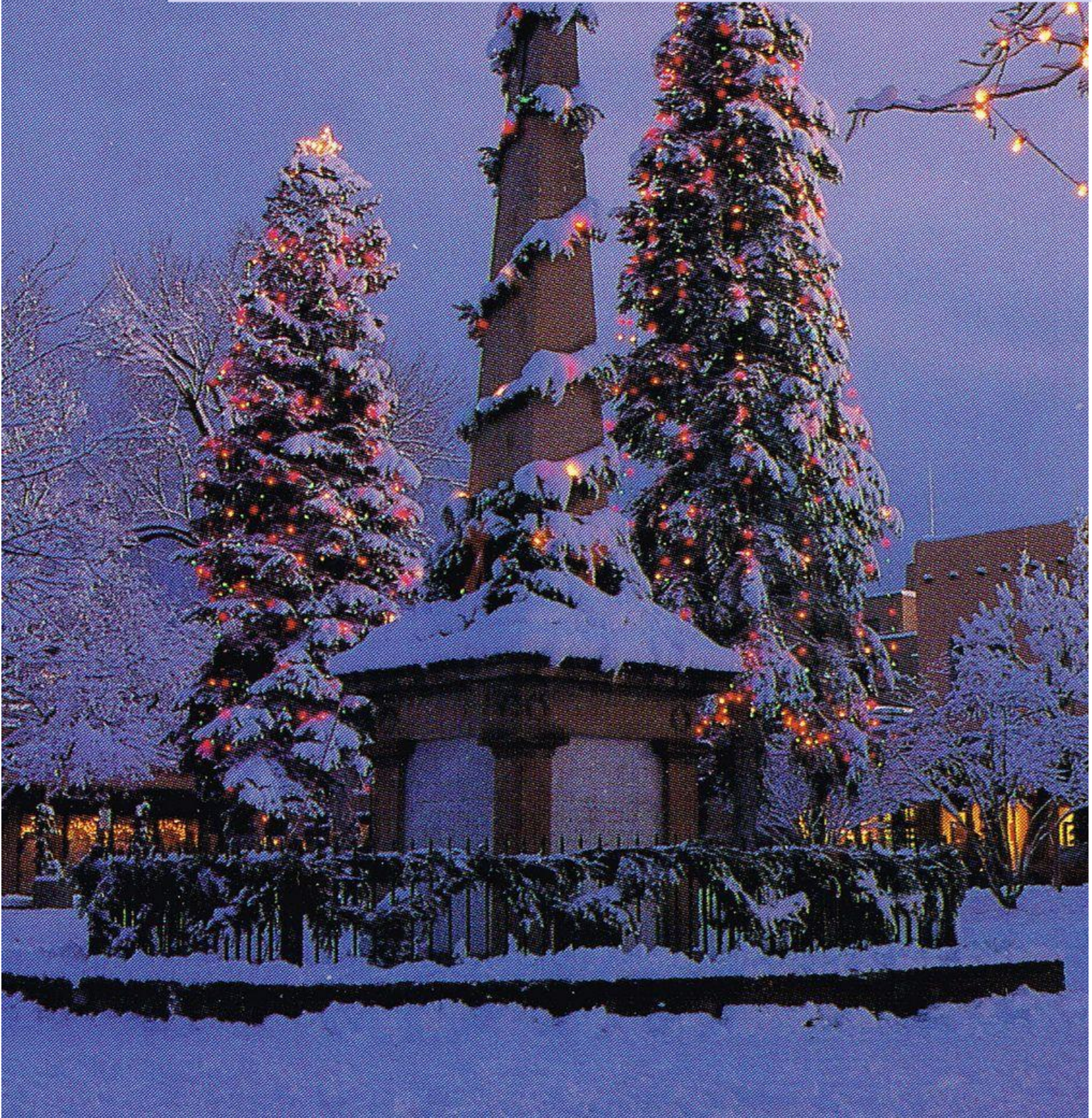




The Trestleboard

Newsletter Issue No.9 November/December 2022



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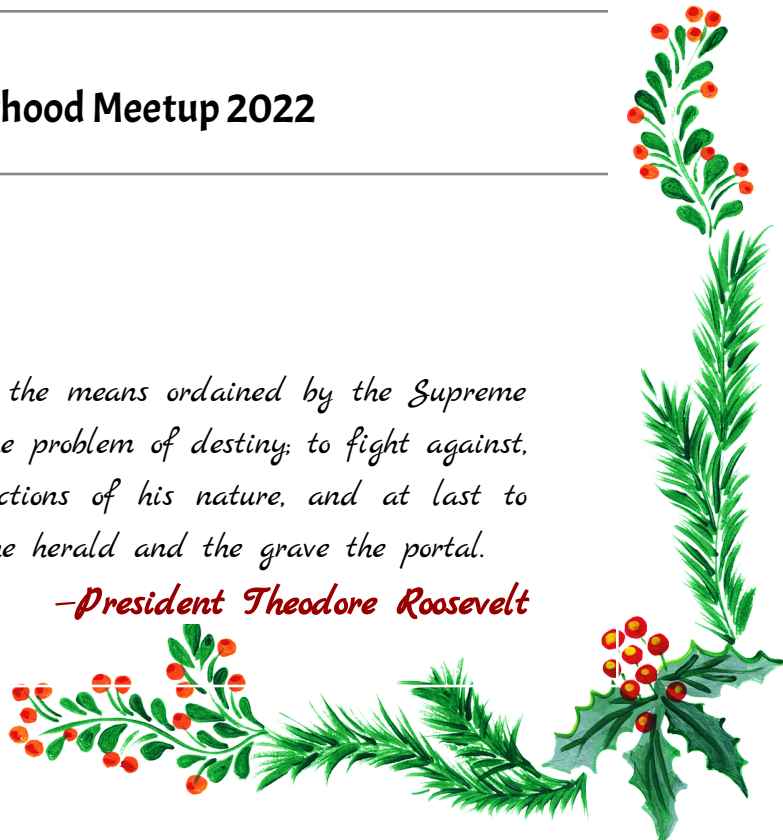
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I regard the Masonic institution as one of the means ordained by the Supreme Architect to enable mankind to work out the problem of destiny; to fight against, and overcome, the weaknesses and imperfections of his nature, and at last to attain to that true life of which death is the herald and the grave the portal.

—President Theodore Roosevelt



Thank You for a Great Year

Brethren of Sandoval Lodge #76,

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve as your Worshipful Master of this Lodge for the year 2022 and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me the opportunity to serve you all.

Coming into my year in the East in 2022 there were things I wanted to accomplish. And the vision of which I had really seemed logistically possible, but boy was I under prepared for how the internal workings of the lodge were set up. It became immediately apparent to me that for us to move forward in the future there were a few housekeeping items which needed to be addressed. Amidst the many discussions with various officers and with sage and generous advice provided by the alumni of Past Worshipful Masters. I knew what I needed to do.

After extensive reviews of any Lodge records and compilation of information, it was apparent that how things were set up was not a strong and productive system. This is not to say anybody was doing anything intentionally wrong mind you, but more to say over time shortcuts caught up with us, and perhaps unperceived.. began to deteriorate the integrity of the foundation of which our Lodge should stand on.

It was amazing to me to hear from people of which I had no idea even thought about Sandoval Lodge, had opinions of the product we were producing fundamentally. Yes they would complement on the Great Brotherhood, strong activities and strength of influence we provided to the community at large. But when it came to opinions of efficiency of Lodge workings I am sad to say we were underwhelming.

I set out to try to address this. In doing so it was required to move forward in a manner which I believed to be the right one. Taking all things into account of duties required in each of our positions and what changes I felt needed to be implemented, I requested a few of the officers and elected brethren to change many things. Not all Brethren felt I was doing the right thing and made personal decisions on how they elected to proceed. And for this I completely respect their right and thank them for not making a big issue but rather let me try what I felt was proper.

I feel we made great strides in our efforts. Yet I know it is not fixed by any means. But, by getting back to the basics and reading the requirements of the positions. Taking it upon ourselves to do what is asked of us to the best of our abilities and evaluating internally how it can be done better, to strengthen the Lodge (and each other) as to how we progress into the future. By following the steps for which those after us should be able to follow with pride and confidence knowing it is a proper and productively prudent manner in doing so. We can strengthen our Lodge as one which could potentially be mentioned as the example of which others wish to emulate.

As I went through the Grand Lodge records of Sandoval Lodge and seeing how many Brethren were in the rears on their Dues or suspended or quit (Why would they let such a great thing go ?), what are we doing to keep them from wanting to return?. I feel we are not providing enough Masonry Charitable opportunities for them to work and feel satisfied. We get tied up in the business and meetings and not enough of the efforts of involvement from EVERYONE. Lets work on that with Worshipful Master Tyler and support every event from fellowship to charity... BE THE DIFFERENCE

Looking at the list of candidates whom began their journey but failed to progress was very disheartening. (How have we failed them). Although Covid played a part I believe complacency prevailed. I wanted to concentrate on these men who stalled and reengaging with their coaches and doing their required prophecies and moving on to become Master Masons. And we did just that and raised a few Brothers.

My whole masonic journey thus far, I have tried to make it a personal concerted effort to take on mentorship of incoming candidates. (and I have done quite a few in that time) This is something I am proud to do.

I ask each and every one of you to step up and take the opportunity to coach and mentor. It is something that takes a bit of your personal time but in reality it is very rewarding to watch the progression. It seems candidates start to lag and before we know it, they are into it a year already and still not ready to progress. Help them to get through it quickly and efficiently without taking too long to "Do it perfect". We want them to have the pride being a Master Mason as well as to have the ability to do the work as a Master Mason and not spent all their time memorizing that dang cypher. (There is much more memorization to be had yet).

I decided I wanted to try something I thought to be unique in order to achieve this. I had some beautiful coins designed (thank you WB Tyler and Ali) of which as each brother who progresses to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Sandoval Lodge would receive. On the back of each coin there are areas available in which engraving can be done. (Name, dates for EA, FC, MM). It is my intention that once a brother progresses through all these degrees in Sandoval Lodge and only ONCE THEY DELIVER their Master Mason Proficiency we will engrave their information onto the coin with which they can show off and carry with pride anywhere in the world. (If you have a blank coin and have already given your Sandoval Lodge Master Mason Proficiency on record, please see me to exchange it with a coin that is engraved)

Next was Masonic Education. I did not delve into this as much as I had intended (Much to the chagrin of our newly installed Brother JW Burx...but not for his lack of trying). Masonic Education is vital to learning the history of Masonry and to the morals and ideology of which it might provide. There is so much educational material out there and can become quite a rabbit hole if not careful.

In my humble opinion what is presented to the Blue Lodge itself should be focused on the duties of the Masons who are working in the quarries of the blue lodge, and why those duties are important and how they are essential to the foundations of a strong and healthy Lodge. Education which every member can take from to help the hive as a whole.

It is tough enough keeping up with what's going on in Lodge as an EA and FC (and MM for that matter) without clouding up the water with stuff which gets confusing and difficult to follow

There are many resources for which any brother whom wants to research further into their masonic educational interests have available (See Masonic Lodge of Research members). And for those I feel would be an ideal opportunity if we had a specific evening dedicated to Masonic Education only outside of Blue Lodge specific topics of which those interested can scratch their continued Masonic Educational itch.

When I began my year as Worshipful Waster, I implored you all to get involved. Get Involved with your Community (work the food banks, help those in need), with your Family (spending quality time building a loving and nurturing home), with your Church (Building your relationship with your faith), with the activities within your Lodge (Appendant bodies, setting up activities and participating in what others had set up etc...). This is something not just for my year but for life goals as a whole.

I believe we still have a ways to go in the giving of our efforts toward Lodge and others, but we are doing a great job and making huge strides. With the vision of Sandoval Lodge Worshipful Master Tyler McKenzie and his Officers of 2023 and the many brethren who support and do the work of the craft. We have such an amazing opportunity to let the community as a whole know that Sandoval Lodge is here, willing to help those who will let us. We are a valuable asset waiting to be tapped we just need to make sure they know we are here.

Our continued efforts in programs such as the Sunday is Funday, Bikes for Books, Feeding families through The Ronald McDonald House, Scotch and Cigars Night fundraising, Continual Raffles, perhaps putting up an online store to sell Merchandise like we have in the lodge display and beyond, and any other Fundraising ideas for ideas which you believe the community might be interested in participating . These all provide the funds and notoriety to support the growth and strength of our lodge as well as provide the face to face interactions which are essential for the community to know Sandoval Lodge and our outreach endeavors. Once they know who we are and if they are willing to support us then we can support them with fiscal strength to do the good we know we can.

In Closing,

It is with my humble appreciation and utmost respect of which I can not express my gratitude enough to thank each and every one of my Officers and every Brother in Sandoval Lodge, for the professionalism, assistance and diligence and for the support I received during my year as Worshipful Master. I want to wish the Ensuing Worshipful Master Tyler McKenzie and his Line of Officers for 2023 the utmost success in all of this term's endeavors and know that I will, to the best of my abilities, offer any support of which I might be able to provide.

Sincerely & Fraternaly, Thank you,

WB. Larry E. Mikkelsen Jr.

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50 Year Pin Ceremony

50 years a Freemason - WB John Nelson

Just a short few days after the lodge had a 50 year pin ceremony for brother Bob Bryant, our very own WB John Nelson and his lovely wife were passing through town so we asked him to come down to the lodge. WB John had been waiting quite some time for this honor in part due to living out of state and also due to the pandemic.

WB John was also in New Mexico because he was receiving his 50 year card from the Supreme Council Scottish Rite SJD at the Valley of Santa Fe in the capital city. MWB Dan Irick led the

ceremony as we all watched intently at our brother. WB John stood tall and proud throughout and WM Larry passed the pin to WB John's wife to pin on his shirt collar.



50 Year Pin

Ceremony, WB John Nelson in the center holding his award certificate. From Left to Right: WB. Baab F., Bro. Bryan Borowski, Bro. Bill Welchel, WB Dave Backman, Bro. Tyler McKenzie, MWB Dan Irick, WB Richard Cullen, RW James Irick, RWB Steve Bell, Bro. Noel Albin, Bro. Burx Norrod.



Turn of the Century 2022

After a long year of getting back on track after the pandemic, Kingston Lodge No. 16 down in Hillsboro, NM held another turn of the century event. This came as a nice surprise since this event is usually held every 4 years. Grand Master Bill Pogue came down along with Deputy Grand Master Thomas Schenk and Senior Grand Warden Steve Almager.



The morning started with a Lodge of Sorrow in honor of all the brethren of the lodge that have laid down their working tools over the past several years. The lodge members had invited the family of the belated where they sat front and center to catch the full honors of their loved ones. A few tears were shed and several brothers had expressions of reminiscence on their faces.



After the lodge of sorrow closed, there was a brief break where we returned to the rest of the event shortly after. There was discussion on how well everyone has been doing throughout the year in masonry in New Mexico from gaining and retaining new members, to the increase in lodge activity across the state.



The Grand Master was given the honors of selecting the winners of the contests they were holding that day as well as distributing them to the winners. The awards were, "Oldest Master Mason in the Room," "Youngest Master Mason in the Room." Both were based on years as a Master Mason. " Best Mustache," "Best Beard," and "Best Dressed." Everyone had a great time and made plenty of jokes throughout the awards ceremony.



Before the event wrapped up and everyone gathered for lunch, WB. Clayton Kuehn was given a beautiful Pendleton called "The Grateful Nation" blanket in honor of veterans. This was given to him for all the unwavering hard work he has put into Kingston Lodge No.16 over the years.





*Congratulations
Brother Ken Szillis*

Order of the Amaranth Grand Court Installation for New Mexico 2023

A collection of photos from the Grand Court of New Mexico Installation for the Order of Amaranth. Congratulations Grand Worthy Matron Laura Cliff and Grand Worthy Patron Leon Alderette. Below you'll see WB Eric Moses representing DeMolay New Mexico at the opening event.



1st Masonic Brotherhood Meetup 2022



This year, Brother Tyler McKenzie hosted an event that has never been done or seen before in all of Freemasonry called The Masonic Brotherhood Meetup. What is a meet up? You've probably



asked yourself this a time or two but it's what the younger generations call hanging out or a get together. This event was held as a way to commemorate the hard work masons have been doing on various social media platforms online with masonic



education, answering questions live from the public, as well as creating fun and engaging content for younger generations to have a better understanding of what Freemasonry is without misconceptions. The event was also a way to show the masonic family of New



Mexico how to use social media as a tool to connect with the youth, something which has been a growing challenge over the years. The event was such a great success that one person from every appendant body was in attendance including a large crowd from the youth group organizations.





Order of Rainbow for Girls in New Mexico as well as Demolay New Mexico did a performance called "7+7=10" which talked about the virtues of each organization respectively. This performance hasn't been done in over 50 years in the US as well as had never been done in New Mexico before. Following their performance was Job's Daughters of New Mexico Bethel 2 and Bethel 4 with the Senior Princess of Bethel 4 giving an opening about Job's Daughters as an organization and what they do and a performance of the Story of the Robe. This has been the first time in several years that both bethels had a joint public performance with each other and it was quite the reunion.

After the youth groups finished up we all gathered in the dining area for dinner and for the rest of the presentations from all the Appendant Bodies and Affiliated Organizations. Each did an amazing job at summarizing all of what their organization does in about 5 minutes. In a way this was giving them an idea on how fast paced the internet world is and how much information you can pack into such a short time both to inform people as well as leave enough room for the public to want to engage and ask further questions.

To end the night, Writer, Director and Composer Brother Johnny Royal gave an amazing presentation titled "SILENTIUM AUREUM EST (Silence is Golden.)" All that can be said is, if you missed the event you missed out on a great experience and eye opening presentation.

Honorable Brother Johnny is the Senior Warden of his lodge in California. He is also the current Wise Master and Past Commander of Kadosh, the Directors of the Work and Director of Paraphernalia for his Valley in Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction. He is also a member of the invitation only body of the Royal Arch, the Allied Masonic degrees and is a member of the Cryptic Council and Commandery of Knights Templar in the York Rite. Brother Royal is best known for writing and directing the films 33 & Beyond: The Royal Art of Freemasonry and Illuminated: The True Story of the Illuminati, with combined views of over 1 billion streams making these two films the highest watched pieces of content on the subject matter of Freemasonry and the Illuminati in the world.



Note from the Editor:

Hello everyone,

First and foremost I want to thank each and every one of you that have supported this newsletter since its beginning several years ago. Whether it was providing articles and photos to fill the pages or taking the time to read the newsletter and sharing with family and friends, every action has been paramount in keeping the Trestleboard alive and well. I also wanted to thank you for being patient with me as changes had been made such as reformatting the layout in order to be more reader friendly as well as more shareable amongst editors and moving from monthly releases to every other month.

As we move into 2023, one more major change will be under way. I will be transferring the responsibility of editing and preparing the trestleboard for publishing over to one of the masons in the lodge. I will continue to provide photos and content that can be used in the newsletter from time to time as events occur alongside others that provide content for the trestleboard.

I enjoy the participation that I do on the side for Sandoval Lodge as well as other lodges and groups for freemasonry in New Mexico and will continue to do so to the best of my abilities. With this transition, I'll be able to focus on several personal matters that are important to me and want to thank the lodge members for taking on this responsibility on my behalf.

P.S. Please be on the lookout for another Newsletter release around January 1st. This issue will cover the blue lodge installations for 2023 in District 6, Other events that happened in December as well the calendar event for the year of 2023 for Sandoval Lodge No. 76.

Thank you all again for your time and dedication to this newsletter.

- Ali McKenzie

Editor