

TRESTLEBOARD



Scottsdale Lodge 43 F&AM

Volume 724 Issue 2

February 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

The lodge has been off to a great start! I would like to thank Brother Junior Warden David Earney for his hard work in the kitchen. He has done an unbelievable job so far with Thursday Dinners. Well Done, Brother David! Also, Thank you to all of our "Seekers" who also help in the kitchen. Your hard work does not go unnoticed!



On our Stated meeting for January: Scottsdale Lodge had the honor and privilege to have the Grand Master, and the Deputy Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona present a distinguished 50 year Mason Award. Scottsdale Lodge would like to thank the Grand Lodge of Minnesota for their efforts in providing this award to this very worthy Worshipful Brother.

The Lodge was also honored to have Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden Michael Dale. RW Dale presented the lodge some generous gifts, and gave some wise words to the Craft. He also mentioned in his earlier life that he used to be a drill sergeant for a number of years! Freemasonry truly has all walks of life!

A big date to keep in mind is our Military Degree on March 9th! We will have the "Arizona Military Degree Team" pass a Brother to the Degree of Fellowcraft! The Arizona Military Degree Team was formed by

Continued on page 2

FROM THE WEST

As I consider the West and its accompanying theme of Strength, I am reminded of an honor I had a number of months ago. I was able to accompany our Most Worshipful Grand Master in a presentation of a 70 yr Longevity Award to a Brother, I was struck by some interesting thoughts on the subject of the setting Sun. I found it very valuable to consider why we present these longevity awards with an apron specifically designed with the embroidery of a Laurel Wreath, at a time when their Sun is setting in the West.



Upon receipt of our first Lambskin Apron, we hear mention of the Laurel Wreath of Victory. We see it woven into many of our designs and various motifs throughout Masonry, yet it is touched on only briefly in our work. What is this laurel wreath? What is its lineage? Why is it mentioned in this specific piece of our ritual? In short, it is a crown woven of Laurel sprigs and blossoms. The Laurel throughout myth and legend has always been associated with divinity and holiness. Its most notable presentations have anciently been the token reward of great conquest by Generals, Emperors, Kings, Knights and Heroes. It is likely one of the most iconic emblems of the Philosophers of Greece and the Emperors of Rome.

It was most commonly presented however, in the ancient coliseums - a place of atrocious combat and brutality. It was presented to the victor who had persisted through all adversaries, be they beast, circumstance, or the most fearsome foe of all - Man. The presentation of this wreath indicated that the Blessing of Divinity was upon the

victor. It signified the endowment of Divine Strength - Will and Tenacity, Honor and Fortitude. How often do we take the time to realize that we are,

Continued on page 2

From the East continued from page 1

several retired and prior military personnel who saw a need, and had a desire, to promote Freemasonry both within and without Arizona. Under the leadership of J. Wesley Stokes, PM, and with the approval of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona, the team was formed in 1991. We look forward to seeing you all there!

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

The West Continued from page 1

each one of us, every day facing the adversaries and challenges in the brutal and atrocious coliseum of earthly Life?

We often hear the word Strength and we think of the iconic flexing arm. We think of the virility and fervency of youth. We think of the energetic enthusiasm of a time when our bodies rarely tired and our faculties served us without flaw. Why then, is our Pillar of Strength located in the West? Why is this column which is so emblematic of Fortitude placed here, where we then state that man's strength decays? Why do we place this particular support in the position where we claim - with "declining strength" our Sun sets? We then give this emblem of the Laurel Wreath-adorned Apron to our Brothers who have finally reached their dwindling days and declining ardor...

Let's consider some of the visceral language of Ecclesiastes - when our windows, which once bore us many a vision of beauty are darkened and opaque, the daughters of music are brought low, when even the grasshopper becomes a burden to the flesh and the strong men which once held us aloft are now bowed and bent...what, in any of this, can we call strength? What, of this decrepit state, is worthy of such an honor as this venerable emblem of victory and power? This, like much of our symbolism, seems at odds with itself. Until we look closely at the words of our work, which have been so carefully selected and positioned. I thought it most poignant that the verbiage specifically states "man's strength" decays. Is man's strength ever an accurate representation of True Strength? Is it even feasible to expect that anything of physical fortitude is comparable with the strength of the Spirit, the Will, the unseen essence of the Blessing of Divinity? It must

therefore be one of Divine origin, mustn't it?

It must be one of Herculean measure. It must be a strength worthy of legend, Fortitude and a Will to confront ANY discomfort and even danger at the behest of what we hold as "worthy of investment of the Self," mustn't it? It must be a strength, which is the theme of a most traitorous trek, a journey into a brutal coliseum, or the plight of erecting a monument of Biblical proportions. It must be a Strength much like that of our GM Hiram or our WB George, one which is worth the retelling, over and over and over.

Incidentally, in times past it used to be a more apparent feature of our interview process that a potential Brother not only express a belief in a Supreme Being but also in the immortality of the Soul, which is, of course, so potently portrayed for us in our degree work. And with that, when we consider the declining strength of the body in man's old age, we must then ask - "what strength has he gained?" and "what challenges await us in that undiscovered country of Tomorrow, for us to ply these new strengths?"

Many of us have faced the ferocities of the coliseum of Life, this past year and 2023 isn't proving to be any more docile... Some us have faced those most terrifying moments when we feared our Light might go out. I hope that each of you will take a moment with me and recall the darkesses, the obstructions, and combatants that you have faced this past year. Reflect as we move towards a new Spring, the Strengths that you have gained on this journey; consider the adversaries through whom you have progressed. To what undiscovered country will you now go, with these new powers of Strength, Resolve and Fortitude? What will you now do with your new level of Divine prowess? Remembering that this endowment is predicated upon our relationship with that Providence and our reliance upon it.

May we each apply this growth and its blessing of Divine Strength in service of the Great Architect and our Brothers.

Fraternally,
Brother Senior Warden
Michael D. Valecourt



From the South

As we are in a time of rest and repose from our usual vocations, each of us has something we can offer Freemasonry. At the most simple and basic level the thing we can offer, is time. Time is our most precious commodity. Of all the things we have and can give, it is the only one we can never, ever, get back.



“It is not that we have so little time but that we lose so much. ... The life we receive is not short but we make it so; we are not ill provided but use what we have wastefully.”

-Seneca

When we come to the Lodge for dinner, we offer our time in the form of fellowship. Let that fellowship be the thing we offer if that is the most we can give. If we have time to offer to the Bikes for Books program, and we cannot be in the Lodge, then let our fellowship take hold in the form of time spent caring for, building, and giving away the Bikes that make this program work. Are we of a more socially minded bent? Then perhaps we can offer our services to the Lodge in coordinating social activities for the benefit of the Brethren. Interested in Philosophy? Start a club and spend time with your fellow Brethren who are interested in Philosophy as well.

The Lodge may not have something formally organized for your interest, but there are Brothers with whom your interests align. I invite you to seek them out. Find the Brothers with whom you hold ideas, interests, and

hobbies in common, and join in Fellowship with them. This gathering together need not be at, in, or near the Lodge. We are, when considering the influence of the South, at rest from our labors.

Many Brethren have already found or formed the clubs that interest them in Freemasonry. That is the basis for the existence of the Shrine (and assorted invitational clubs within it), the Widow’s Sons, the Ruffians MC. But what about Masonic Clubs for other interests such as gaming, maker’s groups, or computer enthusiasts? These are all possible and all that is required is the interest and persistence to organize the club.

Our Brothers in Freemasonry offer us a ready-made pool

From the South continued

of candidates for deeper more meaningful relationships than those usually found on the street because we begin our interactions with much in common. The foundational bond of friendship is already present. We have already established basic trust with our Masonic Brethren by virtue of our common obligations. We can, each one of us, extend those common relationships to other areas of our lives, our hobbies, interests and interactions outside the Lodge, binding ourselves ever closer together as a band of Brothers.

Fraternally,

David Earney

MM, 32 AASR, KT, Noble

(480)283-5411

Junior Warden

Brothers,

We handle the following legal matters:

Injury Cases, including – Motor Vehicle Accidents, Camp Lejeune Water Contamination Exposure, and Harmful and Defective Products

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**



**U.S. Department of
Veterans Affairs
Accredited Attorney**



THE NOTARY

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

707.332.9973

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, were mailed out, if you have not yet submitted yours, it is now past due..

Please submit payment by check to the Secretary or by credit card via Zelle on lodge website

Dues are \$196 for 2022.

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

***If you have a problem, call the Secretary**



Disclaimer: This is not run by Scottsdale Lodge #43

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,

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.



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Support our Lodge with a business card ad in our Trestleboard. \$100 per year.

**Contact Bro. Fred LaBell at
FLaBell@cox.net**



Scottsdale Lodge is always honored to acknowledge and present recognition awards to Brothers of our Lodge and others at their request.



On behalf of the Arizona Masonic Charities, and the Grand lodge of Arizona- Scottsdale Lodge presented a check to Bridging AZ Furniture Bank. They specialize in helping Veterans transition from chronic homelessness, and providing the assistance they need. Jim Piscopo, who is the Executive Director was thrilled, and gave some very kind remarks about our lodge.



Masonic Education

Greatness

Greatness is a measurable amount of success, and the measurement varies from person to person. There is no formula to abide with, only many ways and means to avail one's self of noting how others have approached the process. Do the difficult things while they are easier, and the great things while small, remembering that all attempts and striving starts with one step. Have faith in the future, hope that you have planned your future correctly, and all future steps will lead in the best direction. At times, success leaves a disappointment because the steps to achievement are over.

Great works are done, not by strength alone, but with perseverance. Never stop the effort until you get to your place of destiny. Keep to the aims, learn even more, work at it, and have the patience to realize where you have gotten. Not all things you may try will be winners. Know that without some steps back, winning is not so great. Great things are done by bringing small things together.

Shakespeare said, "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them".

**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**



Keeping in touch



The Fraternal visit



Scottsdale Chapter #43 OES News

Happy 2023 to All.

Sunday, February 19 OES will have a

“Lunch and a Movie” at the Lodge from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Family and Friends are invited. \$10 for lunch, movie snacks, and family type movie. Join us for the fun and fellowship.

Diana Hutchinson

With many Brothers being Veterans, this educational information on a VA Benefit from one of our Brothers can be of help.

VA Aid and Attendance: One of the least known benefits that could positively affect the lives of millions of Americans.

By Bro Stephen Wall, Attorney

The Aid and Attendance benefit has been in existence for more than 60 years through the Department of Veteran Affairs. Aid and Attendance is a monthly payment to qualifying veterans or their surviving spouses to defray the cost of long-term care for those who need assistance with the daily activities of living such as dressing, bathing, toileting, eating and transferring. It is important to note is that this is a non-service-connected benefit, meaning it does not require the veteran to have been injured or disabled during his or her military service.

For 2023, an unmarried veteran can receive a maximum allowable benefit of \$2,229 each month. An un-remarried surviving spouse's maximum is \$1,432. A veteran and spouse can receive a maximum of \$2,642 a month. We say "maximum" because there are income qualifications that could lower the benefit amount. The good news: A&A is adjusted annually for cost of living increases.

Determining Eligibility

The first step is checking eligibility. First, the veteran must meet requirements for age (65 or older) and service (minimum 90 consecutive days of active duty with at least one day during a recognized period of wartime, with a better-than-dishonorable discharge status). In the case of a surviving spouse, the claimant must have been married to the veteran at the time of death and has not remarried.

Eligible periods of war: World War II: Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946; Korean conflict: June 27, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955; Vietnam era: Feb. 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975, for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period. Aug. 5, 1964 – May 7, 1975, for Veterans who served outside the Republic of Vietnam; Persian Gulf War: Aug. 2, 1990, through date to be prescribed by Presidential proclamation or law.

Next, the veteran, or the surviving spouse, must complete a medical assessment to show he or she needs assistance with at least two of the activities of daily living (ADLs). These ADLs are defined as bathing/showering, toileting, dressing, eating, and walking/transferring. The VA also recognizes that a person may function in those areas, but because of dementia or Alzheimer's there is a need for a protective living environment. The medical assessment

requires a form filled out by the claimant's regular physician, or forms from an ALF or in-home caregiver, depending on circumstances.

Income and Asset Tests

Then there are income and asset restrictions. The VA counts the gross income from sources such as, but not limited to, Social Security, pensions, required minimum distributions from IRAs, dividends and interest, annuities and rental income. However, the income is measured against unreimbursed medical expenses (UMEs), such as Medicare Part B premiums and supplemental healthcare premiums.

The asset test is more complicated. The limit for assets in 2023 is \$150,538, but the list of what counts as an asset and what does not gets tricky. For example, the home you live in and its tangible contents do not count. But you are moving into an ALF, so you sell the house. Sticking point: Now those proceeds from the house sale are considered an asset, and maybe that pushes you over the limit. The best way to assess your situation is to speak to a VA-accredited attorney.

Moving Forward

Applying for government benefits can be a daunting task, one that can seem difficult for even the most organized person when facing a blizzard of forms. Many people who attempt to navigate the application process on their own tend to give up after a year or more of problems and denials. In most instances, using an experienced attorney will increase the chances for approval and reduce the wait time.

An experienced attorney can use either Proactive Planning or At-Need Planning to assist you in obtaining this tremendous benefit. In 2018, the Department of Veterans Affairs instituted a three-year "look-back" period at transfers involving trusts, annuities, gifts, and jointly owned financial accounts. If an asset is transferred, the VA may count it as income or an asset.

That's why it is worthwhile to consult a VA-accredited attorney for proactive planning before you need care.

For more details, contact Bro Stephen Wall, VA accredited attorney

SCOTTSDALE MASONIC LODGE #43

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

Robert Dale Tarr	2/18/1956	Jeffrey Otis Amstutz	2/9/1995	Scott Herbert Tracy PM	2/28/2008
James Clarence Hedberg	2/28/1963	David Richard Schafnit	2/19/1998	John Alexander Robinson	2/12/2009
Ronald Milton Robinson	2/27/1964	Ross Gerard Suozzi	2/18/1999	Terrence David Mundy	2/11/2010
Gerald Harris Lankin	2/26/1970	Dirk Alan Johnson	2/17/2000	Todd Daniel Millicam	2/9/2017
Henry Arthur Wilson Jr	2/18/1972	Michael Wayne Bozarth	2/21/2002	George Steve Doimas	2/15/2018
John Scott Brower	2/29/1972	Thomas Alan Minor	2/21/2002	Roger Norman Behm Jr	2/22/2018
Gregory Clayton Hein	2/22/1973	Christopher McDaniel III	2/20/2003	Gary Patrick Nelson	2/21/2019
George Craig Hutchinson	2/22/1973	Erik Richard Mindermann	2/20/2003	Francis S. Sorrentino	2/21/2019
Richard Gaylen Honeywell	2/26/1976	Richard DeJesus Johnson	2/17/2004	Thomas Andrew Jaeger	2/28/2019
James Harris Meredith	2/24/1977	Kyle Andrew Larkin	2/17/2005	Mark Allen Gyger	2/20/2020
Roger A. Luedeman	2/3/1983	Peter Mathern	2/22/2007	Kevin Allen Booth	2/17/2022
Robert Abel Elsner	2/27/1986	Steven Paul LaBell	2/28/2008		

Brothers, have you read the placemats in the dining room. Perhaps it time to review what is on it.

Our fraternity has many appendant bodies and interest groups. Check out the Scottish Rite, York Rite and Shriners.

In addition there is also a motorcycle group called Widows Sons that always seem to be taking road trips.

The thing is, don't sit back and think there is nothing to do, beside Degree Work.

Scottsdale #43 Masonic Lodge Building

HAVING A SPECIAL EVENT? - WE WELCOME RENTALS

The Lodge building is suitable for a variety of occasions

Weddings, Dances, Bar or Bat Mitzvah Parties, Graduation Parties,

Religious Life Milestones, Business Meetings.

Updated Kitchen Serving Facilities, Free Parking, Variable Effects Lighting,

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Contact the Secretary for details on cost and availability.

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

Call (480) 946-1072 for details and prices

SCOTTSDALE LODGE MASONIC JEWELRY CASE

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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

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.

** February Calendar of Events **

- Thursday Feb. 2nd- stated Meeting**
- Thursday Feb. 9th 1st Degree**
- Thursday Feb. 16th- 2nd degree**
- Thursday Feb. 23rd- 3rd Degree**
- Thursday Feb. 24th- Wine and Cheese night**

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

More information can be found on the Lodge website: www.scottsdalelodge43.com

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