

Kenneth L. Shannon, 32°
Elm #766
2/6/2020

Henry E. Woodward, 32°
Colony #190
4/2/2020

Randall L. Imler, 32° KSA
Monette #558
6/9/2020

Ralph L. Stephens, 32° KCCH
Jonesboro #129
6/19/2020



KSA Fundraiser

The Jonesboro Chapter of the Knights of St Andrew will host their 5th Annual Chili Cook-Off fundraiser on Saturday, October 10 at 5 p.m. at our Valley. It is open to all masons, their friends and family. Bring your chili to be judged and receive free admission, or just sample the food, enjoy some awesome entertainment, and bid on some delicious desserts. It's always a great time, and well worth a suggested \$10 donation at the door to help our worthy causes.





Valley of Fayetteville Calendar of Events

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

6:00 P.M. Dinner

7:00 P.M. Stated Communication

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

6:00 P.M. Dinner

7:00 P.M. Stated Communication

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

6:00 P.M. Dinner

7:00 P.M. Stated Communication

November DARK

December DARK

2020 Fall Reunion **CANCELLED**

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

7:00 P.M. Stated Communication

Spring Reunion is April 10, 2021



2020 Officers

Fayetteville Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Mstr Andrew Morrison, 32° KCCH

Senior Warden Michael Lewis, 32° KSA

Junior Warden George Riggs, 32° KSA

Valley Secretary Bryon Spellor, 32° KCCH

Fayetteville Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master Clint Chastain, 32° KCCH

Senior Warden Michael Lewis, 32° KSA

Junior Warden George Riggs, 32° KSA

Fayetteville Council of Kadosh

Commander Robert Baugh, 32° KCCH

1st Lt. Cmdr Michael Lewis, 32° KSA

2nd Lt. Cmdr George Riggs, 32°

Fayetteville Consistory

Master of Kadosh Teddy Holmes, 33°

Prior Michael Lewis, 32° KSA

Preceptor George Riggs, 32°

The Valley of Fayetteville

Chartered October 22, 1925

Stated Meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month

1106 East Masonic Drive, Fayetteville AR 72703

****BEING A RELUCTANT LEADER****

Leadership seems to be a very popular topic these days. Amazon offers more than 100,000 books on leadership. There has been new leadership books coming out at a rate of more than four per day and in 2018 over 1,000 books were published with the word "Leadership" in the title, not including the magazine and internet articles.

As someone who spent most of my life in one type of leadership position or another, I've read countless books and articles. Attended several thousands of hours of leadership training and untold actual experience in Combat, Training and day to day operations in the Military and Law Enforcement.

With that being said, some of the very best leadership lessons I've learned have been in the Lodge. Here are a just a few examples of Masonic lessons that will serve us all well to be reminded of.

In our ritual we discover critical traits; not only of good Masons, but also of great leaders. Masonic virtues such as truth, fortitude, prudence, and justice are also highly respected leadership qualities. In our ritual we learn that we should judge with candor, admonish with friendship, and reprehend with justice – this is great advice for any leader.

As Masons, we learn that it is important to put people to work and give them proper instruction. Idleness and wasted time create dissatisfaction and leads to unrest. People who are busy and have direction are happier because work brings an increased sense of self-worth. Productive work helps us contribute to the world in which we live and gives people a sense of worth and satisfaction.

Our ritual uses the example of the beehive to promote industry and cooperative labor. Each and every time we open and close a Lodge, we stress that harmony is the strength and support of all institutions. We know how easily discord can creep into an organization. Arguments and power struggles cause discontent and will quickly weaken and destroy an organization. Disagreement and debate will occur, but masonry promotes a positive atmosphere where these discussions occur without resorting to personal attacks or derailments. "Peace and Harmony" should always prevail. Whether or not an agreement on the issue is reached, the option to agree or disagree amicably should always remain.

The Attentive Ear receiving the sound from the Instructive Tongue is highly valuable leadership lesson. It teaches that it is important to first understand and then to be understood. Listening is a powerful leadership and communication skill. When we listen with the intent to understand, rather than with the intent to reply, we begin the process of true communication and relationship building. Listening with an attentive ear takes skill and patience but it leads to understanding and earns trust. Once we truly understand each other's point of view, we can then seek to be understood by the skillful use of grammar, rhetoric, and logic. Leaders with an Attentive Ear gain high admiration and respect.

Our symbolic Masonic tools are perfect additions to any leader's toolbox. Our level reminds us to stay genuine, straight, and true. (Continued Next Page)

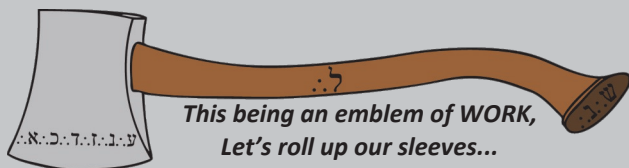
(Continued From Previous Page) The plumb keeps us honorable and upstanding, moral and ethical while the square reminds us to stay fair and honest, squaring our actions by the square of virtue. The compasses keep us within due bounds, freely choosing to do the right thing, thereby setting a good example.

I've touched on just a few of the many great leadership lessons and traits we learn in our Masonic ritual, there are many, many more. It comes as no great surprise that so many great leaders have been, and still are, Freemasons. So, the next time you find yourself in a position of responsibility, try adapting a Masonic leadership style.

Finally, I call for us all to be the reluctant leader, what do I mean? It's not about solving the issue all the time, and being right all the time or receiving the accolades. It's about looking for collaboration, compromise and understanding. We need to be awesome and inspiring.

Our focus should be about connections, collaborations, compromises and openness. When we do this, we are creating safe spaces for teams of Brothers to try new ideas without the promise of a guaranteed hardwired outcome.

We should be energized and excited by what we learn from the wrong turns and dead ends because it generates unexpected new opportunities. That we all can learn from. Be a reluctant leader. Fraternally, Friends and Brothers. (Submitted by T. Clint Chastain, 32° KCCH)



PICTURED BELOW: Brother T. Clint Chastain, 32° KCCH, Wise Master, Valley of Fayetteville, author of the above article.



*****For Study and Reflection*****

In our rapidly changing world, it is of paramount importance that we look to our Masonic lessons, in addition to the Almighty, for guidance. Take for instance the lessons given to us in the 15th Degree of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Knight of the East, of the Sword, or of the Eagle.

Clausen's Commentaries on the 15th degree opens with "We learn fidelity of our obligation and perseverance of purpose under difficulties and discouragement." Well, that seems like we can apply that to this time and space that we are all currently inhabiting. He goes on to say that those who "endeavor to serve, benefit and improve the world is like a swimmer battling against a rapid river". This statement can be profound to today's circumstances. We are always met with a multitude of difficulties in our individual journeys. Being knocked down by these difficulties is a part of life and troublesome to overcome. But having a steadfast belief in doing good deeds, treating everyone with respect, and our belief that God's Divine plan will ultimately prevail is how success will ultimately be measured.

I would encourage everyone to read the commentaries made on the 15th Degree. There are a multitude of resources at your fingertips and great perspectives to be given our reflection. Perhaps you may find another degree's lessons that speak directly to you with what you may be experiencing at this point in your life. Brethren, the Journey continues always. Forever be seeking the light of the Divine and His guidance in all of your daily endeavors. By doing this, all our journeys will be fruitful and lives fulfilled with His grace. (Submitted by Andrew Morrison, 32° KCCH)





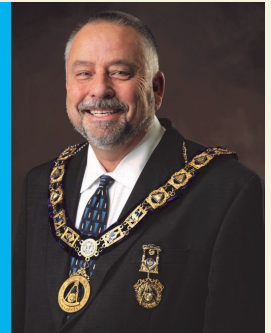
Fraternal Greetings
from the Grand
Master.



Greetings From the Grand Lodge of Arkansas

M.:W.: David Bradley, 32°, KCCH

Grand Master



What a year we have been having this year in masonry. It has been a year of uncertainty as we have had to travel through uncharted waters due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With that I want to thank each and everyone of you for the support and understanding you have had as we have had to make decisions that we never thought imaginable during these times. We had to suspend our masonic labor. We have had to create and come up with other ideas as to how we can meet and be safe. We have had to isolate ourselves to not only protect ourselves but to protect others as well. These have been some trying times, but I honestly believe that due to these times we will bounce back and thrive even more than what we would have, had we not gone through the pandemic. The outcome of the pandemic is going to better us as men and masons thus making us stronger as it teaches us more to depend on the Great Architect of the Universe as well as our fellow masons. Plus we have learned that we can do more with less when it comes down to it. It has caused us to step back and reflect as to what we really need and not what we really want. Please be safe during these times and protect not only yourselves but others around you.

I also would like to mention that you will be receiving a letter to all your lodges about a Festive Board Dinner that we will be having on October 30th in the Scottish Rite Temple. This is an exciting event that I think you will not want to miss as it is being held as a fundraiser for a good local non-profit charity organization. The key to the dinner is the "charity" of helping others in our community plus it is going to afford you a time of fellowship with your brethren across that state since we have been isolated for such a long period of time. Reach out to the Grand Lodge office to make your reservations. I look forward to seeing you there and having an evening of fun and fellowship.

Again brethren, I thank you for this opportunity to serve you as your Grand Master and I look forward to seeing each of you as we travel across our state. May God Bless each of you and your families. Until we meet again please be safe and remember I Love each and everyone of you.



Fraternally,

M.:W.: David Bradley

Grand Master of Masons in Arkansas

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**Words to Live By
(Author Unknown)**

1]. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" to pull out when in trouble, but a "steering wheel" to guide our journey.

2]. So why is a Car's WINDSHIELD so large & the Rear View Mirror so small? Our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. Look Ahead and Move on.

3]. Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes years to write, a few minutes to burn.

4]. All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, it will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, it can't last long either.

5]. Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you need a Base of Gold!

6]. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, it's just a bend, not the end!

7]. When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.

8]. A blind person asked: "Can there be anything worse than losing your sight?" The reply: "Yes, losing your vision!"

9]. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

10]. WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE

Leave the rest to God.

Statement of Allegiance

The bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the Orient of Arkansas, acknowledge and yield allegiance to The Supreme Council of the Thirty-third Degree for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America (Mother Supreme Council of the World) whose See is at Charleston in the State of South Carolina, and the House of the Temple, Washington, D.C., of which

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