



# 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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## MASONIC EXPERIENCES LIFECYCLE

by Rick Reichert, Grand Senior Warden 2011-2012

One of the four high priority goals of Vision 2020, our 10-year strategic plan for Grand Lodge, is to greatly enhance the Masonic Experience. Specifically, the plan calls for

“By the time of the Annual Communication in 2011, there will be a comprehensive toolkit in use that has made significant impact on membership attempts and has filled the voids in the Aware/Learn and Self-Actualization portions of the Member Life Cycle. Measurements will include members added by age group, by geographic area, and other measures as appropriate.”

When the topic of improving the Masonic experience was first proposed in the strategic planning process, I argued that the experience is not a specific event but a continuum of

experiences that change over the lifecycle of a Mason. We must endeavor to fulfill his needs throughout his Masonic life or we will continue to experience the low number of joiners and high number of quitters. This article is meant to both explain the concept of the Masonic Experiences Lifecycle and also indicate where the most improvement needs to be made, if we are to entice new members and keep the ones we have. The grade to each component indicates our progress on these goals to date.



**Aware/Learn.** Grade. C A manufacturer trying to sell a product has to make hundreds, if not thousands, of positive impressions before the potential customer is aware and has a positive impression of the product. Knowledge of the product and a favorable opinion

formed is necessary before the opportunity to acquire the product arises. For Masonry, these impressions are made through our image, the Internet, media, signs along the highway, brochures, and most preferably word of mouth from family and friends. Unless an eligible and worthy man is aware and favorably perceives the Craft, the likelihood of his wanting to join is extremely unlikely.

**Need/Join.** Grade. B At this stage of the life cycle, if favorable opinion meets opportunity there is a high likelihood of a customer taking the necessary step to buy. A customer searching the shelf in a

store for aspirin is more likely to pick a well-advertised brand, like Advil for example. For potential Masonic candidates, having formed a favorable impression of the institution, then needs opportunity to join. That puts the onus on lodge members to be available

(See *MASONIC EXPERIENCES*, pg. 6)

## KELLERMAN APPOINTED GRAND SENIOR DEACON

By The Kansas Mason Staff



Daren Kellerman

Daren Kellerman has been appointed the Grand Senior Deacon for 2011. A former Area Deputy Grand Master, Kellerman is a member and secretary of Delphian Lodge No. 44 in Garnett, and a plural member of both

Xenia Lodge No. 47 and Justice Lodge

No. 457, in which he is also the secretary.

A ten year law enforcement veteran, he is the former Chief of Police in La Harpe and is currently a deputy sheriff in Allen County. Apart from his Masonic commitments, he is also a member of various police organizations including the Kansas Peace Officers Association, the Kansas Sheriff's Associations and the Fraternal Order of Police.

If elected by the Craft, Kellerman will be Grand Master of Masons in Kansas in 2015.

Daren, and his wife Jennifer, live in Ottawa.🏠

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## The Kansas Mason

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# THE GRAND EAST



By Tracy Bloom  
Salina Lodge No. 60  
Grand Master

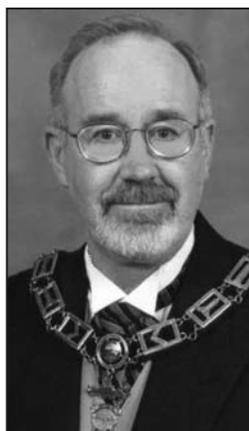
Jessica and I would like to thank everyone who assisted in planning and making the installation ceremony in March a very memorable experience that neither of us will soon forget. Special thanks to the Installing officers, the fifteen Sir Knights who formed the arch of steel, ISIS Highlanders Pipes and Drums for graciously performing at the installation, and last but not least Salina Lodge No.60 for your continued support over the years. There are so many others who helped make the event special I won't attempt to thank them all here, because I'm afraid I'd forget someone. Jessica and I are so thankful to have had so many we could count on; you'll never know how indebted and humbled we feel. Thank you all very much!

Several of the craft, through Grand Lodge officers and District and Area Deputies, have expressed how much they learned from the break-out sessions at the Annual Communication. They have communicated to me and the Council of Administration their desire to make them a regular feature of future Annual Communications. One of our goals is to provide the Craft with usable information that will benefit your lodge and your members individually. Please tell your District Deputy Grand Master what subjects you'd like more information on when he makes his spring or fall visit. We will compile all of the suggestions later in the year and chose the most interesting subjects for future break-outs.

We continue to work hard on our strategic planning objectives and an update on the Masonic Experience can be found on the front page of this issue. You may have already been contacted to serve on one of these committees directly related to the Strategic Plan (i.e., Image, Leadership, Communications and Masonic Experience) and I am pleased to report to you that the committees are working well and making progress. However, that doesn't mean that the committee members are the only ones who have any input into those objectives. Each of you

(See *THE GRAND EAST*, pg. 7)

## SECRETARY'S CORNER



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

The 155th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Kansas is now a memory. As always, it was a great opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. It was, unfortunately not as well attended as some years, even though we had some relatively controversial legislation this year. Old habits are hard to break, and it seems we just can't get some of our members used to the idea of pre-registering, which will save you considerable time in the registration lines. We also always have requests for meal tickets on the day of registration. Generally this is impossible unless someone has cancelled a reservation. We really can't afford to sell meal tickets at the door, as we did a number of years

(See *SECRETARY*, pg. 7)



# QUESTIONS ANSWERED

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:*

I am in the process of applying for an interviewing for a job in my field. I've been a Mason for a few years now and am an officer in my lodge. I feel somewhat apprehensive about what to say when asked about my hobbies and pursuits as I have heard some negative press about Freemasonry in the past.

That being said, here is my question. At what point is it legitimate to describe Masonic affiliation in an interview when asked about hobbies and other pursuits? Thank you for your time.

*A Brother Mason*

*My brother,*

Your question is purely valid as we go through this recession and some of us who are in pursuit of employment have undoubtedly had this on their minds in interviews. This was a question that required some thought and discussion with a few brothers of the Craft. There is no simple, clear-cut response as there would be for questions which result in answers supported by data-driven evidence. Each interview is subjective and therefore there is no one patented response we can give when asked what activities we engage in outside of work.

In lieu of an answer of this degree, I can merely give my opinion in the form of three options you can respond with. First, say nothing. You are entitled to keep your personal life personal.

Second, explain or mention you are a member of a fraternal organization and leave it at that.

Your third option is this. You can explain in your interview that you are a member of a fraternal organization called the Freemasons. Highlight its important attributes which relate to on-the-job skills such as its promotion of ethical character, leadership development and social net-working. All of these are positive contributions to one's public life as well as private life. By doing so, you can show that you are a team player and participate in activities in your spare time that hone these skills.

Good luck in your job search.

*--The Editor*

*Dear Editor,*

I have been a Master Mason for several years. I was given an apron in a blue tube and told to make sure my family knows where it is at. What is this apron for and why does my family need to know about it?

(Can I wear it to lodge or is it for special occasions, or just for my coffin, etc.)

*Wondering in Wichita*

*Dear Wondering,*

If you recall, in the Entered Apprentice degree you were presented with a lambskin, or white leather apron, and was instructed that it was an emblem of innocence and the distinguished badge of a Mason. The Master of the lodge later explained in this lecture that, upon your death, it would be deposited upon the coffin which encloses your lifeless remains. This apron was presented to you a second time after your raising and it was explained to you that in this blue tube is a leather apron signed by the Master, Senior and Junior Wardens. It is yours to be placed upon your coffin by your family. Letting your family know about its importance at your funeral may seem macabre, yet it does reiterate the point of Freemasonry that our lives are precious and we must live our lives in support of others. While you are free to wear it to lodge meetings, the inherent meaning behind your apron may discourage you from doing so; the symbolism of the lambskin apron indicates our fragile nature and our mortality. As we should be properly clad at our meetings, so we should be when we meet the GAOTU.

*--The Editor*

*Dear Editor,*

I know that some jurisdictions (like Texas) have regulations on what size and style of apron a Master Mason may wear in lodge. Does Kansas have any similar restrictions? I own several different blue lodge aprons, including a nice one from England. I would like to wear them to my home lodge instead of wearing the cotton "guest" aprons that my lodge provides. Is there anything in the laws of Masonry that would prohibit me from doing this?

*Properly Clad and Vouched For*

*Dear Properly Clad and Vouched For,*

In review of the Kansas By-Laws, there is more of a loose interpretation of this rule than perhaps what may be found in Texas. According to 3-422, Clothing of Officers and Brethren, it states "at every Lodge Communication, all of the brethren shall be appropriately clothed for labor, and the officers shall bear the jewels and emblems of authority which usage has made appropriate to their rank and respective stations." Appropriately clothed for labor includes aprons, but does not specify which apron one can wear. Therefore, if you feel the need to wear an apron from the Grand Lodge of England, or even a hand-made one from Tennessee, you may do so without discord being brought upon you. However, Bylaw 3-417 permits only white aprons as in the bylaw it states: "Whenever appearing in public the members shall be decently clothed with white aprons, and shall demean themselves decorously, and be obedient to the Master's lawful demands." To wear a white apron in public with one's brothers denotes being on the level with them, no matter what their background may be.

*--The Editor*

# THE CRAFT ABROAD

## IN WAKE OF CONTROVERSY, NEBRASKA GRAND LODGE INSTALLS GM

In February, the Grand Lodge of Nebraska concluded its annual communication without installing a new Grand Master. Criminal and Masonic charges were filed at that time against the serving Deputy Grand Master, Edward David Watts, and outgoing Nebraska Grand Master John T. Parsons referred the matter to Nebraska's trial and punishment committee and remained Grand Master until the matter was resolved.

Prior to the Annual Communication on February 5, 2011, Watts, who as Deputy Grand Master in Nebraska was consequently next in line to the Grand East, was arrested in November and charged by the Lancaster County Attorney in Lincoln with four felonies: first-degree assault, strangulation, terroristic threats, and use of a weapon to commit a felony. Watts has pleaded not guilty to those charges. In a recent letter to the Craft,



Grand Master Parsons explained the situation and its resolution;

*[A]t the last Annual Communication, Masonic charges were preferred against the then Deputy Grand Master, E. David Watts... Trial commissions were appointed and I issued an order that no brother facing Masonic Charges would be installed in any Grand Lodge Office until the trial was completed and any sentence satisfied.... E. David Watts was convicted of a Masonic offense and sentenced to a definite period of suspension for one year.... Since he is suspended from all Masonic Bodies, he is not eligible to serve as a Grand Lodge Officer, and is accordingly removed*

*from all Grand Lodge authority, functions, and meetings ...Therefore, RWB Bruce Baker, who was elected as Deputy Grand Master/Grand Master-Elect at the Grand Lodge session, will succeed to the office of Grand Master*

According to Grand Master Parson, Grand Master-elect Baker will begin his term in the Grand East effective April 16, 2011. 🙏

## KANSAS MASONIC NOTES

### FIRST AFFINITY LODGE FORMED AFTER GL VOTE

By the Kansas Mason Staff



Delegates at the 155th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Kansas overwhelmingly approved the formation of the first modern affinity lodge in Kansas: Justice Lodge No. 457, based in Abilene. Affinity lodges, recognized by many other jurisdictions but practically unknown in Kansas, are lodges that confine their active membership to a shared interest or profession.

Making use of a little-known procedure in the Kansas Masonic code, the charter members of the lodge petitioned for a Warrant for Constitution directly to the Grand Lodge, by-passing the usual step of requesting Letters of Dispensation. The petition was read and acted on during the annual communication. The Grand Master, L. Kent

Needham, then asked the proposers to address the assembled delegates.

In their address, charter members Cole Presley (PM Millbrook Lodge No. 281 ) and John R. Harwood, Jr. (PM Benevolent Lodge No. 98) explained that Justice Lodge would be an affinity lodge for law enforcement Masons – past or present police officers, corrections officers, emergency dispatchers, prosecutors or court trustees. The pair emphasized that Justice Lodge would be the first step in fulfilling the objectives of the Strategic Plan, which calls for ten new lodges in ten years. Drawing members from all over the state, Presley commented that the lodge intended to become an occasional lodge meeting quarterly, and highlighted this fact in explaining why the group by-passed the traditional step of requesting Letters of Dispensation.

"We intend on petitioning Grand Lodge [if a charter is granted] to allow us to become an occasional lodge, but Lodges Under Dispensation are (See **AFFINITY LODGE**, pg. 6)



## HISTORICAL INQUIRY PROMPTS LODGE RENOVATION PROJECT

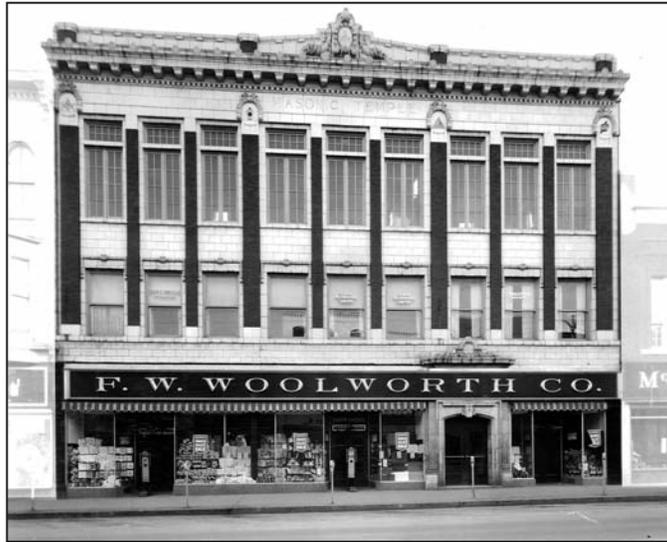
By C. Max Pittman, King Solomon Lodge No. 10

Following a contest in the *Kansas Mason* (Vol. 48, No. 3) to determine the oldest lodge in the state still in its original building, the members of King Solomon Lodge No. 10 in Leavenworth did a little digging. Researching their building, which is located at 423 ½ Delaware Street, the members learned that the Leavenworth Masonic Temple was among the three oldest known Masonic buildings in Kansas to have been in continuous operation since constructed.

The Leavenworth building is the largest and most ornate of the three. It was designed by William P. Feth, a Leavenworth architect, built in 1913 and occupied in 1914. It has since become a Kansas Masonic landmark.

Following their research, members of King Solomon Lodge began planning improvements to the building, contemplating adding a new elevator and air conditioning to improve its usage and help safeguard the building's future. The group agreed that funding such a project would not be easy but was certainly worth their best effort.

One member, Mark Swope, said he was surprised when he and the Lodge Secretary discovered the original architect's drawings of the building in the basement vault.



The Leavenworth Masonic Lodge building c. 1920

When the plans were opened up they were found to be in exceptionally good condition -- drawn on linen cloth as was the practice at that time. The building has since been examined by a Kansas City structural engineering firm who surveyed the property and reported it to be in solid condition, noting many unique architectural features that they recommended be well preserved.

Among the architectural highlights of the temple are decorative terra cotta bandings and ornate cornice work on the exterior facade, incorporating Masonic symbols into the design. Inside, visitors are met with a grand entrance stairway with marble wall panels and steps, the original tile flooring in the hallways, and original wood trim with its original finish. In addition, the temple boasts original furniture, casework and millwork with

ornamental detailing throughout.

The temple now serves the Byington Chapter No. 177, Order of Eastern Star, Jobs Daughters Bethel 28, the York Rite Bodies, as well as King Solomon Lodge.

The group of members of King Solomon Lodge hopes that improvements to the building will help to generate new interest in downtown Leavenworth as well as renew interest in membership of the Masonic Bodies. 🙏

## FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

### THROUGH THE GRAND LODGE OF KANSAS

The yearly Masonic Essay Contest, for High School Juniors and Seniors who attend a Kansas tax-supported accredited university, college, junior college, or vo-tech school, consists of two separate contests: The local contest conducted by your local Lodge, and the State contest, conducted by the Grand Lodge and open to the winners of the local contests. Awards range from \$500 to \$4000.

*August – information sent to Lodges for distribution to area schools*

*By November 1st – Essays are due to the local Lodges for judging*

*By December 1st – Essays are due to the Grand Lodge for state judging*

**Contact:** Local Lodge Public Schools Chairman or [www.kansasmason.org](http://www.kansasmason.org).

### THROUGH THE KANSAS MASONIC FOUNDATION:

*Student Loan Program -- Deadline – April 1st each year*

Low-interest loans are available each year to Kansas residents attending a Kansas institution of higher learning. Students must maintain at least a 2.0 semester GPA on a 4.0 scale and remain a full-time student (minimum of 12 hours for undergraduates, 9 hours for post-graduates). Repayment starts one year after completion of school and is accomplished over a 4-year period with increasing annual payment at a 4% interest rate on the principal. Interest begins accruing at the date of completion of school or termination of agreement.

Students who have actively been in the Foundation's loan program for at least two years, remain a full-time student and maintain a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA may qualify for a non-solicitable scholarship.

**Contact:** The Kansas Masonic Foundation at [kmfonline.org](http://kmfonline.org).

**MASONIC EXPERIENCES** (Continued from pg. 1)

and approachable. Availability means email, phone number, web site, mailing address, Facebook presence, and/or physical availability at public events, in church, work or school wearing the square and compasses. Approachable means that we do whatever we can do to reduce the intimidation factor. We must eliminate any barriers between us and a good man fearing the unknown. We should be encouragers who make our fraternity appear inclusive and not exclusive.

**Initiation.** Grade. A No doubt there is always room for improvement in our ritual, but for most Masons, they are impressed with good degree work and can include two poignant events in their catalog of "Masonic moments"; Coming to light in the Entered Apprentice degree and at the East Gate in the Master Mason's degree. Ritual work is how the lessons of our Craft are handed down and gives us a common experience that helps bind us as a close-knit society of brothers.

**Indoctrination.** Grade. C Often it has been heard that we leave our new Masons at the altar. Most of what we know about our Craft we learned after being raised as a Master Mason. Each Mason becomes a student of the Craft. The 3rd degree may be the highest degree a lodge can confer, but it doesn't have to be the end of impressive, well presented lessons that further a

Mason's education and continues to keep him engaged in building toward a feeling of ownership.

**Self-Actualization.** Grade. B The ideal state in the life cycle is when a Mason takes charge of their own growth and seeks an active role within the lodge. They find their niche and take an active part. They don't need meeting reminders and feel uncomfortable when meeting night rolls around and they're not with their brothers. They are likely part of a cadre of stalwart Masons at your lodge who are omnipresent, dependable and loyal. They are motivated to realize their full potential. Although there is a lot of opportunity, many younger Masons are not encouraged and mentored to reach their full potential and allowed to take charge.

**Seek Help.** Grade. B Unlike a business where a seller must provide support and service to their customers, we are both the client and the provider. Do our brothers know where to get customer service? Our *raison d'être*, and why we can continue to operate, even during times of controversy and misunderstanding, is our well known penchant for quiet philanthropy. We are obligated and practice certain forms of charity to each other and our families. We do this well, but could improve in formalizing support processes so widows, orphans, and

Masons in need continue to find solace in their Masonic relationship.

**Renew/Demit/Pass On.** Grade D On an annual basis, we lose nearly as many Masons due to non-payment of dues (NPD) as we do to death. Death may not be preventable, but simply letting brothers quit is inexcusable and avoidable. Long term, improvements in the other areas of the life cycle will reduce loss due to lack of interest. Short term, each lodge must make the effort to determine why brothers are no longer paying dues and institute the changes necessary to keep their interest.

For those of us wearing a 25 or 50 year emblem, it is hard to remember what it was like to be the newest Master Mason and what kept us coming back to lodge all these years. What motivated us to begin our journey is likely no longer a factor in the lives of younger men of character we need to petition us for membership. The Masonic Experience Lifecycle can be used as a tool to enable lodge leaders to assess whether they are not fulfilling the needs of their membership and determine if programs are needed to fill the gap. A sampling of candidate programs are shown on the last slide of Vision 2020 Overview, March 19, 2010 (Slides) on the Grand Lodge web site under Vision 2020 for the full Masonic Experiences Lifecycle chart.

**AFFINITY LODGE** (Continued from pg. 3)

not allowed to be occasional lodges – this is why we have petitioned Grand Lodge directly," Presley said.

The charter members of the lodge are Daren L. Kellerman (Delphian No. 44), Presley, Harwood, Michael A. Halleran, Kevin C. Crist, John Scarce and Lane Ryno (Emporia No. 12), Kevin L. Turner and Russell B. Ingle (Millbrook No. 281).



Officers of Justice Lodge No. 457 following installation by the Grand Master.

Immediately following the vote, the principle officers were installed by the Grand Master with the assistance of Grand Senior Warden Rick Reichert, with Halleran in the East, Harwood in the West and Crist in the South. The other officers will be appointed at the inaugural meeting.

Following receipt of the charter (See **AFFINITY LODGE**, pg. 11)



# AWARDS & HONORS

## LONG DISTANCE PIN PRESENTATION



Bro. Burdick  
at home

By D.R. "Dale" Morrow  
District Deputy Grand Master,  
District 25

When Clifford Burdick, a member of Dexter Lodge No. 156, was not able to travel to the lodge to receive his 60 year pin, a member of the Lodge came to him. Lodge Secretary Ross Sherwood traveled 380 miles round trip to Bro. Burdick's

residence in Disney, Oklahoma, at the South end of Grand Lake. Sherwood was accompanied by District Deputy Grand Master D.R. "Dale" Morrow, who made the presentation on behalf of Grand Master L. Kent Needham on March 5, 2011. Burdick, a long time resident of the Dexter area, had moved to Disney after his retirement, but has maintained his membership in Dexter Lodge.

Bro. Burdick said "I can't believe you guys came all this way to give me my pin".

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

have something to offer and I would encourage you to share your thoughts with your lodge, your District or Area Deputy or leave us some feedback at Grand Lodge website, [kansasmason.org](http://kansasmason.org).

In the area of Communications, our newest tools are up and running, the reporting system that all District and Area Deputies use to send spring and fall visitation reports to the Deputy Grand Master. Their reports not only go directly to the Deputy Grand Master by email but are also copied to the entire Council of Administration and all District and Area Deputies throughout the state. We have received many positive comments and productive feedback so far about this new method of reporting. We thought it might be too much information (TMI), but the Deputies seem to like reading about what's going on in other places. It gives a wider range of perspective for them, and

creates a better understanding of the dynamics that exist in the diverse communities throughout the state.

Finally, Representative and (Brother) Gary Hayzlett, from Lakin has introduced a bill in the Kansas Legislature for a Specialty License Plate for Kansas Masons featuring the square and compasses, which is certain to increase our visibility in the state. State law requires that we meet certain benchmarks for participation in this program, so to that end, we will be conducting a survey in the next few months to see how much interest there is for this project. Please respond to the survey when sent out. It's very important that you do, whether you are for it or not.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve you as your Grand Master, and to meeting you, as always, on the level. 🙏

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

ago. Caterers want a firm count, usually a week or more in advance, so they can order food, plan wait staff and cooking staff, etc. Every caterer with whom I deal requires me to pay for the number of meals I order, whether or not that many people eat those meals. With the price of meals these days, we simply can't order extra meals, and hope someone will want to pay for them.

We had six proposals for by-law changes this year. Three of them passed and three failed. There almost seemed to be a pattern, since the first passed, the second failed, the third passed and fourth failed, etc. I won't repeat the full text of the by-law proposals, you can read that in the last Kansas Mason, or the Advance Reports, but I will only summarize them: 1) the proposal to change the by-law enacted last year, which made expulsion of any member who had ever been convicted of a felony automatic, so that it applies only to members convicted of a felony involving a sex offence with a child, passed; 2) the proposal to permit written objections to the conferral of a degree, rather than having to be present in Lodge to object, failed; 3) the proposal to permit consumption of alcohol in a Lodge, or at a Lodge function, but not in the Lodge

Room (except for ritualistic purposes), passed; 4) the proposal to change the description of the Great Seal of the Grand Lodge of Kansas to make it more politically correct failed; 5) the proposal to change the Standing Committees of the Grand Lodge passed; 6) the proposal to give a permanent title of Very Worshipful to the Grand Chaplain and all past Grand Chaplains failed. Please remember that by-law changes are not effective immediately upon passage at Grand Lodge. They become effective after a 120 day waiting period, or upon their publication in the Annual Proceedings, whichever comes first. Given how long it has been taking recently to publish the Annual Proceedings, I am sure these changes will become effective on July 18, 2011.

Again, I want to thank the Craft for electing me as your Grand Secretary for the eleventh year. I am looking forward to serving in that capacity, but without having to be in the office every day as I have been for the last ten years. The office is in the capable hands of M.:W.: Tracy Bloom as Office Manager. I am certain he will be able to answer your questions when you need to call the office. If not, I am still available by phone. Just ask one of the office staff to have me return your call. 🙏



# OFFICIAL NOTICES



## **KANSAS FREEMASONS** ON THE LEVEL

### EDICT OF THE GRAND MASTER

March, 2011

~~To the Masters, Officers and Members~~ of all Constituent Lodges of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Kansas:

WHEREAS: The Grand Lodge of Kansas permits each Grand Master to issue Special Edicts during his term in office, and;

WHEREAS: Each candidate for the Mysteries of Freemasonry deserves to be accepted and inculcated with Masonic knowledge according to the Ancient Charges of the Fraternity, and;

WHEREAS: Whereas the Craft is strictly charged to seek further light, each according to his own understanding, and;

WHEREAS: Whereas, the tenets of our Order requires a newly admitted brethren to seek instruction, now;

THEREFORE: Be it resolved, that effective March 19, 2011, I am continuing the Mentoring Program for all candidates for the Blue Lodge degrees in Kansas. Each candidate shall be assigned a mentor for a period of at least one year (or more) to assist him in his search for Masonic light, and to instruct him in the general knowledge of Masonry throughout his journey through the three degrees of ancient Craft Masonry. The mentor shall be appointed by the Worshipful Master and assigned to the candidate when the candidate is elected to receive the degrees. The mentor's name shall be entered on the candidate's petition form for future reference.

~~Given Under My Hand~~ and seal of the M.: W.: Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Kansas:

Tracy L. Bloom  
Grand Master



Grand Lodge of Kansas A.F. & A.M.



**KANSAS FREEMASONS**  
ON THE LEVEL

EDICT OF THE GRAND MASTER

March, 2011

To the Masters, Officers and Members of all Constituent Lodges of the Grand Lodge of A.F.& A.M. of Kansas:

WHEREAS: The Grand Lodge of Kansas permits each Grand Master to issue Special Edicts during his term in office:

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that it is my order to modify the closing in the Third Degree of all Lodges in Kansas as follows:

When the ritual comes to the point where the Master says, "B-r SW: how s-d M-s m-t?" and the SW answers, "on the le-l", the Master will then walk down to the floor level on the work line and all officers, guests in the East, and masons who can conveniently do so will come to the floor level. Any who are located to where it is not convenient, who are handicapped, or who can otherwise not do so may remain standing.

The Master will then proceed with the closing and do his closing knock in a convenient and appropriate manner.

Given Under My Hand and seal of the M.: W.: Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Kansas:

Tracy L. Bloom  
Grand Master



Grand Lodge of Kansas A.F. & A.M.

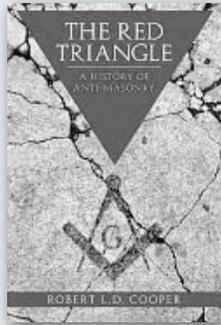
# BOOK REVIEWS

## THE RED TRIANGLE – A HISTORY OF ANTI-MASONRY

By Robert L. D. Cooper

A serious scholarly work (with 12% of the pages devoted to bibliography and endnotes), *The Red Triangle* is probably the best and most comprehensive review of anti-Masonry ever written. The author, Robert L. D. Cooper, Curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland Museum and Library, brings his perspective to bear on the history of anti-Masonry or Masonophobia.

Cooper personally observed Masonophobia in Scotland from 1990 - 2005 generated by the media. As a result, laws were passed requiring elected and appointed public servants to declare or deny their Masonic connection. History from Nazi Germany demonstrates that requiring Masonic membership to be publicly registered can only be seen as a precursor to persecution. The newspapers conducted surveys of Scottish Parliament members regarding their opinions on the "evils" of Masonry. The replies were a case study of "walking on egg-shells" not unlike the American politicians responding that yes indeed in their impetuous youth they did try marijuana but they



didn't inhale. Cooper writes that the Scottish registration requirement finally ended when the European Court of Human Rights rendered judgment that Freemasonry is a legitimate institution, not a criminal organization.

The book's title comes from the red triangle symbol which the Nazi regime used on the concentration camp uniforms of Masons who were deemed to be political enemies. Other color triangles were used to identify Jews, Jehovah's Witnesses and gypsies, among others. Cooper noted that an estimated 80,000 Freemasons lost their lives in the 1930s-40s solely because of their fraternal membership; most of them at the hands of Hitler's Germany, but others also in Franco's Spain, Stalin's Russia, and Mussolini's Italy.

A valuable resource for the serious student of Masonry, *The Red Triangle* discusses the wide spectrum of motivations which fuel the anti-Mason and how Anti-Masonry is changing in our modern world.

Review by J. Howard Duncan, Lawrence Lodge No. 6

Lewis Masonic Publishers, 2011,

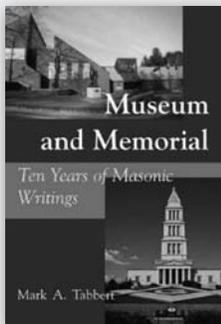
311 pages, ISBN 978 0 085318 332 7.

This very new book is available from Barnes and Noble at a list price of \$29.95 and a member price of \$19.37.

## MARK A. TABBERT, MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL: TEN YEARS OF MASONIC WRITINGS

By J. Howard Duncan

Mark Tabbert has a one-of-a-kind set of credentials. He has a Master's degree in American History and Museum Studies, has served as Curator at the Scottish Rite Masonic Heritage Museum in Lexington, Massachusetts, and is presently the Director of Collections and oversees the library and museum at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. His first book, *American Freemasons*, provided an in-depth look at prominent members of the Craft in North America and is a staple of Masonic bookshelves. Given those credentials and the title of his latest book, *Museum and Memorial*, one would expect the book to be about George Washington and Masonic History, along with Masonic exhibits and artifact management. And it is to a large degree, but by far the most interesting part of the book are his other writings which present his plan for a drastic and comprehensive reorganization of American Freemasonry.



a remarkable wealth of opinions about Masonry and a compulsion to share them. The likelihood of you agreeing with all the details of his recommended restructuring of American Freemasonry is about similar to your ability to swallow a dry cockle burr. But there is value in his writing as it stimulates Masons to cogitate about their fraternity and the rather dim view forward.

His most interesting proposal for blue lodge Masonry is to create Lodges of the Inactive where Brothers would be assigned after missing a specified number [1/4 to 1/3] of the meetings during a year. Such lodges would meet monthly to instruct lapsed or rusty brothers. All Masons, from the youngest Apprentice to the most senior Past Grand Master, would be subject to assignment to a L.O.I., and could not attend other Masonic meetings such as those of Scottish and York rites until re-qualifying for resumed membership in his mother lodge. This proposal was intended to correct the fact that approximately 80% of Masons do not attend their lodge.

The Tabbert plan would have both blue and Grand Lodge officers serve two-year terms with eligibility to be elected for up to five terms. The voting members of Grand Lodge should be limited to the (See **MARK A. TABBERT**, pg. 11)



## GRAND LODGE VOTES NEW ALCOHOL BY-LAW

### By the Kansas Mason Staff

The voting delegates at the 155th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Kansas voted to loosen the restrictions on alcohol at social functions in Kansas lodges.

By-Law 3-619, long the subject of debate at past annual communications was amended to read

*Alcoholic beverages are forbidden in Lodge rooms, except for ritualistic purposes. The serving or consumption of any beverage having a recognized or indicated alcohol content in any Lodge room, ritualistic purposes excepted, shall be deemed an offense against the Body of Masonry. This does not preclude lodges from renting their facilities, except Lodge rooms, to groups where alcoholic beverages are consumed in accordance with the laws of the State of Kansas.*

This language replaces the previous by-law which prohibited any alcohol consumption at any social function of any lodge. The proposer, PGM Glenn E. Kohr brought the



by-law change to the floor of Grand Lodge under the rationale that it would allow appendant bodies to use alcohol for ritualistic purposes and not violate Kansas Masonic code. Further, he stated, it would “remove the hypocrisy that currently exists where we turn a blind eye to alcohol use at social functions.”

According to in-coming Grand Senior Warden Rick Reichert, the change was a positive one. “Today, the brethren of Kansas voted to clarify the Grand Lodge’s position on alcohol by repealing prohibition. The by-law that keeps alcohol out of lodge rooms remains, but the decision to have alcohol or allow alcohol on the premises is now up to each lodge.

If they do not want alcohol, lodges can add that restriction to their own by-laws. In cases where lodges operate in dry counties or military installations, the vote does not change their status.” 🙏

### AFFINITY LODGE (Continued from pg. 6)

from Grand Lodge, Halleran stated that the group will plan its first meeting and would provide information to the Kansas Mason website.

“We are looking forward to getting organized and we would welcome visitors and guests to our first meeting once we get organized,” he said.

Although the first affinity lodge in modern memory, Justice Lodge is not technically the premier affinity lodge in Kansas Masonic history. Union Lodge No. 7, formed by and for military Masons in Fort Riley, was chartered on October 29, 1857. The lodge’s first meeting will be in Abilene - at Benevolent Lodge -- on Saturday, May 28. 🙏

### MARK A. TABBERT (Continued from pg. 10)

elected grand officers, Past Grand Masters, and the current master and wardens of each local lodge. Past masters, lodge secretaries and district deputies should not be voting. Grand Lodge meetings should discourage “official” attendance and introductions of the leaders of other Masonic organizations.

His foremost recommendation for Scottish Rite is merger of the two Supreme Councils. All local valleys should be restructured based upon present population demographics. Progression through the degrees would be dramatically slowed such that a man would likely take 5 to 11 years to reach the fourteenth degree. Acquisition of the thirty-second degree might occur about 25 years after the then young man had first knocked on the door of his blue lodge. Tabbert proposes to bring value to the Scottish Rite degrees by increasing their cost. The minimum initiation fee would be \$500 and the annual dues would start at \$500. The annual dues for each of the four Scottish Rite bodies would be separate, thus by progression a thirty-second degree Mason would be paying at least \$2000 in annual dues to remain in

good standing. There would be Councils of Deliberation at the Orient level to restructure Scottish Rite authority from the present top-down system to a bottom-up system.

A highly significant change for the York Rite would be elimination of the Virtual Past Master degree. This would mean that only Brothers who had actually served as Masters would be eligible for the York Rite.

A valuable addition to Masonic discussion, Tabbert’s book is certainly provocative. Our leaders could develop some highly interesting discussions by taking any one of Tabbert’s recommendations and deciding what best to do with it. There are situations and reasons which led him to make the recommendations. Read the book to get a much more detailed presentation of his proposals.

**Review by J. Howard Duncan, Lawrence Lodge No. 6**  
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*This very new book is available from Amazon.com for \$19.95*



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## MASONIC COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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### **High Twelve Meeting**

Saturday, May 14. 11100 Johnson Drive, Shawnee.  
9 a.m. meeting, lunch 12 p.m.

### **Rock City Lodge**

Thursday, May 26, 5-8 p.m. Minneapolis Lodge.  
Outdoor picnic, lodge meeting, and emblem presentation.

### **Justice Lodge inaugural meeting**

Saturday, May 28, 4-6 p.m. Abilene.

### **Memorial Day Service. Grand Master visitation**

Monday, May 30. Junction City.

### **Delphian Lodge Grand Master visitation**

Thursday, June 2. 1417 South Willow Street, Ottawa.

### **Caney Dedication**

Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m. Open Grand Lodge,  
dedication to follow.

### **Pittsburg Lodge emblem presentation**

Saturday, June 4, 6-8 p.m.  
3105 North Joplin Street., Pittsburg.

### **Hays Steak Fry**

Saturday, June 4, 5-9 p.m. Johnson's Ranch, Hays.

### **Oberlin Mt. Slope Lodge emblem presentation**

Sunday, June 5. Oberlin.

### **Lodge of the Full Moon**

Saturday, June 25. Annual unique Lodge of the Full Moon at Coronado Heights 3 miles NW of Lindsborg. Picnic supper 7:30 p.m. Outdoor 3° lodge 9 p.m. atop castle. Signs. For information: 785-227-3880.

### **Meeting with Prince Hall Grand Lodge Officers**

Saturday, June 25.

### **St. Johns Day Celebration, Open Grand Lodge**

Sunday, June 26. Grand Lodge, 8th & Harrison, Topeka.

### **Northeast Kansas Masonic Unity Council meeting**

Wednesday, June 29, 7:30-8:30 pm.  
Abdallah Shrine Temple, Shawnee Mission.

### **Band Camp, Grand Master visitation**

Friday, July 29. Felton-Start Theater, Hays.