



# Huachuca Lodge #53



SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA

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## From the East

**WM Matt Covell**

I am writing this article amid a state of confused emotion. Over the past 30 days or so, much has transpired in our Masonic community. A month really doesn't seem very long until you look at it in Masonry: Stated Meetings of Every Lodge in Cochise County, Eastern Star Chapters, York Rite Bodies, Amaranth, High12, Shrine, Scottish Rite, and all of the Extra Meetings and events at each, plus Degree work and Practices. For Masonry, it has been a Long and Busy 30 Days.

As a Masonic Family, we are alive and well, and clearly very active. In our Lodge there has been much progress made by our younger members in the learning of their work. The Baseball fundraiser has come to a close. The good work and involvement of our membership is on the rise. Our candidates are eager and learning and present at everything that they can be. Truly good things are happening at Huachuca Lodge #53.

Yet, as with all things, the good comes with the bad. This is amplified by the size and closeness of our community and that in such a small, family oriented county whispers travel quickly. There are rumors circulating. There are Motivations being questioned. There is discontentment regarding some of our members. It has even been said that some Brothers are learning too much too fast. Why would a Brother disapprove of the efforts of another? All of this needs to stop.

We each were Balloted on and found to be Worthy Equals to each other in Freemasonry. We each are obligated to support each other, and to do each other NO Harm. These rumors, comments and acts of discontentment need to be put to rest. Grown Men of Honorable and Noble Character resolve disagreements and issues as Good and Proper Men should. Face to Face and On the Level.

We have some exciting plans for the future and will need the unclouded and un-soured efforts of each and every member of our Lodge to accomplish some of them. We have plans for expanding our community involvement as well as enjoying each other company in the good weather to come. We haven't had a BBQ is some time.

As a Lodge we need to come together, we need to work toward our important goals, and we need to ACT and REACT according to our Teachings and Obligations.

I have a Task for each of you.

Open up your book and read the Charges.  
At the End of Each Charge Ask yourself:

1. Do you act accordingly?
2. Does your Brother?
- 2a. Do you Correct him?
3. Do you allow yourself to be corrected?
4. When you look around the room, and look for a "Good" Mason, do you ever consider yourself?
- 4a. If "No"... Why not?

For extra credit: Read each Obligation again and ask the same questions.

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## Masonic Losses — Collected by Bro. Gene Bull

### **Arthur Ostrander Jr. Aug. 7, 1923 - April 15, 2009**

Arthur Ostrander Jr. passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 15, 2009, at Hacienda Rehabilitation and Care Center.

Arthur was born Aug. 7, 1923, in Toledo, Ohio. He proudly served in the U.S. Army from May 20, 1944, to April 30, 1967.

He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Anita; two sons, Arthur III (Eileen) Ostrander of Huachuca City, Ariz., and Fred (Carolyn) Ostrander of Olney, Ill.; and two grandchildren.

After retirement, Arthur became a member of Lions Club International and was awarded lifetime membership. He received various awards and was district governor twice.

Arthur wished to be cremated, and no formal services will be held. He will be remembered and missed by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, please remember the Sierra Vista La Salida del Sol Lions Club or the American Cancer Society.

### **Lloyd B. Watts April 23, 1927 - April 21, 2009**

Lloyd B. Watts, 81, passed away on Tuesday, April 21, 2009. He has been a Sierra Vista, Ariz., resident since 1988. Prior to that he resided in Colorado Springs, Colo., for 30 years.

The memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at the Sierra Vista United Methodist Church, 3225 Saint Andrews Drive in Sierra Vista.

He was born on April 23, 1927 in Ralls County, Missouri to Baxter and Almyra Watts.

He is preceded in death by sisters, Mary Sue Batley and Dorothy Seward.

He married Mildred Whitley on June 19, 1949, at Scott Air Force Base. Together they had three children, Dale (Patsy) Watts, Keith (Nancy) Watts, and Dawn (David) Griebelbauer. His grandchildren, Susan, April, Dylan, and his great-grandchild, Alana, also honor his life.

Lloyd served in the United States Air Force for 23 years, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. During that time he served in the Korean War. He was a communications specialist.

He obtained his bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Colorado and was a licensed professional engineer in the state of Colorado.

He was an avid collector and restorer of antique Studebaker automobiles. He was a member of the Veteran Motor Car Club of America, Studebaker Drivers Club, and the Antique Studebaker Club. He repaired and restored old radios.

Lloyd was also a Master Mason of King Solomon Lodge Number Five, Tombstone, Ariz. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the "Lloyd Watts Memorial Fund" c/o Sierra Vista United Methodist Church at the above address. The money will be used to help fund a new building at the church. Or, donations may be made to the giver's charity of choice.

## Masonic Losses — Collected by Bro. Gene Bull

### **Evelyn Pearl Kramer June 17, 1916 - March 29, 2009**

Evelyn Pearl Kramer went to be with our Lord on Sunday March 29, 2009, while residing at the Union Printers Home in Colorado Springs, Colo.

She was born on June 17, 1916, in Kincaid, Ill., to Vern and Ethel Cameron. Weighing only 2 pounds at birth, she beat the odds of survival, and lived a long and purposeful life of 92 years, loved and now greatly missed, by many family and friends.

Evelyn married Douglas Kramer of Kenosha, Wis., June 26, 1937, on her parents' 22nd anniversary. She worked as a bookkeeper for Johnson Motors and later for Dean Foods, until 1978, when she and her husband moved to Arizona. They made many friends in Tucson, St. David, Benson and Sierra Vista, Ariz., especially through their lifetime membership in the Order of the Eastern Star. Evelyn was involved with OES for more than 60 years, and served four times as Worthy Matron, two times as Grand Page, and was Grand Representative to Maryland (1983) and to Manitoba (1988). She was preceded in death by her parents, Vern and Ethel Cameron; sister, Marie Hansen; brother, Vern Ray; and her eldest son, Gerald Ross of Sunnyvale, Calif.

Evelyn is survived by her loving family, husband, Douglas Kramer, daughter, Carol Miller, son and daughter-in-law, David and Colette Kramer, all of Pueblo West, Colo.; daughter, Ginnie Kramer of Waukesha, Wis.; sister, Ethel Eoviero of Palm Harbor, Fla.; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, one niece, three nephews, and many cousins living throughout the United States.

Memorial services will be held at the Evergreen Funeral Home, 1830 E. Fountain Blvd., in Colorado Springs, Colo., at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2009. The Rev. Kim James of the Pueblo Wesley United Methodist Church will officiate. Additional services will be conducted by the Colorado Springs Chapter of the OES.

## Lodge Web site

### **Bro. Phillip Shulsky**

For those that don't know yet, our Lodge web site is up and running. There are still some content additions to be made, especially with the Past Master pictures which need a lot of photo enhancement to make them presentable. If anyone knows of, or has, quality links of Masonic interest please let me know and the links can be included on the web site.

There are also improvements planned which include e-mail address, a photo gallery of Lodge activities and much more. Your input is absolutely welcomed.

The address is: [WWW.HUACHUCA53.ORG](http://WWW.HUACHUCA53.ORG)

I wish to express my gratitude to my wife, Sharon, who designed and built the website, and who will be cursed to maintain it .

## From the Deputy District Grand Master for District 9

**WB. Ralph Hooten**

M A S O N I C   B A L L O T I N G ,   " A   W H I T E   B A L L   E L E C T S ,  
A   B L A C K   B A L L   R E J E C T S . "

In Freemasonry we hold certain basic principles to be true. For one we pledge to be respectful and fair to each other. I believe this is one of the fundamental reasons why Freemasonry was founded and still exists today. Masonic brethren should respect each other. Well, at least we should show consideration for each other. That respect should include: "what and how we speak to Brother, how we act around a Brother, and even what we think of a Brother." Masonry is a life style, to be lived not only inside the Lodge, but on the street as well. We should strive to live our lives with respect for all, but just below God and family our respect for a Brother's honor, his efforts, feelings and hopes, should be foremost on our thoughts. For these reasons we grow to love the Fraternity and the Family it represents. We pride ourselves in the peace and harmony found in our Fraternity and for that reason we strive to protect it and its members. Therefore we vote on the acceptability of each man or brother to become a member of our Lodge. So serious are we about this, that it only takes one to say "No" or to reject that man or Brother from membership.

Prior to voting on the application of a man to become Mason or to join another Lodge we hear the WM state: Remember Brethren "A white ball elects, a black ball rejects." In Arizona the ballot on an applicant is taken secretly. It is also an infraction of Masonic law or at least a serious infraction of Masonic ethics to discuss how a brother will vote, or to disclose how he voted.

The secrecy of the ballot and the prerequisite that a ballot be unanimous are two of the greatest ideals of our Fraternity. Very often this secrecy and unanimity works, but no Lodge is perfect, and no human being or Lodge always does what is best. The occasional failure of the system to work may be laid to the Brother using it and not to the Lodge.

The power, of a black cube, put in the hands of the individual Master Mason is great. No officer, not even the Grand Master, may ask how or why we voted as we did. No Master has the power to set aside the black cube, once cast. This rejection of an application does more than merely prevent the applicant from being given the degrees or membership. When a brother is rejected, and later applies for membership in any other Lodge, his application is again received and brought up for ballot, the fact that he previously applied and was **rejected** is stated to the lodge. In other words, the casting of a black cube not only rejects for membership, but puts a certain disability upon the applicant which he is powerless to remove.

The brother who casts a cube then wields great power. Like most powers, it can be used for good or ill. It may work harm, or good, not only on applicant, but to he who uses it. No brother or officer can interfere with the use of the cube. Only the brother knows why it was cast. The very absence of any responsibility to man or authority is one of the reasons why the power should be used with intelligence, and only when, after solemn self-inquiry, the reason behind its use is found to be Masonic.

There are hundreds of good reasons for casting of a black cube. If the lodge might suffer, or if a brother might suffer from the applicant being accepted, then we have reason for seeing that he is rejected. Such use of the cube is proper, Masonic, ethical, wise, just.

No hard and fast rule stands true. There is no way to explain "a good reason, bad reason" for casting a black cube. Each has to judge the reason for himself. Some suggestions may be given.

We know a man we dislike. He has different ideas from ours. Our dislike does not amount to hatred, nor is it predicated on his character. We just rub each other the wrong way. When he applies to our lodge we

must make a decision: will our differences be greater than the good that might come from his reception? Are we sure that we cannot accept him as a brother merely because we "have never liked him?" The un-masonic use of the cube is a misuse of power. Turning the cube into a secret dagger for personal revenge is indefensible.

The black cube is our protection of the Fraternity. But at the same time it puts to the test the Masonic heart, and the personal honesty of every brother. The cube is a test of our understanding of the Masonic teaching of the cardinal virtue, Justice. We teach of justice that "it should be the invariable practice of every Mason, never to deviate from the minutest principles thereof." Justice to the lodge requires us to cast the black cube on an applicant we believe to be unfit. Justice to ourselves requires that we cast the black cube on the application of the man we believe would destroy the harmony of our lodge.

In justice to the applicant, we are taught to render justice to every man, not merely to Masons, justice requires that no black cube be cast for little reasons, small reasons, or mean reasons. No man knows what we do; no eye will see, save that All Seeing Eye which pervades the innermost recesses of our hearts, and will reward us according to our merits.

The black cube is a great strength to protect Freemasonry. Used thoughtlessly, carelessly, without Masonic reason, it harms not only him it is used against but him who drops it. A well used black cube goes into the ballot. Ill used, it drops into the heart and blackens it. **WB Ralph Hooten, PM, DDGM**

## Past Masters Day

King Solomon Territorial Lodge #5 will host their annual Past Masters Day on May 16th 2009 at their Lodge in Tombstone. There will be a Fellow Craft degree performed at 12PM followed by a dinner and awards presentation at the American Legion.

## COCHISE MASONIC HIGH TWELVE CLUB #703

### **WB. Andy Anderson**

The May 8 meeting will be held at the SV Elks Lodge starting at 5:30 PM and everyone is invited. The program will be on the Child Identification Program (CHIP) with a demonstration presented by individuals who are actively involved providing this service. We are looking to recruit folks to help with this program and anyone, man or lady, mason or not, can be a part of this team effort in Sierra Vista and Fort Huachuca. The menu for this meeting is the Friday Night Fish Fry, fried or baked, and also grilled chicken and scrimp scampi all for ten dollars. Again this meeting is open to everyone.

Mark your calendar now for June 13 Saturday when the Club will host a luncheon for all Lodge Masons of the Year from around Cochise County. This is the sixth year that the Club will host this program and there will be a special Guest speaker.

The Club will be dark during July and August.

## From the West

### Bro. Harry Brown

It is very gratifying to see the number of Brothers that are attending the stated meetings and participating in the degree work. The Brothers of Huachuca 53 are doing great things for the Blue Lodge.

We have more Brothers that are able to give the degree lectures. This is a great benefit for our Lodge and a heavy load off of our DDGL WB Johnnie Wagener. Come out and support the candidates and the Brothers as they present the degree lectures and work for our Brothers.

An achievable goal and my hope for this year is to have Brothers competing to present the degree lectures. Huachuca 53 is approaching this goal but we have a long way to go to take the work load off the few Brothers that are proficient in presenting the lectures. Learning the ritual work is very educational and satisfying.

Come down to the Lodge on Tuesday or Wednesday evening to practice ritual and socialize with your Brothers. To be able to participate in degree work, make your desires known so you may be included in the degree programs. The SD, JW, and SW will be pleased and more than happy to include you in the Trestle Boards for degree work.

## From the South

### Bro. Phillip Shulsky

The great wheel of time continues to turn, and our Lodge with it. In the past month we have brought several men into our fraternity, and now call them brother; we have raised additional money for the necessary repairs to our building; our Lodge website is up and running; and more brothers are learning the work. But even this change is not enough.

The theme for this newsletter obviously revolves around self reflection. A review of the worshipful Masters and DDGM's articles makes this obvious. We each need to look within ourselves and ask if we need change. Do we carry old habits that need to be reviewed? Do we harbor resentments that need to be let go? Do we gossip and spread opinions and half truths?

While I don't consider myself to be a bible thumper by any means, I am reminded of the following from Luke 6:42

"...or how can you say to your brother, Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye, when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your Brother's eye"

Wise words!

## Fund Raisers

### Bro. Phillip Shulsky

The fund raising committee has raised \$784.00 so far.

\$535.00 from the Pancake Breakfast on 1 Nov 2008  
 \$249.00 from the 50/50 drawings

The baseball fund raiser is over, and the money should be delivered to us in the next two or three weeks. Overall, we earned \$61 for each and every time we volunteered. This means we can expect between \$3000 and \$4000. I really appreciate the sacrifice everyone made to accomplish this task. Please consider supporting again next year.

The silent auction was a success, though not as widely supported as we would have hoped.

We are also talking about having a car wash at a date yet to be selected. It will only require assistance handing out flyers. There will be no actual physical work on our part. More to follow.

If any Brother has an idea for a fund raiser, and is willing to take the lead on it, please let me know. I would absolutely appreciate all the help I can get.

I also need to say, and this comes from the heart, that I really appreciate all the assistance in our fund raising efforts. This note of thanks isn't just for the Brothers that have given their time and energy supporting our fund raisers, but also is meant for the Brothers that have sent in money for the cause. And let us absolutely not forget the very generous donations made by our Masonic relatives from the three York Rite bodies, Electa Chapter #51, Order of the Eastern Star, Chiricahua Court #15 Order of the Amaranth, the Huachuca Shrine Club, the Cochise Scottish Rite Club, and the Cochise High 12 Club. All together, we have raised nearly \$9,000.00 towards the replacement of the heating and AC units.

Our next consideration must be given to the entire electrical system in the building, and the kitchen

## Calendar of Meetings for 2009

### Stated Meetings

7th of January 7p.m.  
 4th of February 7p.m.  
 4th of March 7p.m.  
 1st of April 7p.m.  
 6th of May 7p.m.  
 3rd of June 7p.m.  
 1st of July 7p.m.  
 5th of August 7p.m.  
 2nd of September 7p.m.  
 7th of October 7p.m.  
 4th of November 7p.m.  
 2nd of December 7p.m.

### Charity, Finance and Fund-Raising

4th of February 5p.m.  
 1st of April 5p.m.  
 5th of August 5p.m.  
 4th of November 5p.m.  
 To be held in the Secretaries office and open to all members

### Meetings of the Board of Trustees

4th of March 5p.m.  
 6th of May 5p.m.  
 2nd of September 5p.m.  
 2nd of December 5p.m.  
 To be held in the Secretaries office and open to all members

## **ARE WORKING TOOLS IMPORTANT? (Part two of four)**

**WB Andy Anderson**

This month we will discuss the Twenty-Four Inch Gauge. It is divided into three equal parts, and this month we will talk about the eight hours for our usual vocations.

This comes down to a matter of scheduling. It used to be that the work day was twelve hours, then ten hours, and now it is eight hours/ Some people, because of health or age are not able to work a full day. Their time must be gauged accordingly, but not wasted.

We have all heard the person who, when asked to do something for his Masonic Lodge, or for some other worthwhile purpose, give the answer "I'm sorry, I just don't have the time". In most cases this is probably not true and may set forth a time to waste time. In the third chapter of Ecclesiastes verse one through eight it says "To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven." It concludes by saying "A time to keep silent and a time to speak; a time to love and a time to hate; a time of war and a time of peace", but nowhere does it set forth a time to waste time.

### **Masonic Tour of Distinction 2009**

As discussed in a previous edition of this newsletter, a group of 23 Masons from England will be visiting Arizona. Much of their trip will be spent in Phoenix, Sedona and Las Vegas, however from the 7th to the 10th of May they will be in our neck of the woods. Their itinerary for that portion of their trip is as follows:

7 May—Arrive in Tucson

8 May—Visit Old Tucson Studios and "John Wayne's Lodge

9 May—Perform a demonstration of English Ritual at the Scottish Rite Temple at 2:30PM

10 May—Visit Tombstone

A demonstration of the first three degrees will be presented at the Scottish Rite temple on the 9th of May. Seating is limited to 300 Masons. If you desire to participate you really need to RSVP to 520-622-8364 as soon as possible. Once the seats are gone, they are gone. There is a \$15.00 fee associated with this event. In addition, you may participate in a dinner which is an additional \$10. Your ladies are welcome to join us for dinner for an additional \$10.00

To the best of your ability, try to participate in some of these activities. Seldom will be get a chance to enjoy fellowship with our Brothers across the pond. It is worth pointing out that they will be bringing their wives, so bring yours along as well. You can visit the following website to get more information:

<http://www.masonictour2009.co.uk>

# Masonic Anniversaries

**Bro Jim Elliston**

**Masonic Anniversaries**

Name with Prefix	MM	Yrs
Bro. Jaime E. Pruna	05/02/67	42 Years
Bro. Timothy G. Dilts	05/02/00	9 Years
Bro. Paul R. Sheppard	05/05/82	27 Years
Bro. Clarence A. McComber	05/07/58	51 Years
WB Donald B. Handy	05/14/66	43 Years
Bro. Donald B. Hearn Jr.	05/17/02	7 Years
Bro. John A. Laster	05/23/78	31 Years
Bro. Ronald W. Backes	05/26/04	5 Years
Bro. Phillip R. Shulsky	05/28/08	1 Years
Bro. Richard A. Rhinehart	05/28/56	53 Years
Bro. Horace G. Armitage	05/31/44	65 Years

**Birthdays**

Name with Prefix	DOB	Age
Bro. Clyde E. Davis	5/1/1931	78
Bro. James W. Turner	5/2/1919	90
WB Peter K. Gillespie	5/8/1940	69
Bro. Nolean Branstetter	5/13/1932	77
Bro. John A. Laster	5/14/1933	76
Bro. Robert Frampton	5/14/1943	66
Bro. Bassom S. Almesfer	5/17/1953	56
Bro. Erik R. Coulson	5/19/1968	41
WB Danie S. Vannoy	5/20/1945	64
WB Matthew M. Covell	5/20/1980	29
Bro. Robert A. Naessens	5/21/1936	73
WB Herbert L. Hensley	5/22/1942	67
Bro. Paul R. Sheppard	5/22/1944	65
Bro. Anthony G. Waalkens	5/27/1947	62
Bro. Joseph Bronstein	5/27/1930	79

## Cochise Scottish rite Club and Huachuca Shrine Club

**Bro. Tom Jones**

Well Brothers its time for another article. As most of you know April was a busy month with all the Masonic organizations. As the club secretary for both the Cochise Scottish Rite Club and Huachuca Shrine Club, I am glad to report good news of new members. The Reunion in Tucson Valley will include two brothers from Huachuca Lodge 53, Senior Deacon Doug Krussel and Senior Steward Steve McNeil. The Sabbar Shrine had a ceremonial that included Worshipful Master Matt Covell and Junior Steward Carlos Garcia. Welcome our new Sheik Nobles. I included a picture of Lady Covell Fezzing Nobel Covell





## **Electa Chapter #51 Order of the Eastern Star**

Another month has passed on by and we are facing May and the end of another term in Chapter. We still have important business to take care of in this last month as we wind down. The work of the Order of the Eastern Star continues year round but will be with new officers soon. The Chapter goes dark during the months of July and August.

At our last meeting held March 16<sup>th</sup> the Chapter honored the Master Masons for all they do for the Chapter and the community. Our special Honoree is our Worthy Patron Andrew Anderson. He has served the Chapter for several year in the West and the East, two years in the East with his wife Mary Lou, one year in the East with his daughter Margaret Botkin, one year in the East with Norma Dayton, and two years in the East with Janice Hogan. He is like the backbone of our Chapter.

Electa Chapter has two stated meetings in May and then the Installation of the new officers. The first meeting will be May 7, at 7:30 PM. We will have the Initiation of three candidates; Angela Mc Neal, Melissa Watts, and Matthew Covel. We will close and retire for refreshments.

Our second meeting will be at 7:30 PM on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The Worthy Matron will be providing dinner for the Chapter at 6:00 PM. This last regular meeting of the term is called Farewell. A report of the Chapter accomplishments and activities will be given by the Worthy Matron.

At this time Shirley Elliston is the Associate Matron and her husband Jim Elliston is the Associate Patron. On May 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM will be the open Installation of Officers in Electa Chapter # 51. The new roll of officers will take over at that time. Refreshments will follow the installation.

I bid you farewell for now and invite you to join us at Electa Chapter as often as you can for dinners and open activities and if you are a member of the Order of the Eastern Star we would love to have you at every activity and meeting

Janice Hogan

Worthy Matron

## From the Secretary's Desk

### WB. Al Camacho

Below are 171 words as quoted directly from the Secretaries Manual. I wish to address the ones in bolded letters; I will impart my personal feelings and my interpretation of them, and will attempt to clarify what is not found within them.

"Your duties are as provided in your Lodge Bylaws; AMC Sections 113-115: the Installation of Officers ceremony; **anything else in and around the Lodge that nobody else wants to do.** Pay particular attention to AMC Sections 70 and 71 with special reference to affixing the Lodge seal on all documents or papers emanating from the Lodge, whether from the Master or Secretary. **You are the instrument of communication between your Lodge and your members, wherever they may reside, the Grand Lodge, the Grand Secretary, the Grand Lodge Committee Chairmen, and the public.** You may correspond directly with the Secretary of any Arizona Lodge. It is the duty of the Secretary to keep a true record of all things proper to be written. Minutes should be kept in a separate binder. **Remember, Minutes are a great source of material for future historians and the permanent record of the activities of the Lodge.** They should be clear, concise, and accurate but with a little ingenuity to make them interesting reading or listening."

Your possible interpretation of: "anything else in and around the Lodge that nobody else wants to do" might, as it relates to the other Lodge Officers, that the other officers have either not read their duties, chosen to ignore their duties, or wish to shirk their duties. Moreover, as it relates to the Craft (the members), that not having specific duties, the Craft has chosen to sit on the sidelines and do nothing. My interpretation is that the other Officers and the Craft are an integral part of the Lodge, should be actively working when in Lodge, never idle, and never leave that which needs to be done, undone.

Your possible interpretation of: "You are the instrument of communication between your Lodge and your members, wherever they may reside; the Grand Lodge, the Grand Secretary, the Grand Lodge Committee Chairmen and the general public." May be that you will use whatever means and whenever you wish to communicate with them. My interpretation is that without knowing the administrative relationship between the Secretary and the Master and without the direct permission of the Master, what you say to them may not be in the best interest of the Lodge and may create an undesirable outcome.

Your possible interpretation of: "Remember, Minutes are a great source of material for future historians and the permanent record of the activities of the Lodge." may mean that you should be lackadaisical in communicating with the Secretary; slovenly in administrative matters; produce mediocre letters, reports, charts, etc.; rely solely on the internet and electronic mail to communicate with the Secretary. My interpretation is that communication must conform to the highest standard and be professional in execution. Minutes become permanent records and reflect the professionalism of the Craft and Freemasonry.

What you will not find in those 171 words is a reference to treat the Secretary like the garbage collector. Ideally, I look at my work in a professional vain; I work to produce professional documentation; and I attempt to impart the same respect given me. Realistically, I am human, I err; if presented with shabby, late, untimely paperwork, expect a reciprocal response; treated in a disrespectful manner, will garner you equal treatment. Learn your duties, learn your responsibilities, and work in concert with the Secretary, not independently of your own volition.

## Degrees and Awards



Bro Gilbert Hart and Bro. Ronnie Haygood receive their 1st Degree on March 31st, 2009.



Bro. David Janes received his 1st Degree on April 15th, 2009.



Bro. Eric Navarro and Bro Gilbert Hart receive their 2nd Degree on April 29th, 2009.



Bro. Verne Rouillard receives his 50 year award



Bro. Bob Wilson receives his 50 year award and 65 year pin

**Bro. Eric Coulson**

### **Going through First Degree**

Being initiated into the brotherhood of Freemasonry is one of those truly once in a lifetime events that brings both excitement and trepidation. There is there is the excitement of Christmas morning as one wonders what great gifts will be opened. Simultaneously the trepidation of the unknown is in the back of ones mind.

Alone in the dining area of Huachuca 53 I strained to hear what was going on the lodge room through the relatively thin walls; not to ascertain secrets, but to anticipate when the door would open and I would be escorted in.

The Brothers who retrieved me from the dining hall and prepared me for entry into the lodge were solicitous and helpful although little was revealed to me. The Preparation Process caught me off guard but in time I understood.

I Knocked on the Door and Gained entrance into the lodge. I was vouched for and was lead into the lodge. I was relieved to be escorted by someone I had spent time talking with. His voice reassured me and inspired me to walk as if I had no Hoodwink so as to demonstrate my trust in he who was about to become my brother. The Hoodwink was tight, but a small amount of light bled through and I could see the tiles in the floor. The instinct was to shut my eyes, but that made me dizzy.

I knelt to pray. Once again I attempted to go to my knees in a manner I would have done had I had my sight to demonstrate the level of trust I felt was due.

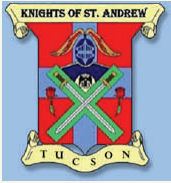
Again around the Lodge I went to the stations around the lodge to the South, the West and then the East – trying to take in through my other senses what was taking place.

When the Worshipful Master came to help me recite my obligation I was once again glad to be working with someone I had spent a good deal of time talking too. When one is deprived of one sense, the others seem keener. I listened to the words the Worshipful Master spoke for three purposes; to be able to recite them back to him, for understanding, and as part of the larger ritual where, specifically to relate back to the Brothers through this medium what the experience had been like. I found this enormously challenging as I wanted to do my part, but contemplate the seriousness of the obligation. I also wanted to project my voice so the Brothers throughout the lodge could hear me recite the obligation.

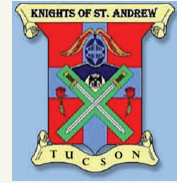
Having my sense of sight restored at the end of the obligation brought the usual disorientation of having a sense suddenly restored. The tools, the token, the word – were all interesting, however at that point with one sense suddenly restored it became almost too much information attempting to take in.

I found that as I strove to write about the experience it was difficult to do so because one was entering and processing the unknown with one sense already debilitated. I look forward to the opportunity to seeing it again to learn more about

**Editor:** I have approached many new brothers to write an article like this. Bro. Coulson is the first to do it. I wish to publically thank him for that!



## Tucson Knights of Saint Andrew



Historically, the medieval order of the Knights of St. Andrew was formed by King Robert the Bruce of Scotland, in 1314. Its purpose was to honor Knights instrumental in the victory over the English during the Battle of Bannockburn.

In line with these historical beginnings, the modern Order of the KSA focuses on outstanding service. In early 1993 the late, III. Theyldon Good 33° of the Tulsa Valley in Oklahoma had for need for assistance during reunions. When he noticed that many brothers were joining the Scottish Rite but not returning to assist and participate, he developed the organization now known as the Knights of St. Andrew (KSA) as a service organization for the valley.

In setting up the by-laws, he stated that the KSA would be a "Black Hat" group and any member who received the honor of KCCH (Knights Commander of the Court of Honor or Red Hat) could not hold an office or vote but they could still work and assist. The main duties of the Knights of St. Andrew were to assist as needed during the reunions and be available to the Valley's General Secretary for any assigned duties.

The Tucson Knights of St. Andrew is an organization open to all active Black Hat Scottish Rite Masons of the Tucson Valley. It provides a purpose and identity that members can be proud of, while simultaneously providing service to the Tucson Consistory. The charter membership received their knighthood on Sunday, April 19th 2009 and the organization received their Charter on the same day. If you are interested in becoming a member, contact any of the following officers, or visit the Tucson Scottish Rite website at [www.tucsonscottishrite.org](http://www.tucsonscottishrite.org)

Venerable Master—Randal S. Jager

Senior Warden—Phillip R. Shulsky

Junior Warden—Frank J. Belluardo, Jr

Secretary/Treasurer—Christopher S. Fortier

Senior Deacon—Jon B. Ruse

Junior Deacon—Don M. Bunch

Chaplain—Daniel J. Viljac

Sentinel—Manny V. Daniels

Bagpiper—Charles E. Armijo



-- KEEP IT SECRET --

No Member of a Masonic Lodge has the right to say how he votes on an application to the Lodge. It must always be remembered that the ballot is definitely secret. We must ever be mindful of the fact that no Mason may speak of the results of a ballot outside the Lodge where the information is likely to fall on the ears of the profane. It is not fair to a petitioner when blackballed to have the fact scattered about. Rejection does not necessarily reflect unfavorably on an unsuccessful petitioner. Many articles have and will be written about this subject and I truly feel non will address the human emotions that are affected and can have a detrimental affect on The Brothers and the Lodge and the Masonic Community if we let it. I am sure that in our history there have been famous Masons who have been rejected along the way but that didn't stop there, they repetitioned another Lodge which in many cases is the right thing to do. Let us keep ourselves within due bounds (bounds-meaning a line beyond which a subject may not extend) and move ahead to become better Masons and a better Masonic Community.

**From a Past Master**

## Thoughts to ponder....

[It's a job that's never started that takes the longest to finish.](#) - . R. R. Tolkien

[Dark and difficult times lie ahead. Soon we must all face the choice between what is right and what is easy.](#)—J. K. Rowling

[No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.](#) - Charles Dickens

[A sense of humor is part of the art of leadership, of getting along with people, of getting things done.](#) - Dwight D. Eisenhower

## What Shall We Do With The Body?

<http://themasonictrowel.com>

A story that made the rounds a few years ago as "gospel truth" involved a Brother on a hunting trip in the wild of Maine. Day after day of his vacation was eaten up without a deer. On the last day, as he was about to give up in desperation, he heard a crashing in the woods: saw a glimpse of brown and fired. Silence!

Rushing over to where he fired, he found that he had killed a bull moose, which is protected from hunters to save it from extinction. As he stood there staring at the dead moose, a Game Warden stepped out into the clearing.

Our brother found his hands involuntarily raised in a certain position, "What shall we do with the body?"

"Dress it out, you damn fool," said the Warden, "and make your escape"

## Focus instead, on Freemasonry

Provided by WM Matt Covel

**Freemasonry: It's not about me changing them,  
it's about me changing me.**

At its core, Freemasonry is a fraternity with the stated goal of making good men better. Take a look at that statement again, because this article today is about focusing on Freemasonry, and to do that, we need to start off with what Freemasonry is and what it is not.

Freemasonry is a fraternity, that means its about men, associating together with common goals who support each other. That last sentence reads more like a mission statement, devoid of content but with flags raised high, so in the next few paragraphs, I want to try to define what Freemasonry means, at least to me.

If you have children, especially teen age children, what you want for your children is that they have good friends. We want our children to have good friends because we hope they will be influenced positively by those friends, and stay out of trouble. As freemasons, a fundamental characteristic OF Freemasons is that they are men of good character, honorable men, with a strong sense of integrity and a desire to be more serviceable before g-d and our fellow men.

By that standard, we choose to associate with good men. This association creates a kind of mass psychology, a peer pressure that is both intrusive and subtle. By intrusive I mean it is clear to us, overwhelming us with a desire to do what is right. We talk about ethics and morality, it is constantly on our minds as we carry ourselves in society, and we contemplate how our tenets fit into modern life.

Freemasonry also works on us in subtle ways. Because of our obligation, because of the good men we associate with, there are just things that we would not consider doing, actions we will not undertake, words we will not speak, thoughts we will not allow. We deliberately circumscribe our desires and our passions on a conscious and subconscious level.

The ritual, in part, also works on us in overt and covert ways. Sure, the ritual is a teaching tool, overtly we HEAR the lessons of the craft, we hear the lectures, its high words and sentiments. They echo in our minds so that out of the lodge we practice those great moral lessons inculcated IN it. We also learn great the great lessons of Freemasonry by participating in them.

Not just as officers, but as sideliners, we are caught up in the ritual, whether it is good, or bad, emotive or flatly delivered, when we are present in the ritual, which is carried out, or is supposed to be carried out that same way on each occasion. We work together, and in working together, toward a common goal, "... no contention, but that noble contention, of who best can work and best agree..." overtakes us.

The officers and the sideliners which for the best for each officer working the ritual, and each of us, in our minds and hearts, speaks the words and wishes good on our brethren. There is a word for good wishes, its prayer. We pray for the best, we wish for the best, and in our hearts, we become better men for thinking of and

wishing for the best in each man.

This practice alone makes us better men! Then there is the candidate, for whom we are all working together, officers and sideliners as brothers all, focusing our attention on the candidate with the best intentions. We are all, symbolically, there at the altar with him, we all open our arms and welcome him into the lodge, we are all really THERE for the candidate, and in being there for him, we reaffirm our own obligations to the lodge, to each brother, and to the candidate.

A cogent argument can be made that even the brothers who do nothing but pay their dues and act as Masons in society are supporting the candidate. Not with their presence, which would be more than welcome, but with their money, which while a poor substitute, does make the ritual and the lodge possible.

The lodge has esoterics, and it has its fundamentalists (and of course, it has ring and pin brothers). The esoterics are seeking after the deeper meaning in ritual, philosophy, history, who enjoy the fraternal association and the mutual support. The fundamentalists see ritual as what it is, and argue there is nothing deeper, and enjoy the fellowship of the lodge for what it is, fraternal support.

One of the beauties of Freemasonry is that these two groups, at odds over the meaning of the craft, can still come together, and work together, for similar goals. After all, Freemasonry is a system of morality, a fraternity, a spiritual temple where a man can forge a closer link with the spiritual side of his nature.

The foundation of Freemasonry made this possible. As we look at the time when the speculative Masonry was growing, we can see that philosophical thought was dominated by the church, and science was seen as the work of the devil, and often contradictory to what the church was teaching. But science was taking hold and growing in the marketplace of ideas, while at the same time, the church was seeing its hold on the secular world slowly eroding.

The early speculative Freemasons were the thinkers, men of science who were stepping away from the rule of the church and into a secular world where they were free to think, to choose, to act and to speak. They were intelligent, educated men of towering intellect for their time and they knew that science without morality would not serve society. They were not opposed to religion, historical facts show these early Masons to be religious men, and the craft itself shows the influence of religious thought and practice.

They KNEW that as they sought the freedom to think for themselves that danger could arise from that freedom if it were not balanced with morality, because ALL freedoms need to be balanced with responsibility. In Freemasonry therefore, men were taught morality, it was inculcated in the candidates and enforced in the lodges and in the minds of its members as a safeguard, that these men, in their newfound freedoms would never lose sight of the responsibility they had to g-d and to society, to their fellows. Hence the reference to the compasses, that their passions and interests should never stray outside the boundaries of right.

Freemasonry succeeded so well that today, the tenets of the craft are taken for granted like the air we breathe, and there is a whole COUNTRY founded upon those most excellent tenets. Of course here I refer to the United States, which was founded in large part, upon the tenets of the craft, whether because many of the founders were Freemasons, or because the tenets of the craft were taking hold in society as a whole. As evidence, look to The constitution's first "amendments" which enshrine these MASONIC rights: freedom of speech, religion, assembly, the press, to petition the government for redress of grievances, to own guns to defend ourselves and to be secure in our property and our persons.

## Focus instead, on Freemasonry (Cont)

The effects of Freemasonry are all pervasive, affecting all levels of society, for the better. Today, society, at least in the west, IS Freemasonic in nature. Today, however, those freedoms are taken for granted, and the moral foundation upon which the stand is being eroded. at least until it started to eschew the moral values that Freemasonry insists upon. Today, Freemasonry is a bastion of Morality, a beacon of light toward the spiritual side of man, offering balance again. Men are seeking Freemasonry again, because they want meaning in their lives, they want to belong to something that is at once moral and intellectual, offering them what society, (devolving into discussions based on 15 second sound bites and bumper sticker philosophy and "open morality" where oral sex is defined as not being sexual), no longer offers them.

Once more, Freemasonry is a Beacon, but now it is a beacon of light to the spirit.

There are more eloquent definitions of Freemasonry, to be sure, but these are my words, how I feel about my Freemasonry. For me, Freemasonry is not just a fraternity, not just a club or a hobby, it is a way of life. It is a personal philosophy, it is how I live my life, how I conduct myself, how I balance my family, business, public life, and spiritual life.

I love my Freemasonry and my brothers, withersoever dispersed around the globe, whether we agree or not.

### I am a Freemason.

Robert Theron Dunn, Jr. (Theron) of Canyon Lake, CA, passed away Tuesday, May 13, 2008, after complications from surgery. He was 51. He was born on February 1, 1957 in San Gabriel, CA, son of Robert Theron Dunn of Idyllwild and the late Carol Ann Cross.

In addition to his love for his family, Theron had great love and respect for the Freemasons and was active in the Moreno Valley Lodge, CA. Theron also loved volunteering, most importantly, he began the Mason's Free Child ID Program for which he worked tirelessly every weekend. Theron's involvement with the Freemasons allowed him a multitude of friends all over the world. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends. Raised to the Sublime Degree in Riverside Lodge #635 on 3 November 2001, Worshipful Master of Evergreen Lodge #259 2005.

## VFW Post 10342 News

We will be having a Loyalty Day Ceremony on May 1, 2009 starting at 0930 hrs. Would like for all who can attend do so as the SV Herald might be there to interview and take pictures. The ceremony won't last that long and refreshments will follow. I would like for the soldiers of our adopted units attend if possible as Loyalty Day is in support of those who have and are now serving our great nation.

Yours in Comradeship;

Lindsey Botkin  
Commander  
Post 10342  
Huachuca City

# Calendar of Events for May 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					May 1st <b>Tucson Scottish Rite</b> Spring Reunion 8AM—4PM	May 2nd <b>Tucson Scottish Rite</b> Spring Reunion 8AM—4PM
May 3rd	May 4th <b>King Solomon #5 Stated Meeting</b> Time: 7PM	May 5th <b>Pearl of Venus #6 OES</b> Time: 2PM Place: Bisbee  <b>Campstone #77</b> 7PM	May 6th <b>Huachuca #53 Stated Meeting</b> Time: Dinner at 6PM; Meeting at 7PM	May 7th <b>Electa Chap #51 OES</b> Time: 7:30PM  <b>Perfect Ashlar Lodge #12</b> stated meeting at 7 PM	May 8th <b>Cochise High 12 Club #703 Meeting</b> Time: 5:30PM at the Elks Lodge	May 9th United Grand Lodge of England Degree Demo  Scottish rite Temple @
May 10th	May 11th	May 12th <b>Mt Moriah Lodge #19</b> stated meeting at 7 PM	May 13th <b>Huachuca Lodge #53</b> TBA	May 14th <b>Wilcox #10 Stated Meeting</b> Time: 7PM	May 15th	May 16th <b>King Solomon #5 Past Masters day &amp; FC Degree</b> Time 12:00  <b>Huachuca Shrine Club</b> meeting at 5:30PM place TBA
May 17th	May 18th <b>Chiricahua Ct #15</b> , Order of the Amaranth stated meeting at 7:30 PM	May 19th <b>Pearl of Venus Chap #6</b> stated meeting at 2 PM  <b>Adoniram Council #14</b> , Cryptic Masons stated meeting at 7 PM  <b>Coronado Chap #20</b> , Royal Arch Masons stated meeting at 7 PM.	May 20th <b>Huachuca Lodge #53</b>	May 21st <b>Electa Chap #51 OES</b> Time: 7PM	May 22nd	May 23rd <b>Pearl of Venus Chapter #6 OES Installation of Officers</b> @ Benson Lodge starting at 2PM (OPEN EVENT)
May 24th	May 25th <b>San Pedro Lodge #55</b> stated meeting at 7 PM	May 26th <b>Burning Taper Commandery #15</b> , Knights Templar stated Meeting at 7 PM	May 27th <b>Huachuca Lodge #53</b>	May 28th <b>Lodge of Perfection Tucson Scottish Rite</b> Time: Carpool from Huachuca #53 at 5PM <b>Ladies program to follow</b>	May 29th	May 30th <b>Electa Chap #51 OES Installation of Officers</b> @ Huachuca #53 starting at 7:30PM (OPEN EVENT)

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Grand Lodge of Arizona or its Officers.