

SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF&AM

JANUARY

TRESTLEBOARD



A.:L.: 6025

2025 LODGE OFFICERS

MASTER

WM BURX NORROD
BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM
CALL OR TEXT: (208) 571-9705

SENIOR WARDEN

BRO. JOHN WARDEN
K_JOHN87@YAHOO.COM
CALL OR TEXT: (505) 358-6224

JUNIOR WARDEN

RICHARD CULLEN, PM
CULLENRJN@GMAIL.COM
CALL OR TEXT: (505) 553-6666

TREASURER

TIM DONOVAN, RWB
TIM@TAXHELPRR.COM

SECRETARY

EUGENE MORSE, PM
EUGENEMORSE46@GMAIL.COM
CALL OR TEXT: (505) 527-7998



SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76
REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS
2ND & 4TH MONDAY

DINNER: 6:00 PM
\$10 CASH OR \$11 CARD

LODGE OPENS: 7:00 PM

VISITORS: PLEASE RSVP TO:
BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM



2025 LODGE OFFICER INSTALLATION CEREMONY

WE CONCLUDED 2024 ON A HIGH NOTE WITH A FANTASTIC LODGE OFFICER INSTALLATION CEREMONY ON DECEMBER 14TH. THE EVENT WAS WELL-ATTENDED, SHOWCASING THE STRONG SUPPORT AND CAMARADERIE WITHIN OUR LODGE. WE WERE ESPECIALLY HONORED BY THE PRESENCE OF MOST OF THE GRAND LODGE OFFICER LINE, WHO GRACIOUSLY ATTENDED IN SUPPORT OF OUR INSTALLATION.

THE INSTALLING OFFICERS FOR THE EVENT WERE AS FOLLOWS: INSTALLING MASTER, WB LEON ALDERETTE; INSTALLING MARSHAL, WB LARRY MIKKELSEN; INSTALLING CHAPLAIN, RWB DANNY LUCERO; AND INSTALLING MUSICIAN, WB BERT DALTON. THEIR LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION ENSURED THE CEREMONY WAS CONDUCTED WITH DIGNITY AND PRECISION, MAKING THE CEREMONY EVEN MORE MEANINGFUL.

THE INSTALLATION OF MASONIC OFFICERS IS A SIGNIFICANT AND SYMBOLIC CEREMONY, MARKING THE SEAMLESS TRANSITION OF LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE LODGE. IT UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUITY, RESPONSIBILITY, AND THE PASSING OF WISDOM FROM ONE OFFICER TO THE NEXT. THIS RITUAL REFLECTS THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE THE BRETHREN PLACE IN THEIR ELECTED LEADERS, REAFFIRMING OUR DEDICATION TO THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEMASONRY.

WITH THE STRONG SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERS, THE GRAND LODGE OFFICERS, AND THE INSTALLING OFFICERS, WE CELEBRATE NOT ONLY THE INDIVIDUALS STEPPING INTO LEADERSHIP ROLES BUT ALSO THE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF EVERY BROTHER TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HARMONY OF OUR LODGE.

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SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 OFFICERS
2025

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS OF SANDOVAL LODGE FOR 2025! WE ARE EXCITED FOR THE YEAR AHEAD UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION.

PICTURED ARE THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS:

MASTER: BURX NORROD * SENIOR WARDEN: BRO. JOHN KEEL * JUNIOR WARDEN: RICHARD CULLEN, PM
SENIOR DEACON: BRO. BILL WHELCHER * JUNIOR DEACON: BRO. CESARIO ALVILLAR
SENIOR STEWARD: BRO. KIRK BENSON * JUNIOR STEWARD: BRO. BENJAMIN COTE
CHAPLAIN: BRO. LOGAN JEFFERS
MARSHAL: LEON ALDERETTE, PM

NOT PICTURED:

SECRETARY: EUGENE MORSE, PM * TREASURER: TIM DONOVAN, RWB

THANK YOU, BRETHERN, FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO SANDOVAL LODGE AND FOR STEPPING INTO THESE IMPORTANT ROLES. HERE'S TO A SUCCESSFUL AND HARMONIOUS YEAR!

SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF&AM

JANUARY

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**A.:L.:
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FROM THE EAST

BRETHREN AND FRIENDS,

I WANT TO EXPRESS MY HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO THE MEMBERS OF SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 FOR THE HONOR OF BEING ELECTED AND INSTALLED AS MASTER FOR A.:L.: 6025! OUR OFFICER INSTALLATION ON DECEMBER 14TH WAS TRULY UNFORGETTABLE. WE HAD MOST OF THE GRAND OFFICER LINE IN ATTENDANCE AND A POWERHOUSE INSTALLATION TEAM: WB LEON ALDERETTE AS INSTALLING MASTER, WB LARRY MIKKELSEN AS INSTALLING MARSHAL, RWB DANNY LUCERO AS OUR INSTALLING CHAPLAIN, AND WB BERT DALTON AS OUR INSTALLING MUSICIAN. THEIR WORK, ALONG WITH A KNIGHTS TEMPLAR SWORD PRESENTATION, MADE FOR A BEAUTIFUL AND MEANINGFUL CEREMONY.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALICIA MCKENZIE FOR CAPTURING ALL THE WONDERFUL MOMENTS—PHOTOS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AT [FACEBOOK.COM/SANDOVALLODGE76](https://www.facebook.com/SANDOVALLODGE76)

I'D LIKE TO THANK WB DAVIN TEAGUE FOR HIS LEADERSHIP THIS PAST YEAR, WHICH ENSURED A SMOOTH TRANSITION. BEFORE JOINING SANDOVAL LODGE IN 2021, I WAS INITIATED, PASSED, AND RAISED AT HERNDON LODGE No. 264 IN HERNDON, VIRGINIA, BACK IN 2012. AFTER MOVING TO IDAHO IN 2016, I JOINED CAPITAL CITY LODGE No. 93, THEN MOVED TO ALBUQUERQUE IN 2019 AND FOUND MY MASONIC HOME AT SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76. I'VE ALSO BEEN PART OF THE LODGE OF RESEARCH No. 1949 IN VIRGINIA, AS WELL AS A MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH RITE AND THE EL-KORAH SHRINERS IN IDAHO. MY TIME IN THESE VARIOUS MASONIC BODIES HAS SHAPED A WELL-ROUNDED APPROACH TO THE CRAFT, WITH A STRONG FOCUS ON MASONIC EDUCATION AND RITUAL WORK FROM THE VERY START.

MY JOURNEY INTO FREEMASONRY BEGAN OUT OF CURIOSITY, INSPIRED BY THE MANY MASONIC SYMBOLS AROUND THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA. THIS PATH OPENED MY EYES TO ESOTERIC CONCEPTS I NEVER KNEW EXISTED. PRIOR TO THIS, I SERVED IN THE MARINE CORPS AS AN INFANTRYMAN, WHERE PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSIONS WERE NOT EXACTLY IN ABUNDANCE! NOW, I BALANCE MY TIME BETWEEN MY VOCATION AS A MORTGAGE BROKER, PARTICIPATING IN PISTOL (USPSA AND IDPA) AND PRECISION RIFLE MATCHES, AND GUIDING MY 16-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER THROUGH ALL THAT LIFE HAS TO OFFER. ALTHOUGH I'M ORIGINALLY FROM THE ISLAND OF MAUI IN HAWAII, I SPENT THE FIRST SIX YEARS OF MY LIFE IN SALISBURY, RHODESIA, WHILE MY FATHER SERVED IN THE RHODESIAN SPECIAL AIR SERVICE AFTER LEAVING THE MARINE CORPS. MY VARIED BACKGROUND, BOTH GEOGRAPHICALLY AND MASONICALLY, INFORMS THE PERSPECTIVE I BRING TO SANDOVAL LODGE.

THIS YEAR, OUR MAIN FOCUS WILL BE ON MASONIC EDUCATION AND RITUAL WORK. OUR THEME IS "BUILDING THE INNER TEMPLE" FOR THE MASONIC YEAR AHEAD REFLECTS A PROFOUND FOCUS ON SELF-IMPROVEMENT AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH, DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM THE ALLEGORICAL TEACHINGS OF FREEMASONRY. JUST AS OPERATIVE MASONS WORKED TO CONSTRUCT GRAND EDIFICES LIKE KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE, SPECULATIVE MASONS ARE CALLED TO ENGAGE IN THE SYMBOLIC LABOR OF SHAPING THEIR OWN CHARACTER AND MORAL FOUNDATION.

THIS THEME ENCOURAGES EVERY BROTHER TO VIEW HIMSELF AS A LIVING TEMPLE, A WORK IN PROGRESS REQUIRING CARE, DEDICATION, AND CONTINUOUS REFINEMENT. THE TOOLS OF THE CRAFT—THE PLUMB, LEVEL, AND SQUARE—SERVE AS REMINDERS TO ALIGN OUR ACTIONS WITH INTEGRITY, EQUALITY, AND VIRTUE. BUILDING THE INNER TEMPLE EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF INTROSPECTION, CULTIVATING VIRTUES SUCH AS HUMILITY, KINDNESS, AND FORTITUDE, AND STRIVING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BETTERMENT OF ONESELF, THE LODGE, AND THE BROADER COMMUNITY. BY WORKING ON OUR INNER TEMPLES, WE COLLECTIVELY STRENGTHEN THE FOUNDATION OF FREEMASONRY, ENSURING IT REMAINS A BEACON OF LIGHT AND WISDOM FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

SINCERELY & FRATERNALLY,

BURX NORROD
MASTER, SANDOVAL LODGE
A.:L.: 6025

SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF&AM

JANUARY

TRESTLEBOARD



**A.:L.:
6025**

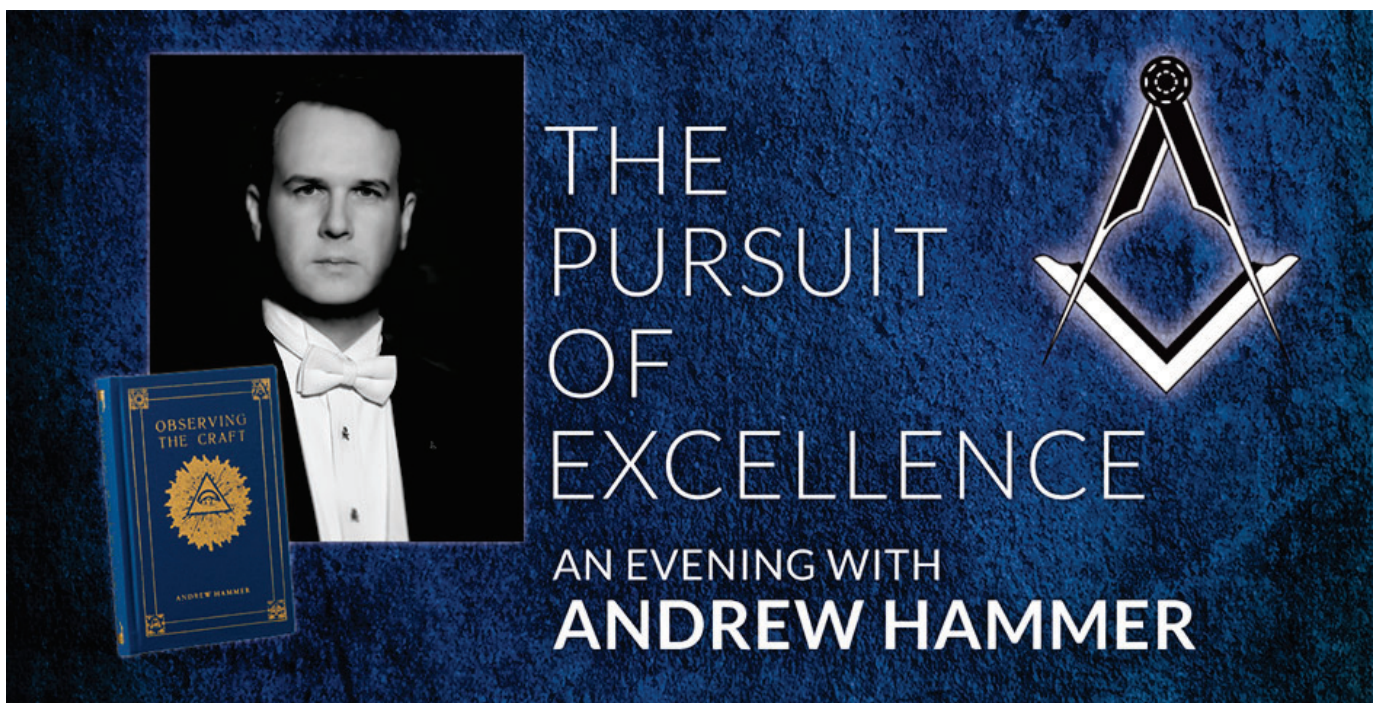
SANDOVAL LODGE WELCOMES INFLUENTIAL MASONIC LEADERS FOR 2025

AS WE EMBARK ON THE MASONIC YEAR 2025, I AM THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THAT SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 WILL HOST SOME OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL AND RESPECTED FIGURES IN FREEMASONRY AS GUEST PRESENTERS AT OUR STATED COMMUNICATIONS. THIS EXCITING INITIATIVE UNDERSCORES OUR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION, GROWTH, AND THE ENRICHMENT OF OUR FRATERNAL JOURNEY.

WE ARE HONORED TO KICK OFF THE YEAR WITH A PRESENTATION BY RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BROTHER ANDREW HAMMER, AUTHOR OF THE RENOWNED BOOK OBSERVING THE CRAFT. HIS WORK HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN GUIDING THOUSANDS OF MASONS AROUND THE WORLD IN PURSUING A DEEPER AND MORE MEANINGFUL MASONIC EXPERIENCE. RWB HAMMER'S INSIGHTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE, TRADITION, AND REVERENCE WITHIN OUR LODGES RESONATE WITH MASONS ACROSS ALL JURISDICTIONS, AND HIS MESSAGE ALIGNS PERFECTLY WITH OUR LODGE'S DEDICATION TO SELF-IMPROVEMENT AND THE CRAFT.

RWB HAMMER WILL DELIVER HIS PRESENTATION VIA ZOOM DURING OUR FIRST STATED COMMUNICATION OF THE YEAR, SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 13TH. THIS EVENT WILL BE OPEN TO MASONS OF ALL DEGREE LEVELS, OFFERING A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY BROTHER TO ENGAGE WITH ONE OF THE LEADING VOICES IN CONTEMPORARY FREEMASONRY. FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN DIVING DEEPER INTO HIS TEACHINGS, YOU CAN GET A COPY OF OBSERVING THE CRAFT BY VISITING WWW.OBSERVINGTHECRAFT.COM.

I INVITE ALL BROTHERS TO JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENING AND TO STAY TUNED FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT FUTURE GUEST SPEAKERS. TOGETHER, LET US MAKE 2025 A YEAR OF INSPIRATION, EDUCATION, AND GROWTH, STRENGTHENING THE BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD AND ADVANCING THE TIMELESS PRINCIPLES OF OUR CRAFT.



THE
PURSUIT
OF
EXCELLENCE

AN EVENING WITH
ANDREW HAMMER

SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF&AM

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SANDOVAL LODGE NOW EQUIPPED WITH INTERNET SERVICE!

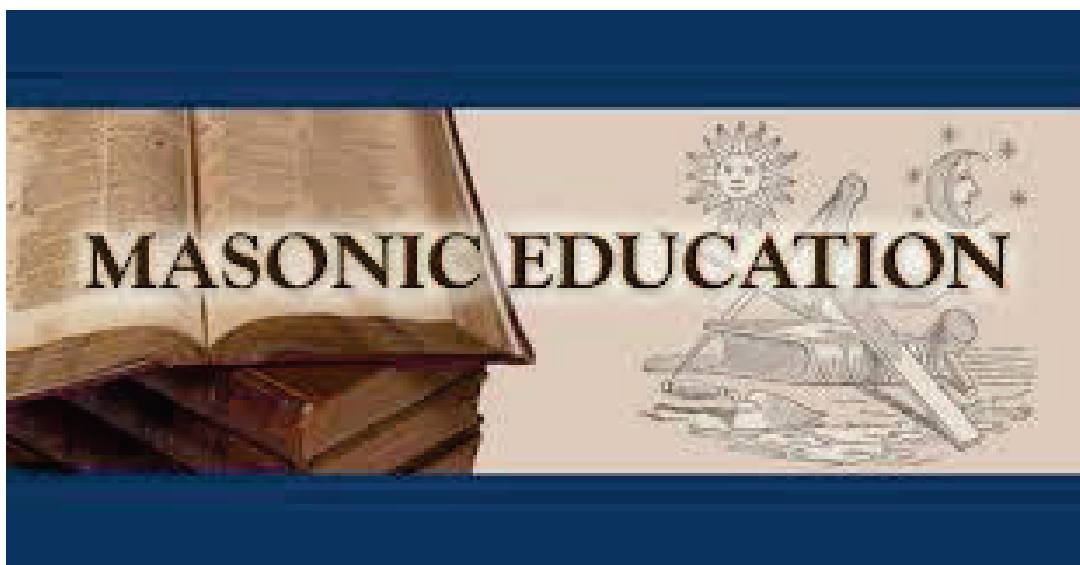
SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE INSTALLATION OF INTERNET SERVICE AT OUR LODGE BUILDING! THIS UPGRADE IS A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN ENHANCING OUR EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS AND EXPANDING THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO BOTH OUR BLUE LODGE AND ANY MASONICALLY ASSOCIATED BODIES MEETING AT OUR FACILITY.

WITH THIS NEW CAPABILITY, WE CAN NOW HOST EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS VIA ZOOM, CONNECTING WITH MASONIC SCHOLARS AND SPEAKERS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE. THIS INVALUABLE TOOL NOT ONLY BROADENS OUR ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE BUT ALSO EMPOWERS OUR OWN MEMBERS TO DELIVER ENGAGING AND INSIGHTFUL PRESENTATIONS WITH EASE. EDUCATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CORNERSTONE OF OUR LODGE'S MISSION, AND THIS ENHANCEMENT ALLOWS US TO FACILITATE MEANINGFUL MONTHLY DISCUSSIONS MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN EVER BEFORE.

WE'RE THRILLED TO LAUNCH THIS INITIATIVE WITH A SPECIAL DISCUSSION ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, AT 4:30 PM, FOCUSED ON THE CHARGE AND OBLIGATION OF AN ENTERED APPRENTICE. THIS SESSION PROMISES TO BE A THOUGHT-PROVOKING EXPLORATION OF THE FOUNDATIONAL TENETS OF MASONRY, OPEN TO ALL BROTHERS WHO WISH TO DEEPEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CRAFT.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HOW THIS NEW RESOURCE WILL ENRICH OUR MEETINGS AND STRENGTHEN OUR COMMITMENT TO MASONIC EDUCATION. STAY TUNED FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT FUTURE PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS, AS WE MAKE 2025 A YEAR OF GROWTH, CONNECTION, AND ENLIGHTENMENT FOR SANDOVAL LODGE.

**FRATERNALLY,
W. B. BURX NORROD
MASTER, SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76**



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SANDOVAL LODGE DECLUTTERING DAY: A FRESH START FOR 2025

ON JANUARY 11, SANDOVAL LODGE KICKED OFF THE NEW YEAR WITH A DECLUTTERING DAY, AN INITIATIVE AIMED AT CREATING A CLEANER, MORE WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL MASONIC BODIES THAT MEET IN OUR LODGE. MEMBERS GATHERED TO ORGANIZE, CLEAN, AND OPTIMIZE OUR SHARED SPACES, ENSURING THEY ARE FUNCTIONAL AND INVITING FOR THE DIVERSE ACTIVITIES THAT TAKE PLACE HERE.

DECLUTTERING GOES BEYOND AESTHETICS. IT REFLECTS OUR COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING A SPACE THAT PROMOTES HARMONY, FOCUS, AND FRATERNITY. BY REMOVING UNNECESSARY CLUTTER AND ORGANIZING OUR MATERIALS, WE DEMONSTRATE OUR RESPECT FOR THE CRAFT AND THE MEMBERS WHO GATHER HERE. A WELL-MAINTAINED LODGE SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT OUR DEDICATION TO THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEMASONRY: ORDER, DISCIPLINE, AND CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

THE TIMING OF THIS EFFORT COULDN'T BE BETTER. WITH OUR KITCHEN RENOVATION NOW 99% COMPLETE, THE LODGE IS MORE PREPARED THAN EVER TO HOST EVENTS, DINNERS, AND GATHERINGS THAT BRING OUR MEMBERS AND VISITING BRETHREN CLOSER TOGETHER. THE UPDATED KITCHEN AND TIDIED SOCIAL HALL SET THE STAGE FOR A YEAR FILLED WITH FELLOWSHIP AND SHARED PURPOSE.

AS WE MOVE FORWARD IN 2025, SANDOVAL LODGE REMAINS COMMITTED TO CREATING A SPACE WHERE MEMBERS AND GUESTS FEEL INSPIRED AND WELCOMED. A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE DECLUTTERING DAY AND TO THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY TO IMPROVE OUR LODGE FACILITIES. TOGETHER, WE'RE BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OUR LODGE AND THE BROADER MASONIC COMMUNITY.



(LEFT TO RIGHT)
BRO. BILL WHELCHER, BRO. KIRK BENSON,
BRO. RODGER KANE, WB RICHARD CULLEN, WM BURX

SPECIAL THANKS TO BRO. BILL WHELCHER, OWNER OF NMLANDSCAPING.COM. WITH THE HELP OF HIS DUMP TRUCK, WE WERE ABLE TO HAUL EVERYTHING AWAY IN JUST ONE DAY, MAKING THE DECLUTTERING EFFORT EFFICIENT AND SUCCESSFUL.

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NEW CHANGES FOR SANDOVAL LODGE STATED COMMUNICATIONS

AS WE STEP INTO THE NEW YEAR, SANDOVAL LODGE IS IMPLEMENTING A COUPLE OF UPDATES TO ENHANCE OUR STATED COMMUNICATIONS AND ENSURE THEY ARE PRODUCTIVE AND ENGAGING FOR ALL MEMBERS.

OPENING ON THE MASTER MASON DEGREE: MOST MEETINGS WILL NOW OPEN ON THE MASTER MASON DEGREE. WHEN APPROPRIATE, WE WILL CALL TO REFRESHMENT TO ALLOW ENTERED APPRENTICES AND FELLOWCRAFTS TO JOIN THE LODGE FOR THE EDUCATIONAL PORTION, PROVIDED THE CONTENT IS SUITABLE FOR ALL DEGREES. THIS CHANGE ENSURES INCLUSIVITY WHILE MAINTAINING THE SANCTITY OF DEGREE-SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS.

STREAMLINED BUSINESS DISCUSSIONS: TO KEEP OUR MEETINGS FOCUSED ON EDUCATION, DEGREE WORK, AND PLANNED BUSINESS MATTERS, ANY MOTIONS OR TOPICS REQUIRING LODGE COLLABORATION OR INPUT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE. PLEASE EMAIL YOUR REQUESTS TO BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM SO THEY CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND INCLUSION IN THE AGENDA.

MONTHLY COMMITTEE AND OFFICER MEETINGS: TO ENSURE OUR STATED COMMUNICATIONS RUN AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE, COMMITTEES, APPENDANT BODY HEADS, AND LODGE OFFICERS WILL MEET AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES AND ALIGN EFFORTS.

SUPPORT FOR ENTERED APPRENTICES AND FELLOWCRAFTS: WHILE THE MASTER MASON DEGREE MEETINGS ARE IN SESSION, ENTERED APPRENTICES AND FELLOWCRAFTS WAITING OUTSIDE THE SOCIAL HALL WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ON THEIR RITUAL PROFICIENCY WITH GUIDANCE FROM THE TYLER. THIS ENSURES THAT ALL MEMBERS ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THEIR MASONIC JOURNEY, EVEN WHEN NOT IN THE MAIN MEETING.

AS WE EMBRACE THESE CHANGES, WE LOOK FORWARD TO A YEAR OF GROWTH, HARMONY, AND MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CRAFT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND DEDICATION TO MAKING SANDOVAL LODGE A BEACON OF EXCELLENCE IN FREEMASONRY.



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JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY PROMISES TO BE A BUSY AND EXCITING MONTH FOR SANDOVAL LODGE, WITH A RANGE OF EVENTS PLANNED TO ENGAGE MEMBERS AND ADVANCE OUR COLLECTIVE GOALS. MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

JANUARY 6: LODGE OFFICER, APPENDANT BODY, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS MONTHLY MEETING – JOIN US ON ZOOM AT 6:00 PM TO COORDINATE AND PLAN FOR THE LODGE’S UPCOMING ACTIVITIES.

JANUARY 11: LODGE DECLUTTERING DAY – STARTING AT 8:00 AM, MEMBERS WILL GATHER TO ORGANIZE AND OPTIMIZE OUR LODGE SPACES.

JANUARY 12: “DEEP DIVE INTO THE CHARGE AND OBLIGATION OF THE ENTERED APPRENTICE” – THIS EDUCATIONAL SESSION WILL RUN FROM 4:30 PM TO 6:00 PM.

JANUARY 12: LODGE OFFICER RITUAL PRACTICE – FOLLOWING THE EDUCATIONAL SESSION, OFFICERS WILL CONVENE FOR RITUAL PRACTICE AT 6:00 PM.

JANUARY 13: 1ST STATED COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MONTH – DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 6:00 PM (\$10 CASH OR \$11 CARD), FOLLOWED BY THE MEETING AT 7:00 PM. DON’T MISS THE SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY RWB ANDREW HAMMER, AUTHOR OF OBSERVING THE CRAFT.

JANUARY 27: 2ND STATED COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MONTH AND MASTER MASON DEGREE – 7:00PM. DINNER AT 6PM.

THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE LIST OF ACTIVITIES AS WE CONSTANTLY ADD RITUAL PRACTICES AND OTHER EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH. WE WILL EMAIL EVENTS AS THEY COME UP. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THESE EVENTS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN MAKING OUR LODGE A VIBRANT AND THRIVING COMMUNITY.

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RECAP: GRANDVIEW TRAINING SESSION ON ZOOM

TO KICK OFF A NEW EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE, SANDOVAL LODGE HELD A TRAINING SESSION ON ZOOM TO HELP MEMBERS BECOME MORE INFORMED ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND EDUCATIONAL TOOLS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW MEXICO. THIS SESSION WAS DESIGNED TO REACH MEMBERS WHO MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND STATED COMMUNICATIONS IN PERSON DUE TO SCHEDULING OR OTHER CONSTRAINTS.

DURING THE TRAINING, ATTENDEES LEARNED HOW TO NAVIGATE THE GRANDVIEW PORTAL, AN ESSENTIAL RESOURCE FOR MASONS IN OUR JURISDICTION. KEY TOPICS INCLUDED:

DOWNLOADING DUES CARDS: MEMBERS WERE SHOWN HOW TO ACCESS AND DOWNLOAD THEIR OFFICIAL DUES CARDS DIRECTLY FROM THE PORTAL.

ACCESSING MASONIC EDUCATION MATERIALS: THE PORTAL OFFERS A WEALTH OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES TO DEEPEN MEMBERS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE CRAFT.

FREE BOOK DISTRIBUTION: EXCITING NEWS WAS SHARED—EACH MEMBER WILL RECEIVE A FREE COPY OF FREEMASONS FOR DUMMIES, COURTESY OF THE NEW MEXICO LODGE OF RESEARCH AND THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW MEXICO.

OWNERSHIP OF GRANDVIEW: MEMBERS WERE INFORMED THAT GRANDVIEW IS NOW OWNED BY FOUR GRAND LODGES, MAKING IT A MASONICALLY-OWNED AND OPERATED PLATFORM RATHER THAN A PUBLICLY OWNED ENTITY.

THIS INAUGURAL SESSION WAS A GREAT SUCCESS, PROVIDING VALUABLE INFORMATION AND TOOLS FOR MEMBERS TO ENHANCE THEIR MASONIC JOURNEY. IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE TRAINING SESSIONS ON ZOOM OR NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS, PLEASE EMAIL BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND GROW TOGETHER AS A LODGE, BOTH IN PERSON AND ONLINE!

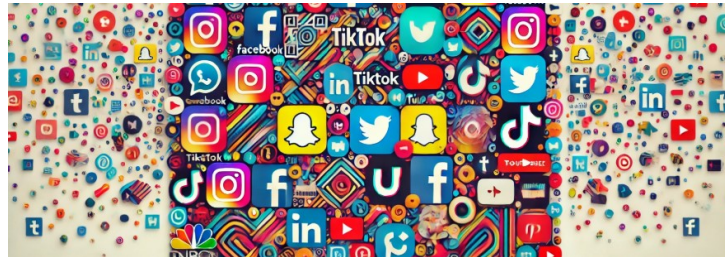
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NAVIGATING SOCIAL MEDIA: A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD FOR MODERN FREEMASONRY

BY BURX NORROD

IN TODAY’S INTERCONNECTED WORLD, SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS PROVIDE AN AVENUE FOR INDIVIDUALS TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS, VOICE OPINIONS, AND EVEN EDUCATE OTHERS. FOR FREEMASONRY, THIS DIGITAL PRESENCE HAS PROVEN TO BE BOTH A BLESSING AND A CHALLENGE.

ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, SOCIAL MEDIA HAS CAPTURED THE INTEREST OF YOUNGER GENERATIONS, SPARKING CURIOSITY ABOUT OUR FRATERNITY AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE REVITALIZATION OF MASONIC MEMBERSHIP IN AN ERA OF DECLINING NUMBERS. EDUCATIONAL CONTENT AND DISCUSSIONS SHARED BY MASONS HAVE INSPIRED MANY TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP OR DEEPEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR CRAFT.

HOWEVER, THIS POWERFUL TOOL ALSO COMES WITH SIGNIFICANT RISKS. IN RECENT YEARS, VARIOUS MASONIC JURISDICTIONS HAVE EXPERIENCED INSTANCES OF MEMBERS FACING DISCIPLINARY ACTION—INCLUDING EXPULSIONS—OVER SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY DEEMED “UNMASONIC.” POSTS OR ENGAGEMENTS THAT VIOLATE MASONIC PRINCIPLES CAN QUICKLY ESCALATE INTO SITUATIONS THAT DAMAGE BOTH INDIVIDUAL REPUTATIONS AND THE BROADER IMAGE OF THE FRATERNITY.

THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW MEXICO HAS RESPONDED BY IMPLEMENTING A SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY, WHICH IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD ON THE GRANDVIEW PLATFORM. THIS DOCUMENT PROVIDES GUIDELINES FOR MASONS ON HOW TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES ONLINE WHILE UPHOLDING THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR ORDER.

IN LIGHT OF A RECENT INCIDENT WHERE ONE OF OUR OWN MEMBERS WAS EXPELLED FOR VIOLATING THESE GUIDELINES, IT IS CRUCIAL FOR ALL BRETHREN TO REVIEW AND UNDERSTAND THIS POLICY. TAKE DUE NOTICE AND GOVERN YOURSELVES ACCORDINGLY. IF YOU ARE ACTIVE ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM, ENSURE YOUR DIGITAL ENGAGEMENTS REFLECT THE BOUNDARIES OF THIS GRAND LODGE POLICY.

SOCIAL MEDIA IS A POWERFUL TOOL, BUT AS WITH ALL TOOLS, IT REQUIRES CAREFUL AND RESPONSIBLE USE. LET US CONTINUE TO BUILD OUR REPUTATION AS MEN OF CHARACTER, BOTH ONLINE AND OFFLINE.

Grand Lodge of New Mexico

Social Media Policy

This policy governs the publication of and commentary on social media by officers, members, and representatives of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico and its constituent lodges and organizations, (hereinafter referred to collectively as "Grand Lodge of New Mexico"). For the purposes of this policy, social media means any facility for online publication and commentary, including without limitation Blogs, wikis, social networking sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Reddit, and YouTube. This policy is in addition to and complements any existing or future policies regarding the use of technology, computers, e-mail and the internet.

Grand Lodge of New Mexico members and representatives are free to publish or comment via social media in accordance with this policy. Grand Lodge of New Mexico members and representatives are subject to this policy to the extent they identify themselves as a member or representative of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, to include incidental mention of membership or relation to Grand Lodge of New Mexico bodies, organizations, lodges, and activities.

Notwithstanding the previous section, this policy applies to all uses of social media, including personal, by Grand Lodge of New Mexico members and representatives, as their relationship with the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, and with Freemasonry in general, would be well known within the community.

Publication and commentary on social media carries similar obligations to any other kind of publication or commentary.

All uses of social media must follow the same ethical standards that Grand Lodge of New Mexico members and representatives must otherwise follow.

Setting-up Social Media

Assistance in setting up social media accounts and their settings can be obtained from the Grand Lodge of New Mexico's technical committee. Any constituent lodge or group shall notify the Grand Lodge of New Mexico's technical committee chair prior to establishing any social media account that is, or may be construed to be,

related to the Grand Lodge of New Mexico or Freemasonry in general. Notification shall include, at a minimum, the proposed social media platform, security posture, and purpose.

Don't Tell Secrets

It's perfectly acceptable to discuss Freemasonry and have a dialog with the community, but it's not okay to publish confidential information, typed information, or personally identifiable information (hereinafter referred to collectively as "confidential information". Confidential information includes things such as unpublished details about our software, financial information, membership, petitions, results of ballots on petitions, information surrounding masonic trials, degree work, any material that is in cipher, and discussions held within the lodge. All posts, comments, and conversations on web-based platforms are subject to the Grand Lodge of New Mexico's constitution, bylaws, resolutions, and edicts. Grand Lodge of New Mexico social media platforms shall not be used to conduct illegal or unethical business or conversations, and any usage to that end shall result in masonic charges and may be referred to law enforcement.

Protect your own privacy

We must respect the privacy of our members, and Freemasonry in New Mexico is subject to particular privacy concerns given the employment nature of many of our members. We must also be mindful of the social status of our organization, relative to prevalent cultural norms. Privacy settings on social media platforms shall be set to meet the purpose of the platform. Public outreach platforms shall be set to publicly viewable, and may choose to allow public commentary; private outreach platforms shall be set to restricted viewing and limited to only members that have been vetted by administrators, public commentary shall be disallowed. Be mindful of posting information that you would not want the public to see, to include commentary on race, religion, politics, or any other topic that is not purely masonic in nature.

Be Honest

Do not post anonymously, using pseudonyms or "handles". We believe in transparency and honesty. Use your real name, be clear who you are, and identify your association or membership with the Grand Lodge of New Mexico. Nothing gains you notice in social media more than honesty- or dishonesty. Do not say anything that is dishonest, untrue, or misleading. If you have a vested interest in

something you are discussing, point it out. But also be smart about protecting yourself and your privacy. What you publish will be retained indefinitely, so consider the content carefully and also be cautious about disclosing personal details.

Respect copyright laws

It is critical that you show proper respect for the laws governing copyright and fair use or fair dealing of copyrighted material owned by others, including the Grand Lodge of New Mexico's copyrights and trademarks. You should never quote more than short excerpts of someone else's work, and always attribute such work to the original author/source. It is good general practice to link to others' work rather than reproduce it. Non-attributed sharing of others' work shall be disallowed on any Grand Lodge of New Mexico social media platform.

Respect your audience, the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, and Freemasonry

The public, the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, and Freemasonry in general, reflect a diverse set of customs, values and points of view. Comments, posts, or statements shall conform to the requirements set forth for conversation in lodge: political, religious, or social commentary is strictly forbidden on Grand Lodge of New Mexico social media. This includes not only the obvious (no ethnic slurs, offensive comments, defamatory comments, personal insults, obscenity, etc.) but also proper consideration of privacy and of topics that may be considered objectionable or inflammatory - your background and opinions are your own, and shall not be presented, implied, or construed as representative of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico or of Freemasonry in general. If a member is associated with, or linked to, Grand Lodge of New Mexico social media, these prohibitions extend to any of their publicly-viewable posts. Members are free to express their opinions on any topic within their private and restricted personal profiles, but shall be cognizant of the ramifications of inflammatory or controversial posts.

Members whose publicly viewable posts are found to be unmasonic, counter to our ethics and standards, or deemed inflammatory or controversial shall be directed to restrict viewing of their posts, and may be directed to remove the post outright.

Repeated offenses, or refusal to restrict private posts may be deemed unmasonic activity and may be subject to charges and masonic trial.

Protect Grand Lodge of New Mexico Masons and Freemasonry

Members should not be cited or obviously referenced without their written approval. Never identify a member by name or image without permission and never discuss confidential information. It is acceptable to discuss general details about activities or de-identified members (e.g. "a mason") so long as the information provided does not violate any part or parts of this agreement and may not be used to easily identify the member (e.g. "a 90-year old mason in Eunice, NM").

Controversial Issues

If you see misrepresentations made about the Grand Lodge of New Mexico or Freemasonry in general in the media, you shall bring it to the attention of the Grand Secretary. Members shall not speak for, on behalf of, in defense of, or in any other manner which may be construed as representing the Grand Lodge of New Mexico when speaking to the media. Questions from the media shall be neither confirmed nor denied, and shall be referred to the Grand Master for response. Members shall not engage in arguments, conversations, "flame wars" or any other conversation surrounding false claims, controversy, conspiracy, or other ill-informed statements about Freemasonry. No member shall allow themselves to be led into argument with those who, through ignorance, may ridicule Freemasonry.

Be the first to respond to your own mistakes

If you make an error, be up front about your mistake and correct it quickly. If you choose to modify an earlier post, make it clear that you have done so. If someone accuses you of posting something improper (such as their copyrighted material or a defamatory comment about them), remove it immediately to lessen the possibility of a legal action. Any accusations shall be reported to the Grand Secretary for review and further action beyond the immediate removal of the offending or questionable post.

Think About Consequences

American Masons tend to be outspoken in their support and membership,

but Freemasonry is not welcome in many parts of the world. Social media allows a global and immediate audience. Remember that when you post a masonic image or statement, it may be visible to those in your social network; and may be a matter of life-and-death for brothers and their families in other countries.

Consider the implications when a member posts a Masonic image in the morning and hate-speech in the afternoon: the member should reflect well on our Masonic values and correct the his errors by the light of truth, but at the very least, no member shall co-mingle Masonic posts and controversial posts in any publicly-viewable forum.

Disclaimers

Members may include a prominent disclaimer stating that they're not speaking officially. This is good practice and is encouraged, but don't count on it to avoid trouble - it does not have much legal effect.

Don't forget your day job.

Members shall not use or support Grand Lodge of New Mexico social media efforts, engagements, or projects while "on the clock" at their job. The Grand Lodge of New Mexico, and Freemasonry in general, recognizes that God, family, and livelihood come before Freemasonry; no member shall be construed as being asked or forced to endanger their employment or personal welfare to support Grand Lodge of New Mexico efforts.

Social Media Tips

The following tips are not mandatory, but will contribute to successful use of socialmedia.

The best way to be interesting, stay out of trouble, and have fun is to write about whatyou know. There is a good chance of being embarrassed by a real expert, or of beingboring if you write about topics you are not knowledgeable about.

Quality matters. Use a spell-checker. If you're not design-oriented, ask someone who iswhether your platform looks acceptable, and take their advice on how to improve it.

The speed of being able to publish your thoughts is both a great feature and a great risk of social media. The time to edit or reflect must be self-imposed. If in doubt over a post,

or if something does not feel right, ask someone else to look at it first. If you are posting in an emotionally -heightened state, save the post outside of the social media platform, sleep on it, and return when you are less agitated. Keep your passions in due bounds with all mankind.

Enforcement

Policy violations shall be subject to investigation and reprimand; and willful violations, continuing violations and particularly grievous violations, as they may run afoul of your obligations, the Grand Lodge Constitution, Codes and Ancient Landmarks, may be referred for masonic charges and trial. As an example, a brother who posts politic ally-tinged content may be warned and reprimanded, but a brother who posts hate-speech may be immediately brought up on masonic charges by his lodge. Take due notice of this policy and govern yourselves accordingly.

Gary J. Baker (72)

Jonathan R. Andrews (6, 72)

William "Bill" Pogue (15, 25)

Thomas L. Schenk (73)

David L. Baker (3, 18)

H. C. Sky Olsen (60)

SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF&AM

JANUARY

TRESTLEBOARD



**A.:L.:
6025**

SANDOVAL LODGE TRESTLEBOARD UPDATE

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS MONTH'S TRESTLEBOARD! OUR GOAL IS TO KEEP YOU INFORMED ABOUT THE LATEST UPDATES, LODGE EVENTS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES HAPPENING AT SANDOVAL LODGE. FOR EVEN MORE REAL-TIME UPDATES, VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AT [FACEBOOK.COM/SANDOVALLODGE76](https://www.facebook.com/SandovalLodge76).

AS A MEMBER OF SANDOVAL LODGE, YOU SHOULD ALSO BE RECEIVING REGULAR EMAIL UPDATES ABOUT OUR EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS. IF YOU'RE NOT RECEIVING THESE EMAILS, PLEASE CONTACT BURX NORROD AT [BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BurxNorrod@gmail.com) TO BE ADDED TO OUR EMAIL LIST.

AT SANDOVAL LODGE, MASONIC EDUCATION IS ONE OF OUR TOP PRIORITIES. IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A TOPIC OR WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT ON A SUBJECT YOURSELF, LET US KNOW! EMAIL [BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BurxNorrod@gmail.com), AND WE'LL WORK TO INCLUDE IT IN OUR EDUCATIONAL CALENDAR.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED DEDICATION TO THE CRAFT, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS AND DISCUSSIONS!

***SINCERELY & FRATEERNALLY,*
BURX NORROD, LODGE MASTER & TRESTLEBOARD EDITOR**

