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Life is a culmination of the past, an awareness of the present, an indication of a future beyond knowledge, the quality that gives a touch of divinity to matter. —Brother Charles Lindbergh







December is Installations for 2024 & is the 50 year Anniversary of Sandoval Lodge No. 76

OES meets on 1st & 3rd Wednesday

SATURDAY APRIL 22ND, 2023

BRING THE HEAT!

COOK-OFF

You're invited to come out and judge some of the best chili around! Cast your vote in 3 different categories:

BLUE RIBBON 1ST PLACE * BEST FLAVOR * KID'S CHOICE

TICKETS WILL BE SOLD IN ADVANCE AND AT THE DOOR \$10 FOR AGES 11 & UP \$5 FOR KIDS 6-10 (KIDS 5 AND UNDER EAT FOR FREE)

Included with your ticket purchase: 3 tickets to sample and vote on 10 different kinds of chili Side Fixins' and salad, drinks, and crackers.

There will also be a Scrumptious Dessert Auction! Proceeds benefit the girls of Job's Daughters International Bethel 4

Sandoval Lodge No. 76 1420 Barbara Loop Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124







March 16, 17, & 18, 2023

FARMINGTON CIVIC CENTER 200 W Arrington St, Farmington, NM 87401

For more information or to register please visit

https://nmmasons.org



Welcome To The New Year

Hello Brethren,

I hope everyone is enjoying this year and our agenda of events. This year so far has been very active. From the beginning we have had prominent names in Freemasonry visit our lodge, we have had two Entered Apprentices degrees, we have a new car port, have raised over \$3,000 from a raffle our lodge held in February, we have had wonderful Brotherhood nights at Dions and at Steel Bender Brewhouse and very active practice days. We've also fixed many issues that may have been overlooked and have the lodge on a good track. It is amazing to see the lodge so active and progressing forward in a very positive way.



All transitions can be or are rough at the beginning and I thank

everyone for their patience in me, in the lodge and with each other. We all have so many differences from the way we work, talk and even our beliefs but at the end of the day we all do our best work and best agree to keep harmony and make the lodge, ourselves and our community a better place. I'd like to thank everyone for their hard work as we all have been putting in equal efforts in different areas of the lodge and its events and functions. It's humbling to serve this lodge as master for 2023 and I am privileged to have been voted in as Worshipful Master of Sandoval Lodge No. 76.

Let's keep up the work and in our next endeavors let's get into our community and find some charitable organizations to help support. If I were to say we are lacking at anything this year I think it is in outreach in the community and acting out charity in our great and progressive city we call Rio Rancho.

I hope to see more Brethren in lodge as the year progresses and please invite friends and family and more especially invite Brethren from other lodges and encourage them to come down and experience our lodge and our events tell them when we meet and let's get more interactive with them and the youth groups.

Till the next newsletter have fun, be safe and enjoy your journey.

- Bro. Tyler McKenzie WM 2023
- Sandoval Lodge No.76

From the West

Greetings from the West!

Brethren of Sandoval Lodge, thank you! Thank you for all of the time, work, and most importantly patience that you have given to your Lodge as we get the machine rolling for this year. There were a few challenges that our Worshipful Master and some Brethren had to tackle but thankfully those challenges have been met and we are better off for it. The Spring brings a changing of the seasons and a changing of the guard for our Grand Lodge here in New Mexico. As such the Grand Lodge



annual communication is taking place in Farmington, New Mexico on March 16, 17, 18. Hope to see you all there as we welcome our incoming Grand Master of Masons, RWB Thomas Schenk to that honored position. Also there might be a few of your own Sandoval Lodge No. 76 members being honored with Grand Lodge officer positions that weekend so stay tuned...



A big thank you to WB Larry Mikkelsen Jr., WB Dave Bachman, Bro. Roger, and especially Bro. Bill Whelchel for taking on the task of replacing the building's

front portico. These men of the building committee not only planned and organized but did the leg work of tearing down the old portico, and then using their wisdom and resources, were able to get the new one rebuilt by a licensed contractor at a great

saving to the Lodge. Just in time for the warm weather and a few



barbecues! I would like to pay wages to our JW Bro. Burx for initiating and facilitating Sandoval's very own Masonic Lunch and Learn. Bro. Burx has taken the leads list given to the Lodges from the Grand Lodge, reached out to the interested candidates, and put on a meet and greet learning

afternoon for those potential candidates. The first one was a success with 12 men interested in Freemasonry showing up to our Lodge to view a presentation on Freemasonry and Sandoval Lodge, and having their questions answered by Most Worshipful Brother Dan Irick. It was a thorough and well put together presentation, and the men

seemed eager and excited about the prospect of becoming Masons at Sandoval. I am excited to see how we grow with this continued effort.



A big shout out to our Worshipful Master for implementing and carrying out our Brotherhood Nights. This is something we have spoken about and wanted to pursue for a while, and it's exciting to see it happening! What a great way to get to know each other outside of the Lodge and

introduce new candidates to the brotherhood and fellowship we all so covet. It is an honor to be a part of this great Lodge with these amazing Brethren! If you haven't visited the Lodge in a while, come out and see the work we are doing to carry on the tradition of Sandoval Lodge No. 76 here in Rio Rancho.

Fraternally,

Bro. Davin Teague SW





Greetings Brethren!



As your Junior Warden, it's been my pleasure to come up with different ideas to keep our Festive Boards new and exciting every month with a variation of menu items, so there's no meals alike. Much of this has been experimental, as was with the St. John's Day feast, or even the Louisiana Boil, that sprung about due to February being the month of Mardi Gras.

You will notice a few differences with these Festive Boards as much of this has been what I've done through experience. With being elected JW of Sandoval Lodge for A.L. 6023, this is now the FOURTH time I've been elected as JW of a Lodge, in my 10 years of being a Mason. It's been interesting how I've been able to come up with preparing for 20-25, while I don't cook at home. I'm Mr. Microwave or restaurants when it comes to my own daily sustenance.

A few differences you have seen are the following:

1. I've rearranged the tables and chairs for the Festive Boards for

2 reasons. One, that this design has been the design that's been inculcated with the original idea of the Festive Board as a place where Masons would get together for socializing, sharing in fellowship, feasting, and Masonic Education. Two - I've found that this design has helped to make sure we don't have visitors or Brethren sitting by their lonesomes... this makes it for a more interactive, engaging experience.

2. **Music by Brother Wolfgang Amadeus** Mozart **playing in the background.** I know the social hall gets a nice hum when it's filled with everyone sitting down, and eating / talking ...but if you were to close your eyes and listen - you'd hear various pieces Mozart wrote specifically for Freemasonry, to include the Magic Flute.

3. Burning candles on the tables. Like seeing burning tapers in the Lodge room versus lightbulbs, this adds a bit of ambience to any setting.

4. Birthday Cake in honor of the births and Masonic Raisings of celebrants for the month. This birthday cake celebration is held the first dinner of the month, and serves as the dessert for the Festive Board. I have a flatscreen TV showing who we're celebrating for the month as well, displayed.



5. There are costs associated with the Festive Board... and to help make sure the Lodge doesn't

go completely into the red with this, I've posted a sign of \$10 for the Festive Board. As a result - I've seen more funds being taken in as a result, and while I tried incorporating an I.O.U. sheet for those who forgot their funds, I no longer use that - but add it to the sign anyway, as a reminder that if you forgot to bring cash to the Festive Board - you can always bring it in next time.

6. Meals **at ritual practices**. I've now supplying our Ritual Practices at the Lodge with chips, sodas, and sandwiches, so one doesn't have to show up late to a practice night due to having to stop elsewhere for dinner.

I end up being at the Lodge around 3:30pm to prepare for these Festive Boards. Not only does the food need to be prepared and set up - but I also rearrange the Tables and such beforehand. I also take the time to clean both bathrooms, and the social hall floor with sweeping or mopping up anything that fell on it previously so attendees can enter the Festive Board in a clean environment. In addition - being the first one into the Lodge building - I make sure if the Lodge floor isn't vacuumed it gets done.

As you can see - having a first in, last out mentality as the Junior Warden means it is a longer night, as our Stated Communications are special evenings, and providing sustenance for Brethren and guests is paramount. As any Junior Warden who has served before me can tell you, it's no easy task, and a position one will have to seriously contemplate doing if they seek the office of JW. Not only is it going to be an investment of time, but upfront monies as well - although costs are reimbursed. Something to seriously consider should you aspire to the officer line.

Last, but certainly not least - much of this would not be possible without the aide and support of our 2 very enthusiastic & dependable Stewards, **JS John Keel**, and **SS** Bill **Whelchel**. I've never had such support of Stewards as a JW, something I'm extremely grateful for. One can witness our Stewards getting their suits messed up while washing dishes at the end of the night, or getting dirty while serving the dishes. Any Junior Warden can only hope to have such excellent Stewards working to serve our Brethren better.



One other duty of the Junior Warden is to make sure Brethren don't convert the means of refreshment into that of intemperance or excess... I guess I can thank not serving alcoholic beverages as a factor. It's interesting how that bit needed to get added to the job duty of the JWV, seems that things were much different back in the good old days!

Serving You Sincerely & Fraternally,

Burx Norrod, JW

Sandoval Lodge No. 76

As Worshipful Master for 2023

WB. Tyler McKenzie Reflecting on the installing speech on December 10th, 2022

I'd like to start with a quote by Mel Brooks 1969, and he said "when you don't know what to say just speak from the heart and mine is saying, ba bump ba bump ba bump..."

But seriously...

As we all may know we have a mission in Masonry and in our lodge. I may be wrong but it's to spread the cement of Brotherly love and affection as well as give charity to those who may need it in so far as we are able to give it. So let's make that mission happen. This year I want to focus on the youth groups,



appendant bodies and try to be a more part of the family we call Freemasonry in a bigger way than I and my lodges have before. I also want to focus on cementing new relationships and to establish great ways to constantly bring in a more secure way for our lodge to raise money for the Masonic School for Children with Learning Disabilities (MSCLD) and for the other various charities we are a part of in our lodge. My motto for the year is Fair Enough as a good friend of mine Gabriel Saenz for many years used to say this a lot no matter if he agreed with you or not. It was his way to stay level with anyone and he taught me what true brotherhood and dedication was and is. I am sad he is not here right now but I know he is looking down on me proud I have found a Brotherhood that can fill that void in my heart. I wanted to go with a theme so Bro. Harry Houdini had come to mind and also the 1920's stuck out to me as a good theme as 100 years ago Brother Harry Houdini was made a Master Mason. Brother Harry was always trying to escape impossible odds in tough moments and he never let those moments get the best of him and he always found a way out and to overcome obstacles. I hope to be as patient and calm as he was during those trying times.

I do not look at this year as my year as many will say it is or see it as. This year is our year and your year as every year is. It's not the Master or the Secretary or any Brother in particular that keeps the lodge running or keeps us all interested and I think we have forgotten this and we have left it to the Masters and officers to do this and forgot it is on all of us to do our part and make it fun and exciting interesting and engaging. We have put up too many walls and I say let's break them down like the Berlin Wall. We need freedom and space for us all to grow as individuals and a fraternity. We live in a day where people need explanation and transparency. We need to be uncomfortable as that teaches us how to grow and others how to accept us as humans and not monsters. On social media I have seen and experienced how the world views us (and it's very disgusting) with that being said I have done a lot to preserve our integrity and share the light of what Freemasonry really is. But I cannot take sole credit for this as many more are doing like me all over the world and it's making a huge positive impact. The main thing I hear from Brethren around the world is 'I feel more at home and comfortable to grow with the Brethren online than we do in our own lodges.' This has been said so many times as we have realized we are all active members and new age in our ideas to help the fraternity grow and we all are having the same setbacks as each other from the older generations which is pushing us away rather than building us up. This hit me hard. Cause I feel the same way a lot of the time. We need to bring this type of engagement into our lodges and make it home and comfortable for our older Brethren and the newer generations coming in. If we do not get out in the world and talk about Masonry, even when it's uncomfortable we will lose more generations. I think we

have missed enough generations. I hear it non stop online "I didn't know you existed," or "I didn't know to be interested," or "my grandfather, uncle or father was a Mason but they never said anything about it." Hearing comments like these made me realize the actions freemasonry has taken, or the lack thereof is what's hurting our fraternity and low membership numbers is the side effect. This has caused freemasonry to be held back in time so to speak and falling out of tune with the youth of our society. Let's re-engage them.

When I got into freemasonry not even voted on yet but left the lodge after dropping off my petition; I told my wife while driving home that I wanted to make waves in freemasonry as all I heard and all I know from meeting and talking with Brethren is that I knew I could bring to the table something to help them grow in a positive way and in a way they never saw coming or knew could exist. I wanted to rock that boat so I can help build the next generation of Masons for our next century and beyond. So many issues with why the numbers are down. And only my generation and all after me can answer this, why, and how we can rebuild the numbers and keep them. This is what I mean by making waves if anyone wanted to know. Also I told her that my dedication and time spent in Masonry would reflect a bright light of progression through me and all that I do and through the people I meet as I will strive everyday to do just that.

So I would like to start off this year by showing how much I appreciate Freemasonry and our family and tell you where my journey started and that was with my wife's and I's friends and family taking it hard that my wife and I were disabled by a drunk driver back in 2013. Many in our lives saw us as an inconvenience as we were not as capable as we were before the collision. But the first thing I was asked by WB Norm Quillin, RW James Overfelt, WB Leon Alderette and a few others when I first walked in the doors of Mesa Lodge No 68 was what can you do & what can you give to Freemasonry & your community; what can masonry do for you and give to you? For the first time in almost 2 years I was able to think about what I could do, not what I couldn't do. Such simple words to many but to me it was the light I needed. My wife and I have accomplished a lot since then and are proud of where we stand today. But this would seriously have never been done without the love, inspiration and support of you all. Example WB Norm took me under his wing as he was great friends with my Grandfather when he was alive. He went everywhere I went. He told me if he knew I'd be there he would follow. And he did oh he did. I wish he could be standing off to the side when I get to say good evening Brethren and we all would hear his famous Howdy. He will be greatly missed. MW Adam was not MW yet. But at that time he gave me the most valuable information I could have received. To listen and learn. To read the Prerogatives, Landmarks, constitution, bylaws, rules and regulations of my lodge and the MWGLONM. Which was so important to me so I knew what I could and could not do and also what I was fully being a part of. WB Leon who also was not WB yet but he stuck by my side when I was at my lowest and highest points in my life as a Mason. Even when I felt poor and destitute in my heart he was there to help guide me and teach me. He also gave me my first chance at ritual and at an officer position as his Chaplain and this is why I asked for him to be the Chaplain this year for me to keep him close at my side. And last but not least in any way RW James Overfelt who taught me to look someone in the eye and as well to respect myself and hold myself to the honor of the man I know I am and can become. You don't know it but you were my biggest inspiration and the one who gave me my WL apron. This presentation stuck with me all throughout my Masonic Journey and it is the key moment when I knew this is where I wanted to be in my life and really honestly felt proud of it. I couldn't look into the eyes of anyone after the collision I was involved in. Because I went over to help the drunk drivers and they both were very badly injured so much they were not living. And my mind had a hard time comprehending what I saw. But after the apron lecture and having to look into your eyes showed me I could power through these obstacles I thought I couldn't overcome before. I still suffer from this but it's easier with great people like you all and thank you to the three of you and so many more for all your

support and guidance. With great friends and family surrounding us that we would never replace for anything. The times I wanted to give up and didn't think I could surpass a dark moment to all the smiles and great times I couldn't walk away and I wouldn't trade these moments for anything. I got back into making music and even making content to entertain the world with just fun content as well as Masonic education and entertainment. All I want to do is good and help everyone. You all showed me I still had a purpose I thought I lost when I was broken. I owe my gratitude and respect to the fraternity and everyone here and even many that couldn't make it today. For all the love and support through all my endeavors thank you all.

A man either gets into a position of power and becomes a humble man wise with patience and time well spent or he becomes more of a fool and will lose focus of his and the main goal to better us all. A good leader should be ready to listen to criticism and conform to make all the better and I am willing to do what I can to please the lodge and make Masonry better in all the ways I can with all your direction and help.

This year is detailed out but has room for more fun events or tasks. Please inform me of fun events with any Masonic bodies or and other organizations we can help or have a blast with this year. I also want to be as active as we can as a lodge with Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, DeMolay, Order of the Eastern Star and any other body that asks for our participation or just show up to help and support randomly as I know they'd appreciate that. So even if we are not invited and you know of a fun and or charitable event please let me know so we can possibly participate. Please take a look at the agenda and I hope we have a wonderful and progressive year bonding and growing.

Do I deserve to be up here? In my opinion no. Does anyone? I don't know. But it's not for one man or Mason to decide and since it's up to the lodge and their vote well here I stand a just and upright Mason and Master of Sandoval Lodge No. 76. Mainly because my wife has always been there to support me through my journey, a major driving force to better myself as a man, husband and Mason. She believes in me even when I do not. Because of her love and support I could never find the words to thank her enough for her dedication towards me, our relationship, growth as a couple and her dedication towards Jobs Daughters, the other appendant bodies and towards Freemasonry in general. So above all I thank you for everything you do.

Thank you to everyone for showing up to the meet up and to the installation. Couldn't have done this without everyone's help and participation. And more especially we need to thank those in our lives we may forget to give thanks to. Our family and friends.

Thank you to the installing team: MWB Adam Hathaway as the Installing Master WB Leon Alderette as the Installing Chaplain RWB James Overfelt as the installing Marshal

Most of all though I have to thank the Grand Architect of the Universe. As we all great and small will have to humbly bow to.

Remember that in your darkest hour you can still be a lighthouse in someone else's darkest year. Life never gives you more than you can handle, you just have to look for those handles and once you find them grab on, hold on tight as life is like a roller coaster and it sure will get bumpy. Last but not least remember also that life never promises you tomorrow let alone the next minute, so if I don't see you all again then good afternoon, good evening and good night. Be safe, be loving and remember to meet everyone on the level.

As I started this with a quote I'd like to end this with a quote: "Take chances, make mistakes, get messy!" - Miss Frizzle from Magic School Bus.



Masonic History - Bro. Thurgood Marshall

Bro. Thurgood Marshall was a member of Coal Creek Lodge No. 88 of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. He helped lead the path for equal rights through several highly notable legal cases in which he won. One of those cases being Lessy v. Ferguson which stated that the University of Maryland Law School didn't have an equal but separate school that African Americans could attend, therefore had to allow African Americans to attend said University. He was one of the founders of NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. In 1961, Bro. Marshall was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit by President John F. Kennedy. In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed him to be the United States Solicitor General, up to this point, the highest position held by an African-American in Government. Born July 2, 1908 - Died January 24, 1993



Masonic Lunch & Learn at Sandoval Lodge

In the last 2 years - there have been 585 inquiries into the Grand Lodge of New Mexico for more information on Freemasonry. Although I've been calling, emailing, and texting the recent inquiries, I figure I'd put out a mass email to all these inquiries to get all together at one location if they were so interested to have an in-person discussion via a Masonic Lunch & Learn held at Sandoval Lodge itself.



After getting a handful of rejected emails and "take me off your list" from the impatient souls, I ultimately got 23 who put in their RSVPs. Being familiar with facilitating lunch & learns with my usual vocation - I anticipated maybe half to show up. Sure enough - 12 showed up to attend this event that lasted for 2 hours, attended by MW Dan Irick, SW Davin Teague, and yours truly. We covered an introduction into what Freemasonry is, what it's not, as well as the Sandoval Lodge difference. The presentation was well received, with numerous questions and answers along the way - with MW Dan and Bro. Davin giving their \$0.02 into all of it. It cumulated with a tour of the Lodge room itself by MW Dan, such a knowledgeable brother - led credibility to the presentation, and I ended up learning a ton myself!



At the end of the presentation - 2 of these men asked for a petition, although they were told to await a time with patience, and invited them all to the dinner that happened the next day. Four of these men showed up - got to meet several brethren, and while Lodge started, were entertained by MW Dan in the social hall.

Of course - many who didn't show up after RSVPing apologized, saying they couldn't make this one, but to keep them in the loop

for the next Lunch & Learn. As such - this is an event that I'll facilitate once a month - being typically the Sunday before the 1st Stated Meeting of the month, unless another personal event or otherwise pops up.

The next Masonic Lunch & Learn is scheduled for March 12 from 12pm - 2pm. Should you have a friend, co-worker, or otherwise that may be interested in seeing what Freemasonry is, please have them send their RSVP to me at BurxNorrod@gmail.com

With all these men of interest knocking on our doors - this will call for more Masonic Mentors, Candidate Investigations, and Ritualists to help ensure we can meet the demands of the Degrees coming up the in year ahead. We need YOU to help participate - please let me know how you'd like to help, or what Lecture you'd like to start working on learning. As it is - the same brethren are volunteering to be mentors, candidate investigators, and ritualists ... would like to see more of a mix of brethren participating, to ensure efficiency.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

Burx Norrod, Junior Warden

The Beauty Of Spring

https://biggeekdad.com/2013/04/the-beauty-of-spring/

The beauty of spring showcased in this wonderful HD Video featuring flowers and butterflies. Filmed in North Carolina at Duke University Gardens and All-A-Flutter Butterfly Farm. The beauty of spring showcased in this wonderful HD Video featuring flowers and butterflies. You might also enjoy another beautiful flower timelapse called The Life of Flowers.

Lodge Visits in and out of the Lodge



<u>Visit to Mesa Lodge No. 68. WB Bob</u> <u>Gave a presentation on HAM Radio</u>



A visit from WB Jon Ruark from "THE MASONIC ROUNDTABLE" Podcast



NM Demolay serving dinner and visiting our lodge.





