

# TRESTLEBOARD



## Scottsdale Lodge 43 F&AM

Volume 724 Issue 4

April 2023

### Spring is a Time of Renewal

#### FROM THE EAST

I often try to reflect upon my use of the 24-inch gauge. There is a good reason the first working tool of many Masonic jurisdictions is the 24" gauge. Am I making the best use of my time? Am I prioritizing in the best way my limited moments on this planet? What can I do better? Sure, I can set resolutions, I can say I'm going to do better, and can I initiate some improvements here and there?



Work and private life must necessarily remain separate, but some of the ways I've structured my own 24-inch gauge needs to change, maybe just a tweak here and there. 'Change' is a word that a lot of us dread. But adding one item to my morning routine and holding myself accountable is doable.

My plan is to spend a few months with the 24-inch gauge while bearing in mind the other working tools in life. Was I upright in my decisions on time management? Then I plan to move to the 24-inch gauge and the level, then the square, and so on. How can we as Masons better apply the working tools of our life?

**Fraternally,  
Shawn Hunter,  
Worshipful Master  
F&AM Scottsdale Lodge #43**

*Continued on page 2*

#### FROM THE WEST

##### **Symbolism in the Work of Self-Improvement**

As experienced Masons, we are all well aware of the significance, prevalence, and importance of allegory and symbolism in our Craft. These elements are quite immaculately woven throughout the rituals and teachings of Freemasonry, and are key to understanding and unlocking the deeper meanings of our work.



One way in which allegory and symbolism are used in Masonry is to help us better understand ourselves and our place in the world. One of the most beautiful aspects and values of symbols, as opposed to canonized verbiage is that it allows for those of widely varying states of learning and development to consider a universal theme at the same time, each taking from that theme a facet that is consistent with distinctly differing levels of understanding. Through the use of symbolic imagery and storytelling, we are able to explore complex philosophical concepts and learn how to apply them to our daily lives. For example, the image of the rough ashlar represents the unfinished state of our character, while the perfect ashlar represents an ideal of a more fully developed and enlightened individual, and yet let us not forget that even the Perfect Ashlar is only a stone "made ready...to be adjusted" representative of a new stage of progress, not an end unto itself.

Another important aspect of allegory and symbolism in Masonry is their ability to help us connect with one another and with the wider world around us. By sharing in common symbols and stories, we are able to create a sense of unity and shared purpose, and

*Continued on page 2*

*The West Continued from page 1*

to recognize our shared humanity. This can be particularly powerful in a world that often seems fragmented and disconnected.

At the same time, it is important to recognize that the use of allegory and symbolism in Masonry is not simply about intellectual understanding. Rather, it is about using these tools to engage with our own experiences and emotions, and to cultivate a deeper sense of self-awareness and self-knowledge. By reflecting on the symbolic lessons we learn in Masonry, we gain greater insight into our own strengths and weaknesses, and develop a more nuanced understanding of our place in the world.

Of course, it is also important to recognize that the use of allegory and symbolism in Masonry is not limited to our own personal development. Rather, these tools can also be used to effect positive change in the wider world. For example, Masons have long been involved in philanthropic work, using the symbolic lessons of Masonry to guide their efforts to alleviate suffering and promote social justice.

Earlier I mentioned that symbolism is "...key to understanding and unlocking the deeper meaning of our work." And what is that work? From our own motto - It is the work of producing *better men*. And how do we do this? In an overarching manner, we do so by encouraging, supporting, and even provoking challenging circumstances in one another's lives. As we do this, Mason's are strengthened by the sense of belonging to the larger body of manhood, particularly among a segment of similar high ideals and committed to the embodiment of those ideals, especially amid said challenging circumstances of life. Thusly, as we better support and even contend with one another, maintaining the Principle Tenets - Brotherly Love Relief & Truth and always striving to resolve in Harmony, we thereby create men who are able to fulfill their word, hold true to their character, even when it is most difficult to do so and thus, these men support and enhance the good order of society.

Ultimately, the use of allegory and symbolism in Masonry is a powerful tool for self-improvement and personal development. By engaging with these tools, we are able to explore complex philosophical concepts, connect with one another, and effect positive change in

the world around us. As experienced Masons, we have already seen the profound impact that these tools can have on our lives and on the lives of those around us, and we should continue to use them to further our own personal growth and the growth of our communities.

**Fraternally,**  
**Brother Senior Warden**  
**Michael D. Valecourt**



**CELESTIAL JOURNEY TEAM**

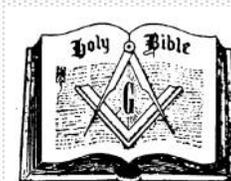
**Roll Of The Workmen - Bro. David L. Knox**

The roll of the workmen has been called, and one Master Mason has not answered to his name. He has laid down the working tools of the Craft and with them he has left that mortal part for which he no longer has use.

His labors here have taught him to divest his heart and conscience of the vices and superfluities of life, thereby fitting his mind as a living stone for that spiritual building – that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Strengthened in his labors here by faith in the Supreme Being, and confident of expectation of immortality, he has sought admission to the Celestial Lodge above.

**David L. Knox** was born on December 1st, 1935 in Dayton, Ohio. He picked up the working tools of Freemasonry when he was Initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason on September 6th, 1978 at Scottsdale Lodge #43 in Scottsdale, Arizona. He was Passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on September 23rd, 1978, and he was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on October 18th, 1978. He was a member of Scottsdale Lodge #43 of Free & Accepted Masons of Arizona, as well as a 33 Degree Scottish Rite Mason, an El Zaribah Shriner, and an Arizona York Rite Mason. Brother Dave gave 44 years of service to the Craft. He laid down the working tools of life on March 19th, 2023 in Scottsdale, Arizona.



**From the South**



As the sun in the south marks the passing of another winter and the arrival of a new season, we are reminded of the cyclical nature of life and the constant changes that come with it. Just as the sun rises and sets each day, so too do we experience ups and downs, challenges and triumphs, and the ebb and flow of our own journey.

In Freemasonry, we are taught to use the lessons of the natural world to guide our own personal growth and development. Just as the sun represents the power and vitality of life, so too do we seek to cultivate our own inner light and strength, and to use it to better ourselves and the world around us.

As we emerge from the darkness of winter and begin to feel the warmth of spring, let us take a moment to reflect on our own journey and the progress we have made. What lessons have we learned along the way? What challenges have we faced, and how have we overcome them? And most importantly, how can we continue to grow and improve as individuals and as a community?

As Freemasons, we are called to be builders, to use the tools of our craft to shape and create a better world. And just as the sun provides us with the energy and inspiration to do so, let us draw upon our own inner light and strength to continue our work, both within ourselves and in service to others.

May this season of renewal and rebirth bring us all closer to our true selves and to the divine light that guides us on our journey. Let us continue to build, to grow, and to shine brightly in all that we do.

Fraternally,

**Fraternally,  
David Earney  
Junior Warden**

***BIKES FOR BOOKS***

**This years winners getting their new bikes from WB Shawn Hunter and Chairman, Brother Wil Wilkins.**



Come Hungry and Enjoy the Fellowship  
**Lodge Fellowship Pancake and Egg Breakfast**  
**April 15th 9-11:30AM**  
**Cost - \$7**



**NEEDED...RETIRED BROTHERS**

We need retired brothers who would be willing to serve on the Celestial Journey Team (Funeral Team). We don't have too many funerals throughout the year normally. Sometimes there is not a lot of notice (a few days) and right now most of our list is comprised of working brothers who can't respond that quickly. Usually, the funerals only take an hour or less. Please consider dedicating your efforts to your departed brothers by serving on the Celestial Journey Team. contact Brother Brian Zeman

**The 2023 Lodge Dues**

If you have not yet submitted yours, it is now past due.

\*If you have a \$\$ problem, call the Secretary  
Please submit payment by check to the Secretary or by credit card via Zelle on the lodge website

Dues are \$196 for 2022.

If paying by credit card, add \$6 so it's \$202.



**Brothers Working With Brothers**

Brothers, If you haven't seen this new Facebook Group to find Masonic Brothers' business and services or just to sell something, look it up and join in. This is also a good place to find help, just ask.



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**Scottsdale #43 Masonic Shirts for Sale**

Contact the Secretary for details and cost.

To place your order call (480) 946-1072.



Remember, while you are at Lodge check out our Masonic jewelry case for various Masonic themed pins, emblems, ties and many other items.

**THE NOTARY**

William F. Wilkins  
 Notary Public - Arizona 707.332.9973  
 wfw1015@gmail.com  
 www.wfwre.com

**Brothers,**

We handle the following legal matters:

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Estate Planning – Trusts, VA Aid and Attendance and Medicare Planning

Did you know that a **Veteran** or a **Surviving Spouse** could qualify for a little known tax free VA pension (Aid and Attendance) benefit of \$2,642 per month for a married veteran, or \$1,432 per month for a surviving spouse? Do to a 3 year look back period, you may need to plan ahead to ensure eligibility for this benefit.

Contact Bro Stephen Wall, Attorney Discounts for Brothers and their Families

Free Consultations

Law Office of Stephen M. Wall  
 480.222.3888



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**Masonic License Plates**

We all have license plates on our vehicles, but do you have a **MASONIC PLATE** on yours? For only \$25 per year ADOT will issue you a Masonic Plate and a portion of that goes to the Arizona Grand Lodge.

**The Minutes have been circulated**



**Editors Comment: Would I be out of order to identify which past masters this might apply to?**

**OES News**

Enjoy this beautiful Spring in Arizona.

Scottsdale Eastern Star will honor Past Matrons and Past Patrons on Monday,

April 10. There will be a dinner at 6:00 pm.

All members are welcome. Meeting at 7:30 pm.

April 24 will be a regular meeting at 7:30 pm.

May 8 will be elections and the last meeting of the current corps of officers at 7:30 pm.

Installation of Officers TBA.

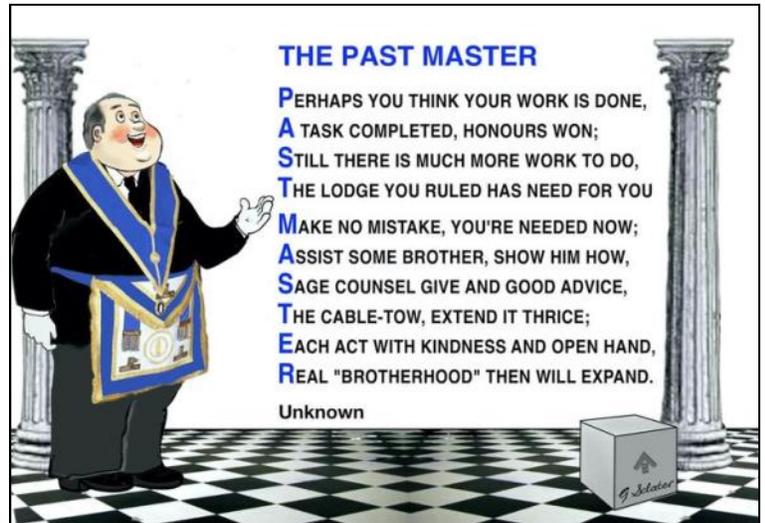


**Diana Hutchinson, Reporter**

**THE PAST MASTER**

PERHAPS YOU THINK YOUR WORK IS DONE,  
**A** TASK COMPLETED, HONOURS WON;  
**S**TILL THERE IS MUCH MORE WORK TO DO,  
 THE LODGE YOU RULED HAS NEED FOR YOU  
**M**AKE NO MISTAKE, YOU'RE NEEDED NOW;  
**A**SSIST SOME BROTHER, SHOW HIM HOW,  
**S**AGE COUNSEL GIVE AND GOOD ADVICE,  
**T**HE CABLE-TOW, EXTEND IT THRICE;  
**E**ACH ACT WITH KINDNESS AND OPEN HAND,  
**R**EAL "BROTHERHOOD" THEN WILL EXPAND.

Unknown



**Masonic Education**

**AGE**

Youth is the gift from nature, but aging is a work of art. A secret of aging well is to carry the spirit of the child, never losing your enthusiasm. Aging should disclose the power of personal growth, and show your own achievements. You can replace the thinking of youth with the wisdom of aging, youthful innocence with understanding, and confusion with purpose and actualization.

Some people, as in wine, improve with age, but some make vinegar. You must not discard what your life so far has provided, so examine your vineyard, look for the grapes of ambition and progress, and make the wine of your years. Be aware of the life of today, suppress the thought of comparisons with previous times. Accomplish much of the modern way, but always harboring the moralities of where you have been, and leaning on the past when called for. Hold dear the remembering of happy moments which will soften some of the difficulties that arrive with the years.

Aging should not be characterized as losing youth, but finding opportunities. Keep the mind as young as you can, and exercise it in the gym of learning. Creativity is the fuel for updating the aging mind. Embrace and hold to the age you have become. Make it the best day so far. Quoting Mark Twain,

" Age is an issue of mind over matter...If you don't mind, it doesn't matter".

**Fraternally,**

**David Woodland, PM**

**Editor's Comment**

**WRITERS NEEDED**

The Trestleboard is a great communication tool for our Lodge. You too can share your ideas, Masonic thoughts or jokes through the Trestleboard. Just submit what you have in writing to the editor for review.

**Fred LaBell**

**Trestleboard Editor**



The Letter G By WB Robert Strader Grand Lodge of Wisconsin

**The Letter 'G'**

The letter 'G' would seem at first glance to be a fairly straight forward subject, but you would be surprised by the amount of papers and research on the topic. We are taught in our Fellowcraft degree that there are two meanings, the first being that it is the initial for Geometry, the first and noblest of the sciences, and a second that it alludes to the sacred name of Deity.

In the mid 1700's, the letter "G" was so closely identified with Fellowcrafts that you find them referred to as letter "G" men. But as you trouble yourself to do further research, you can find that the allusion to deity is a more recent connection.

Even the use of the letter 'G' embedded in the Square & Compasses symbol is more common to the Masons of North America. No one knows exactly when the letter G become part of the Square & Compasses, but many Masonic scholars believe it happened here in the United States somewhere between 1730 and 1768. There is evidence of Paul Revere having cast a brass specimen as early as 1796. This combination is not used in most other jurisdictions around the world. In fact, the interlaced Square & Compasses only surfaced during this same period, and before was most often shown as separate.

The fact that the letter 'G' is aligned to Geometry is disputed by no one and can be traced back to documents as early as 1410 and even to the Regis Poem. Secondary meanings though, have several paths of teachings and historical significance. The first time that the letter "G" was used as anything other than Geometry is in one of the early 18th century English Exposures (Richard), about 1727. The real story about the letter G is not so much where it came from but how it gradually changed its original meaning and how it is that this new meaning has now become the predominant one. Even Mackey, generally considered a conservative, wrote as Grand Master: "It is to be regretted that the letter G as a symbol was ever admitted into the Masonic system", and was inclined to throw the symbol out altogether.

Some believe that Freemasonry became less active in the seventeenth century, as the operative element of the Craft died out, and had fewer lodges in existence, so that Freemasons themselves lost the old explanation of the letter G. They retained the symbol though because it was a part of the system which they inherited. Here's some of the existing theories of the letter "G":

- Gimel (in slightly different forms) being the 3rd letter of many Semitic languages including Phoenician, Greek, Aramaic, Hebrew, and Syriac. The number 3 is special in Masonry as well as in some religions. English, "younger" than the "ancient" languages, like others, had changes from the ancient languages moving the letter "G" from the 3rd position.
- The first letter of the G.A.O.T.U. (Grand Architect of the Universe). In some early works of Masonry, the reference is to the Grand Geometrician of the Universe.
- In early English Masonry, the letter G was taken to denote "glory,



grandeur and geometry", Glory for GOD, Grandeur for the Master of the Lodge, and Geometry for the Brothers. In Ireland the letter "G" represents a word of importance to those who have served as Master of a lodge.

- By the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth centuries in England, the letter G was more commonly taken to have a symbolic meaning of God as compared to Geometry.
- Another proposed hypothesis is based on the fact that three geometrical forms appear in the Greek alphabet, as we have seen; Gamma (G) is a square standing on end, the horizontal arm The Letter G By WB Robert Strader Grand Lodge of Wisconsin extended to the right. Omicron (O) is a circle, Delta (D) is a triangle. Writing one letter on top of another to form a monogram is very old. The three Greek letters may be combined in a monogram to form a very fair representation of our letter "G" inside a triangle which looks not unlike our modern square and compasses!
- It may originally be based on an old Egyptian snake emblem; others hold that it was originally the square made "gallows shape," and that this gradually became corrupted into a "G".

In conclusion, Harry Carr, a modern Masonic scholar, believed there is a tremendous amount of supporting material that the Letter "G" originally meant Geometry and, gradually, when the new Second Degree was established in the eighteenth century and when the needs of the Craft required, "G" also came to represent God, although the original geometrical meaning has never disappeared, at least in our work.

**Discussion Questions**

The following discussion questions are written to be presented immediately following the presentation of the topic above. There is no right or wrong answers to these questions, they are designed to promote thought and engage all the members that are present in conversation.

Take care that the presentation of the topic and the discussion questions does not exceed 30 minutes. The presenter can present any part of the questions below, or any additional questions, he feels is appropriate.

- Is it appropriate for "G" to represent God when in very few modern languages does it start with the Letter "G"?
- With so many theories and no real documented history, did early Speculative Freemasons just need for the Letter "G" to mean something more than Geometry?
- Mackey had strong feelings that the Letter "G" and secondary meanings defocused the craft from roots of Geometry. They were unpopular views at the time. Why do you think he took this position?
- Of the two predominant meanings of the Letter "G" in our ritual, which do you identify with the most, and why?
- How has either meaning helped guide you in your life as a Mason?

- While the reference to the Letter "G" appears in the Fellowcraft degree, there are other references to its meaning throughout our ritual. What are some of them?
- It is easy to understand how the reverence for Deity is important to the lives of Freemasons. How does an improved understanding of Geometry help us to be better men?
- It is not uncommon for symbols to have multiple meaning in Freemasonry. What are some other symbols with multiple meanings?

"The Letter G." WB Robert Strader Grand Lodge of Wisconsin -

**Upcoming Visit back to the Old West**

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SATURDAY APRIL 29

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DOORS OPEN AT 3:00PM

PRESENTATION STARTS AT 4:00PM WITH DINNER TO FOLLOW

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**SCOTTSDALE MASONIC LODGE #43**

*April 2023 Masonic Anniversaries  
Celebrating Another Year in the Light*

Frederick Hilary Goldinov	4/26/1979	Scott Andrew Thomas PGM	4/14/2005	Adam Nelson Dahlberg	4/14/2011
Jerome Maurice Taylor	4/1/1985	Danny Abraham Lazar	4/16/2005	Richard Nicholas Davis	4/14/2011
James William Brown	4/28/1988	John Harlan Reynolds PM	4/28/2005	Carsten Loelke	4/11/2013
Bruce Henry Usher	4/29/1993	Phillip Lee Bartling	4/13/2006	Timothy Brian Curran	4/10/2014
Jonathan Roy Winchester	4/22/1995	Sergey V Sheleg	4/13/2006	Oliver Ndubuisi Ibeh	4/9/2015
Erik James Kilbo	4/4/1998	Jeffery Dwayne Thomas	4/12/2008	Robert Lawrence Swoboda	4/9/2015
Wilhelm Albert Amstutz III	4/18/1998	James Ray Raynovic	4/9/2009	Stephen McCutcheon Wall	4/14/2016
Mark Harold Conner	4/27/2000	James Mikeal Callahan	4/8/2010	Robert Hess	4/21/2016
William Eugene Lamb	4/13/2002	David Aaron Harris	4/8/2010	Herman Perry Ransom	4/13/2017
Steven John Sampson PM	4/10/2003	Robert Russell Beffel PM	4/15/2010	Austin Robert Spalla	4/11/2019
Bradley Lee Minor	4/24/2003	Kyle Andrew Thomas	4/15/2010	Paul David Jump	4/8/2021
Patrick Joseph McGill	4/15/2004	Louay George	4/29/2010	Joshua Daniel Myers	4/28/2022
John Joseph Cummins IV	4/14/2005	Terry Nicholas Highland	4/29/2010		



**Scottsdale #43 Masonic Lodge Building**

**HAVING A SPECIAL EVENT? - WE WELCOME RENTALS**

**The Lodge building is suitable for a variety of occasions**

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**Photos and bldg. diagram on the website: <http://scottsdalelodge43.com/>**

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**Arizona Grand Lodge Website**

In an ongoing effort to keep in touch with the Masons of Arizona, the Social Media Committee of the Grand Lodge of Arizona has launched an online Social Media monthly newsletter to recap some of the items each month that are trending around the State.

We hope that it will encourage communication and share knowledge around the State while also giving another outlet to the activities of our many Lodges in Arizona. As is the case with Social Media, we intend for it to be enjoyable and informative and hope that it will grow and adapt to the needs and wants of our Craft as it progresses.

**There is also a master list of #43 Masons accessible through "Grandview" on the website. You must log in to use it.**

<http://www.azmasons.org>

Fraternally,  
**Jim Rowan PGM, Secretary**

**LODGE OFFICE HOURS**  
 Regular Office Hours for the Secretary:  
 Wednesday through Friday  
 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM



# SCOTTSDALE MASONIC LODGE #43

## 2023 OFFICERS and CONTACT INFORMATION

Worshipful Master Shawn Hunter	(480) 486-9419	Shawnphunter182@gmail.com
Senior Warden Michael Valecourt	(480) 800-7297	mnt.lodge@gmail.com
Junior Warden David Earney	(480) 283-5411	david.earney@gmail.com
Treasurer Gary Nelson	(480) 215-0077	customartbygary@gmail.com
Secretary James Rowan PGM	(602) 839-6064	jamesrowan1942@gmail.com
Senior Deacon Mark Allen Gyger	(480) 415-3104	mark.a.gyger@gmail.com
Junior Deacon Brian David Zeman	(480) 745-6152	bzeman@gmail.com
Senior Steward Richard Nicholas Davis	(619) 598-4278	fraterchad2@gmail.com
Junior Steward Steven Agee	(602) 695-2393	astevenagee@outlook.com
Marshal James Gilmore	(480) 241-9987	jamesgilmore915@icloud.com
Tyler John Favara	(480) 352-3700	Favara.js@gmail.com
Chaplain Timothy Scarpino PM	(480) 544-6843	timothyscarpino@gamil.com

### 2023 Scottsdale Lodge Committee Chairmen

Candidate Proficiency	Michael Valecourt, PM	(480) 800-7297
Chamber of Reflection	Rich Davis	(619) 598-4278
Distressed MM WO	Pillar Officers	
Trestleboard Editor	Fred LaBell	(480) 717-7716
Friend to Friend	Ken Von Hopf	(480) 998-7018
Finance Committee	Russell Sayre PM	(480) 998-7018
Fund Raising	Stan Sparrow	(602) 317-4071
Celestial Journey Team	Brian Zeman	(480) 745-6152
Investigations	WM Shawn Hunter	(480) 486-9419
Jewelry Case	Steve Agee	(602) 695-2393
Library	James Gilmore	(480) 241-9987
Photographer	Allen Nichols	(602) 617-4504
Brother's Outreach	Michael Valecourt	(480) 800-7297
Masonic Education	David Earney	(480) 283-5411
Bikes for Books	Wil Wilkins	(602) 500-4474

### \*\* APRIL Calendar of Events \*\*

*Diner is served at 6 PM before every meeting. Lodge at 7 PM*

- April 6th - Stated Meeting**
- April 13th - Fellowcraft Degree**
- April 15th - Fellowship Pancakes & Eggs (9-11:30 AM)**
- April 20th - Colonial Degree (Fellowcraft Degree)**
- April 27 - Degree (Tentative)**

More information can be found on the Lodge website:

[www.scottsdalelodge43.com](http://www.scottsdalelodge43.com)

There is also the Tuesday Morning Coffee and Donuts social gathering.

### CALL IF YOU NEED A RIDE TO LODGE

The Brother's Outreach Team has raises funds for our brothers who don't drive after dark or don't drive at all so they can come to Lodge to enjoy the fellowship. ***If you would like to attend Lodge***, contact the secretary Jim Rowan (602) 839-6064 to arrange for a ride to and from at no cost to you (Valley area only).

If you would like to support this worthy cause, please send a check to Scottsdale Lodge 43, POB 486 Scottsdale, AZ 85252. On the check write "Transportation Fund" or use credit card by calling the Secretary at 480-946-1072.

### 2023 LODGE TRUSTEES

Scott Herbert Tracy	Term Expires: 2025
Jonathan Edward D'Emilio	Term Expires: 2025
Eric Marble	Term Expires: 2024
Stan Sparrow	Term Expires: 2024
Tim Scarpino	Term Expires 2026
Steven Wall	Term Expires 2026

### MEETING LOCATION

**Scottsdale Masonic Lodge #43**  
2531 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, AZ.

**Stated Meeting:** The first Thursday of each month at 7:00pm, except July and August.

Dinner at 6:00pm.

For further information call (480) 946-1072 or visit [www.scottsdalelodge43.com](http://www.scottsdalelodge43.com).