

# THE KANSAS MASON

THE VOICE OF KANSAS MASONRY

A Publication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Kansas

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## GRAND LODGE UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE

The new Grand Lodge website -- [kansasmason.org](http://kansasmason.org) -- debuted in October with a sneak peak at the Warden's School in Emporia. The website is now operational, although some work is still being done.

According to Michael Halleran, Grand Senior Deacon, and acting webmaster, "the site is about 95% complete. We are still working on an improved Grand Lodge store feature, and a new lodge locator page, a few other small details, but mostly just fine tuning. The site is up and ready to use now."

Relying on the image and communication recommendations of Vision 2020, the Council of Administration voted to cut costs on the Kansas Mason and allocate the resulting savings (\$4500) to a Kansas City web designer to build the improved website from the ground up. Built on a popular website application, WordPress, the website is comparatively easy to maintain, says Halleran, "although some small bugs remain that we are still tracking down - it doesn't like apostrophes, for example."

The new website replaces <http://glks.org> which has been the Grand Lodge web home since 2001. Among the improvements the new site brings are current news and events pages, a continuously updated Grand Master's schedule, online editions of the *Kansas Mason*, and contact forms on several key pages to let the Craft or prospective members get in touch with Grand Lodge at the press of a button.

With a new look and feel, and with a new logo adopted by the Council of Administration, "the website is not only a resource for the Craft, but a way to increase our visibility, too," says Grand Master L. Kent Needham.

The official website of the Grand Lodge of Kansas has moved to [kansasmason.org](http://kansasmason.org).

### The new website features

- news and current events
- online scheduling for the Grand Master, district schools and statewide events
- A secure area for Members featuring Grand Lodge down-loads, Masonic education, forms and by-Laws
- A secure area for Lodge Secretaries

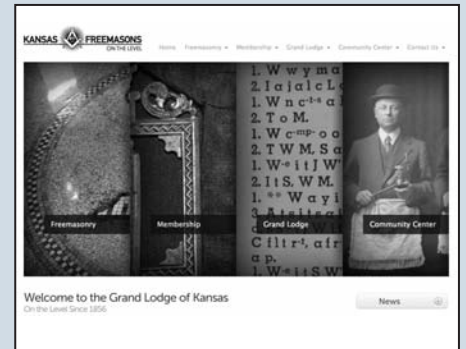
### Coming Soon to the Website

- A new and improved Masonic Shop
- A Lodge locator system

"The old website served us well, but in developing Vision 2020, the Strategic Planning Committee identified both communication and image as two critical areas that we must address. [kansasmason.org](http://kansasmason.org) helps the Craft in both areas, increasing our ability to communicate news and events right now - in real time - to the Craft, as well as putting our best foot forward to those younger prospective new members - men ages 18 - 40. Those men are very web oriented and it is important that we fulfill their expectations in that area."

Members now have the ability to visit the website weekly or even daily and check for news and events without having to wait for the next issue of *The Kansas Mason*, says Needham.

"This makes communication with the Craft nearly instantaneous," he said, "because not only can the Grand Lodge publish news or events right away, but with the various contact forms on the Grand Secretary's page, or the *Kansas*



To obtain your membership password, contact your district or area deputies. According to the Grand Master, the password is to be kept strictly confidential.

Lodge Secretaries may obtain their password by contacting the Grand Secretary's office.

*Mason* page, the Craft can communicate to us instantaneously, too."

As with the old website, there is a special secure area on the website for lodge secretaries containing Grand Lodge forms, but there is also a secure area for members, as well. The membership area, which is passworded (See sidebar) contains a membership directory for Grand Lodge officers, Grand lecturers and district and area  
(See **NEW WEBSITE**, pg. 6)

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## The Kansas Mason

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# THE GRAND EAST



By Kent Needham  
Great Bend Lodge No. 15  
Grand Master

Greetings from the Grand East, Brethren. Last year, RW Robert B. Pfuetze, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Kansas advised the Council of Administration (COA) of his desire to retire as the office manager of the Grand Lodge of Kansas. According to By-Law 2-110(j) under Duties of Grand Secretary; it reads the Grand Secretary shall "Employ such help as may be necessary and expedient in properly conducting the affairs of his office, and the maintenance of the Grand Lodge Building." This by-law gives the Grand

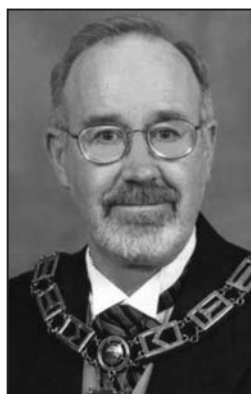
Secretary the responsibility to either serve as the office manager or hire someone to perform those tasks. Bro. Bob has requested to remain the ceremonial Grand Secretary and hire his replacement as the office manager. In that regard, he has provided ample notice of his intention to retire so he, along with the COA (selection committee), would have sufficient time to work together to find a quality replacement to fill the role of office manager.

Given Brother Bob's knowledge and commitment to the Fraternity, we had some big shoes to fill. As a result, the process of identifying a qualified brother became the next major task of the selection committee. Traditionally, names of a qualified brother or brothers are submitted to the Grand Secretary for his consideration. The candidate or candidates are interviewed and if found qualified are appointed to the position. The selection committee considered this approach but also considered advertising for the position among the Fraternity. We consulted several professional human resource people within the Craft and in the end, it was determined that we would entertain recommendations from the selection committee first. If through that process, we were unsuccessful in finding a qualified candidate, we would advertise for the position openly.

In the end, twelve brothers were recommended and sent to the Grand Master for consideration by the selection committee. All were highly qualified which made the process very challenging. It should be noted there were members of the

(See *THE GRAND EAST*, pg. 5)

## SECRETARY'S CORNER



By Robert B. Pfuetze  
St. Johns Lodge No. 113  
Grand Secretary

Ten years ago in April, I became the Office Manager for the Grand Lodge of Kansas, and in November of that year I was appointed to replace M.:W.: Don Robinett as the Grand Secretary, after he resigned. I have been your elected Grand Secretary and Office Manager since March of 2001. While I cannot say it has always been great, I can honestly tell you that I have thoroughly enjoyed this dual role nearly all of the time. I have especially enjoyed the opportunity to meet and work with so many wonderful members of our great fraternity. I am also grateful to have had the help and cooperation of the vast majority of the lodge secretaries in the state.

(See *SECRETARY*, pg. 7)



# EDITOR'S NOTE

## DRESSING FOR SUCCESS – STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE



By Michael Halleran  
Emporia Lodge No. 12,  
Interim Editor

“Apparel oft proclaims the man,” Shakespeare said, and in a certain sense he was right. Although we are taught that it is the internal, and not the external qualities of a man that should recommend him to be a Mason, there is no Masonic injunction against dressing for success.

The strategic plan adopted at the 2010 Annual Communication addresses the issue of the “apparel” of the Grand Lodge in its section on Image – I’d like to use this column to describe the progress we have made since March.

For most of its history, the Kansas Grand Lodge spent little effort on its image and what effort it did spend was focused inward. By that I mean that the Grand Lodge itself spent very little time in projecting a positive image to the non-Masonic world, instead simply identifying itself as the governing body of the Craft in Kansas. It held its annual communications, published its proceeding, attended various functions, but rarely reached out to the public, seldom appeared in newspapers, and of course, had no web presence. In the heady days of the 1950s-70s, with membership numbers high, or at least holding steady, this was sound practice. After all, with new members beating a path to our door, why fix what ain’t broke? But in the Twenty-first century, all that has changed. Each year our annual returns demonstrate that those days are over. In many lodges, more men are called to the Grand Lodge Above than ever petition the Local Lodge Right Here.

Recognizing this disturbing trend, the Strategic Planning Committee recommended that the Grand Lodge address its own image, not only to the Craft but to the profane world. In response, the Council of Administration has adopted a new logo, a newly formatted newsletter and a newly designed website. The purpose of these changes is two-fold: first, they form part of a general modernization that the fraternity undergoes when new technology appears. When telephones became

common household appliances, calling committees replaced lodge summonses as a way to get members to attend. When Kodak invented its slide projector in the 1960s, the old magic lantern slides went by the wayside. Today, electronic communication has progressed to the extent that the *Kansas Mason* can be published in paper form and online. The Council has decided that it’s time to make that change. Second, these changes respond to how the public, and particularly the prospective member, views us. If we concede that Freemasonry is seen by the outside world as one of many activities a man can devote himself to, the problem becomes why should that man choose Masonry over a bowling team, *World of Warcraft*, Rotary or reruns of *The Simpsons*? We can’t know the answer to this question for each and every prospective candidate, but we can anticipate his interest by remaining up-to-date, current, and accessible. The new website is designed to do just that.

Having implemented a new and current web presence, the Council decided on replacing the old Grand Lodge logo – which was simply the Grand Lodge seal and the words “MW Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons of Kansas” with a logo – or if you will, a brand – designed to convey visually and succinctly an idea inherent in Kansas Masonry where men of every age, sect, and opinion meet together on level ground. This logo will replace the old design on all Grand Lodge projects, letterhead, business cards, and publications.

A look at other Grand Lodge websites and Masonic pages online demonstrates that Kansas is now the leader in the field. Many, perhaps most, Masonic sites pay little attention to updating their websites or improving their appearances. They use outdated clip art, have little thought for design and no attention to detail – all these problems wouldn’t matter if we didn’t need young men to join our ranks. As it stands, these neglected Masonic websites convey an image of an old man’s organization of small appeal to younger men.

The changes approved by the Council of Administration are designed to put our best foot forward, with our own members, in demonstrating our pride at being Kansas Masons, but also to dress for success with the outside world, where more than ever, we need a positive image. 🙏



# KANSAS MASONIC NOTES

## KANSAS MASONIC HOME EARNS KDOA 2010 PEAK AWARD

By The Kansas Mason staff

Kansas Masonic Home was recently honored to receive the 2010 PEAK award from the Kansas Department on Aging (KDOA). PEAK stands for Promoting Excellent Alternatives in Kansas nursing homes and is awarded to Kansas nursing homes that demonstrate a high level of achievement in moving away from the institutional model of care to one that allows residents to have more control over their activities and schedules.

KDOA Secretary Martin Kennedy was on hand to officially present the 2010 PEAK Award to Kansas Masonic Home (KMH) administration, staff and residents in the Masonic Home auditorium. The presentation was also attended by Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

(KAHSA) representatives, KMH board members, and local politicians and dignitaries. A reception and celebration followed the event.

KMH Executive Director, Shawn Sullivan, described the award as a milestone for the Masonic Home: "Our staff, residents and volunteers have worked with such passion to create a better lifestyle for our health care residents; we are just getting started but this award is an awesome affirmation that we are on the right path."

To be eligible for the PEAK award, senior health care communities must submit a lengthy application. Applicants chosen as finalists then experience in-person tours and questioning sessions from KDOA/PEAK officials. The PEAK Award program

began in 2002; since then more than 40 homes have been honored, some more than once.

This is the first PEAK award for KMH, which embarked on a community wide 'Culture Change' in 2008. [See sidebar: Culture Change]

Earlier this year, residents helped demolish the nursing stations in the Pavilion Health Care Center at KMH, which stood as a literal barrier between residents and staff, in addition to representing the model of institution based care that the KMH is rapidly moving away from.

"The emphasis on person-centered care results in a happier, healthier environment not only for residents but staff as well," Kennedy said in his presentation remarks, "I commend the administrators and

(See **PEAK AWARD**, pg. 5)

### Defining Culture Change

The mental picture many Americans have of a nursing home is grim: bad smells, soiled and lost laundry, elders drooping in wheelchairs and hospital beds with staff members working and socializing amongst themselves as if their residents did not exist.

Culture Change is about changing that picture. While many retirement communities do function on the institutional model that regiment and de-personalizes elder healthcare, there are a handful of nursing homes that are turning that model around and making the resident the focus—not the tasks. In a healthcare environment that has undergone 'Culture Change' the residents enjoy much of the choice, privacy and sense of family that they would if they were able to live in their own home.

It's not merely an attitude adjustment. With Culture Change, more control is given to nursing



KMH Healthcare Pavilion 2010



Artistic rendering of future KMH Household

assistants and other front line staff as well as family members and residents. Additionally, staff members are permanently assigned to specific residents and they work with other staff in that same resident group as a team. In other words, instead of having specific department titles such as nursing, housekeeping, or food service, job descriptions are blended so that all staff members can help residents with personal care, cook, do and plan activities and events--and even share in cooking and light housekeeping.

The physical structure changes are dramatic as well. Instead of having rooms off long double-loaded corridors, the care center is divided into "neighborhoods" and smaller "households" with their own names, front porches and interior remodeling that includes homey kitchens, living rooms and gathering space—with rooms kept private.



# THE CRAFT ABROAD

## GL KENTUCKY SHOOTS DOWN BAN ON GAYS



**John Wright**  
(courtesy Lexington Herald Leader)

In a story filed October 20, 2010, the *Lexington Herald Leader* reports that the Grand Lodge of Kentucky voted down a by-law proposal at its annual communication to ban membership by openly gay men.

John Wright, the Master of Winchester Lodge No. 20, Winchester, Kentucky, recently told members he was gay, prompting one member to demand his resignation and lead several other members in a walkout.

When Wright refused to resign, a by-law change was proposed by members of another lodge, Hiram Lodge No.4, in Frankfort. The proposed by-law stated that "Freemasonry is pro-family and recognizes marriage as between one man and one woman. Any other relationship is a violation of the moral law and therefore unmasonic conduct. Homosexual relationships, openly professed and practiced, are a violation of the moral law and therefore unmasonic conduct. No openly homosexual Freemason shall be allowed to retain membership in this grand jurisdiction."

But at the Annual Communication in Louisville on October 18, attendees rejected the proposal.

According to the *Herald Leader*, Wright said "[The Craft] said with a strong voice that they are not going to discriminate... I do think that there are a large number of them of a newer mind-set that they can put these differences behind them and work toward the goals that the fraternity has. They can become better men and make our communities better places."

When asked to comment, the Grand Master of Kentucky, L. Todd Eastham told the *Herald Leader* "[w]ith any organization, you are going to have differing views, but we have learned to settle any differences amicably so that all may go with their heads held high and everyone satisfied," Eastham declined to provide the *Herald Leader* with a specific tally of the closed vote.

But according to Wright, who attended the Grand Lodge session, opposition to openly gay Masons will likely persist for the foreseeable future.

As currently written, Kentucky's Masonic law contains no prohibition against openly gay men being members of the Craft and does not mention homosexuality.🙏

Read more: [www.kentucky.com/2010/10/20/1486725/kentucky-masons-vote-against-outlawing.html#ixzz15YZkgVda](http://www.kentucky.com/2010/10/20/1486725/kentucky-masons-vote-against-outlawing.html#ixzz15YZkgVda)

### PEAK AWARD (Continued from pg. 4)

staff...for their vision and commitment to this revolutionary change."

The 'person before task' philosophy that is the cornerstone of Culture Change and a major factor in achieving PEAK Award Winner status, will be physically demonstrated by a planned remodel of the Healthcare Pavilion in the near future. KMH leadership has meticulously researched and developed a renovation plan that will transform the Masonic Home campus into literal houses complete

with front door, living room, dining and kitchen areas--all within the current structures. This proposed project is still in the planning stage but it is possible that construction may begin in the Pavilion as early as spring 2011.

"We are passionate about the continuation and expansion of philosophy of care changes that we are implementing that allow our assisted living and health care residents to direct their own schedule; enjoy their friends and housemates as they

choose; and retain their independence," Sullivan explains, "the completion of this planned renovation will offer our residents the grace of a true home."

Established in 1896, Kansas Masonic Home is a not for profit, continuing care senior living community located in Wichita, KS. The 220-plus employees of Kansas Masonic Home serve more than 200 residents in independent living, assisted living and skilled health care.🙏

### THE GRAND EAST (Continued from pg. 2)

selection committee that were nominated to fill this position. Upon receipt of the names and before making them available to the entire selection committee, the Grand Master requested those individuals whose names had been submitted step away from the process until they were out of the running for the position. In that way, they had no knowledge of who else had been recommended.

With an unbiased selection committee in place, the process of narrowing down the candidates began. This was

a very difficult task. However, the candidates were narrowed down to four. At that point, the candidates were notified and asked if they would be interested in the position and if so, were asked to provide a resume. The resumes were reviewed and the candidates were narrowed to two. At that point, the two candidates were interviewed.

After a very thorough vetting process, RW Tracy Bloom was selected to replace RW Bob as the Office Manager for the Grand Lodge of Kansas (See *THE GRAND EAST*, pg. 8)

# BOOK REVIEWS

## **FIAT LUX, THE PHILALETES SOCIETY**

Edited by Jack Buta

*Fiat Lux, Volume One* is a compilation of award-winning essays published by the Philaletes Society between 1956 and 1986. Covering a wide spectrum of Masonic interest, the essays range from the detailed description of medieval cathedral construction, through the speculative argument that William Shakespeare authored much of our ritual, to the description of modern Masonry in New Zealand. Several of the articles research the time before the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717, when Freemasonry was transitioning from an operative to a speculative character.

Of interest to us Kansans may be the treatise of Masonry



during the Civil War by Allen E. Roberts, written at the centennial of the start of that war. The article "Masonry Under Two Flags" includes several references to the "bleeding Kansas" period. Several other articles deal with Masonry during the periods immediately prior to and after the war as the nation and the Craft attempted to deal with conflicts between morality and economics.

The book is easy to read, and perhaps more importantly, it provides information and insights into parts of Masonic history normally unheard of by the average Mason. I certainly found it worth my cost of membership in the Philaletes Society this year.

**Reviewed by: Jon M. Woodward, Lawrence Lodge No. 6**  
*Published by the Philaletes Society (2009)*

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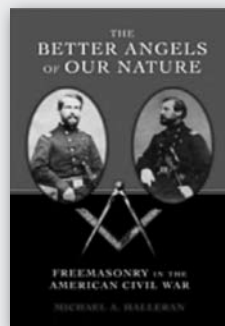
\$24.95, available to members with their annual membership fee

## **THE BETTER ANGELS OF OUR NATURE, FREEMASONRY IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR**

By Michael Halleran

This book already had me by two compelling lures before I removed the wrapper. It is focused on the impact Masonry had during the Civil War when our nation of one common heritage and language warred against itself. And, it was written by a Kansas Mason. Brother Halleran is an Emporia attorney.

It was a strange period when men could do their best to kill or wound each other and then show their deepest compassion for the fallen foe discovered to be a Brother Mason. Much has been written about this and also anecdotally handed down through family generations. Halleran feels that perhaps too much has been written, some of which is untrue, despite us as Masons wanting to believe it all. He has applied his trial attorney skills attempting to sort facts from myths. Multiple sources of individual incidents were compared seeking resolution of conflicting information. Nearly a quarter of the book is devoted to notes and bibliography to



reflect the intensive research done by the author. The reader interested in just good entertainment can conveniently omit this part. The reader wanting intellectual depth will appreciate these details.

The author is both a polished writer and a skilled story teller. He does a great job of challenging the face value of dozens of individual stories about the peculiar behavior of Masons during the American Civil War. In one such story he presents an amazingly detailed review of the death of Confederate General Lewis A. Armistead at the very pinnacle of Southern intrusion into the North at Gettysburg. A number of different versions of this story have floated their way forward to our present time. Halleran can help you make up your mind as to what is likely true.

I recommend this book to Masons and Civil War history buffs everywhere.

**Reviewed by: J. Howard Duncan, Lawrence Lodge No. 6**  
*University Alabama Press (2010), 248 pages*

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E Book \$19.96

## **NEW WEBSITE** (Continued from pg.1)

deputies, plus downloads such as the By-Laws and Floor Movements manual, news release templates, and Masonic education material. Also included in the membership section are official notices, edicts and by-law proposals as they become available.

Although the website is open to all Kansas Masons, Entered Apprentices through Master Masons, "the password should be kept strictly confidential to guard against cowans, eavesdroppers and hackers," the Grand Master said. "Please don't share the password with anyone not authorized." 🙏



# DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

<b>All meetings start at 9 a. m.</b>	#15 & #18 30th & McVicar, Jan. 15 (Salts)	#28 Newton, Jan. 22 (Detwiler)
#4 DeSoto, Jan. 22 (Salts)	#16 & #17 Mayetta, Jan. 22 (Sellen)	#29 Clearwater, Jan. 22 (Snyder)
#5 Lenexa, Jan. 15 (Schroeder)	#19 & #20 Junction City, Jan. 22 (Main)	#31 Nickerson, Feb. 12 (Williams)
#6 Osawatomie, Jan. 22 (Rector)	#21 Marysville, Feb. 26 (Salts)	#32 Salina, Jan. 8 (Sellen)
#9 Xenia, Jan. 15 (Rector)	#22 Abilene, Jan. 8 (Talbot)	#33 & #34 Belleville, Jan. 29 (Rector)
#10 Weir, Feb. 12 (Sellen)	#23 Cottonwood Falls, Jan 15 (Crane)	#35 Hill City, Jan. 29 (Detwiler)
#11 Parsons, Jan. 8 (Main)	#24 Howard, Jan. 22 (Crane)	#36 Hays, Jan. 8 (Snyder)
#12 Independence, Jan. 15 (Talbot)	#25 Belle Plaine, Jan. 15 (Main)	#37 Dodge City, Jan. 8 (Detwiler)
#13 Yates Center, Jan. 22 (Crane)	#26 Wichita Daylt #453, Jan. 15 (Snyder)	#38 & #39 Garden City, Jan. 15 (Butt)
#14 Leroy, January 29 (Talbot)	#27 Wichita #99, Jan. 22 (Detwiler)	#40 St. Francis, Jan. 22 (Butt)

**SECRETARY** (Continued from pg. 2)

Last December I came to the conclusion that the pressures of this dual role outweighed the benefits. Given that I was past "retirement age," I asked the Council of Administration to help me find a replacement for the Office Manager portion of the job. With their assistance, strict search was made, and the choice of my replacement was found. Together we decided that R. W. Tracy Bloom, your Deputy Grand Master, would be the best man for the job. I will be spending the next few months training him for what is a complex and multi-faceted job.

It is still my intention, if the Craft will elect me again, to continue to be your elected Grand Secretary. In that capacity, I would perform the ceremonial duties of the Grand Secretary, and would be available to help with any Grand Lodge questions or problems that might arise. The difference will be that I no longer will have to be in the office every day.

As you read this, the Annual Reports either will have been mailed to the secretaries, or will be in the mail within the next few days. Please remember that the By-Laws require the lodge secretary to complete and return this report along with the per-capita dues payment no later than January 10, 2011. Like so many other jobs we dread, this one is not difficult once you get started. If your lodge has been making the required monthly reports, either on paper or by database exchange, the only difference between your records and ours should be those changes that take place during the last three weeks of December. Except for the half-dozen largest lodges in the state, completing the Annual Report should take no longer than an hour, once you get started. Please don't put it off too long. Grand Lodge really needs the time to compile the statistics from these reports so that we may give you an accurate report of membership at the Annual Communication. As you also

know, there are penalties for failure to meet the deadline mandated in the By-Laws.

On a similar topic, as of November 8, there are still a few lodges that have not returned their corrected rosters or sent the order form for dues cards. No doubt there are a lot of brothers wondering why they have not received their dues card for 2011. If you are one of those secretaries, you should know by now that I will not send your dues cards until you comply with the reporting requirement. It makes no sense to print dues cards which are not accurate. If you have misplaced the roster or dues card order form which we sent in August, please call the office and we will get you another so you can get dues cards for your members.

I would like to ask that all Secretaries encourage their Master, Wardens, Officers and even members, to work especially hard to eliminate suspensions for non-payment of dues. As of this writing, there were nearly 700 men in the state that were suspended for non-payment of dues last December, and who have not yet been restored. Obviously we cannot do anything about our losses from death, which are significant, but we can do something about suspended members. Often all it takes is a personal call or visit from a Brother asking him if he realized he had let his membership lapse. Tell him that the fraternity will suffer from losing a valuable member like him. Explain to him that we really do need him, not only to pay dues, but also to come to meetings and participate. Realistically, however, without his dues, we may not be able to afford to continue the good works of our Fraternity into the future. An approach like this will work much better than threatening letters from the Lodge.

On behalf of the Grand Lodge office staff and myself, I wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 🙏



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## QUESTIONS ANSWERED

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*The Kansas Mason is pleased to receive questions from our readers and answer them as time and space permits. Please send your questions about Masonic law, etiquette, custom, traditions or history to the Questions Answered Editor, Nolan Sump at [questions@kansasmason.org](mailto:questions@kansasmason.org).*

Dear Editor:

**Is the flag salute/pledge of allegiance required in all Kansas lodges?**

Signed,  
Anonymous

Dear Brother,

It is up to the Master of each lodge to require it. Kansas By-Law 3-424 focuses on the display of the flag in the lodge room.

A portion of this by-law states: "When the color party enters, all present will stand silently facing the altar, right hand over heart, as the color bearers and escorts march to the East and turn to face the West. All present will then turn to face the colors. The Master may then direct the Lodge to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and/or to sing the National Anthem. The Flag Bearer then places the Flag in the stand, the Master seats the Lodge and the color party retires."

So the flag needs to be displayed in the lodge room, but it's up to the Master to determine whether to allow his members to recite the pledge of allegiance.

Dear Editor,

**I joined a small lodge about 25 years ago when I was younger and took my Entered Apprentice degree. Around the time I was ready to go on to the other two degrees, the**



**lodge went dark for the summer and my wife had our second child. I decided it would be best to stay close with the family. Now the kids have grown up and left, so I've got more free time to do something for myself. Unfortunately, the lodge I'd went to has closed up and I'd like to join another lodge close by, but I'm not sure if I'd have to take all three degrees over again and what the process is.**

Signed,  
From the West

Dear Brother,

In looking over the by-laws, you may locate the secretary of the lodge you wish to join and explain to him your interest in becoming a member of the lodge. He is required to request a certificate from the Grand Secretary, which shows your status, i.e. the degree you have taken and whether you were a candidate in good standing. This passes as a waiver of jurisdiction and enables you to petition the lodge of your choice. (By-Law 4-116) At this point, the lodge you have chosen will follow in the usual custom of appointing an investigation committee before reporting and ultimately, balloting on your membership and degree advancement in their lodge. 🙏

### **THE GRAND EAST** (Continued from pg. 5)

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and his official start date occurred on November 1, 2010. He and his lovely lady Jessica are in the process of moving to the Topeka and RW Bob will continue to be in the office during the transition period in an effort to provide a smooth transition for the office staff and the Craft. RW Tracy will continue to progress and serve as Grand Master next year. This will be a challenging year for Tracy and he will need significant support from the Craft during this time.

On a personal note, RW Bob has been a tremendous asset

to the Grand Lodge of Kansas and has supported all the Grand Masters over the past ten years with dignity and decorum. He has been and continues to be a valuable asset to myself and the current Council of Administration. His commitment to the Craft is strong and is exemplified by the manner he chose to handle this very important and delicate situation. He will be missed and should be properly acknowledged at such a point in time as he chooses to fully retire from service to the Grand Lodge. 🙏