

# THE Ashlar

A PUBLICATION FOR MINNESOTA MASONS, STARS AND FRIENDS

MINNESOTA  
MASONIC  
CHARITIES

FEBRUARY 2023 VOL. 1, NO. 4

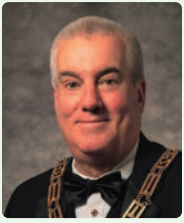
INSIDE

## Grand Lodge 170<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference



Photo: Mark Anderson, KYCH, OPC, 33  
Library and Museum Coordinator

## Tony Krall



### The Great Minnesota Masonic Get Together

Minnesotans know the Great Minnesota Get Together as the State Fair; however, we, as Freemasons, have another opportunity to gather. The Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota will take place April 14 and 15, 2023. It is the obligation of all lodges to attend with their

representatives. However, beyond obligation, the Annual Communication presents an opportunity for the Masons of Minnesota to get together to celebrate the Craft.

We have an exciting Annual Communication planned. We are bringing in national speakers to present on various topics, including Sovereign Grand Commander Jim Cole of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, who will be the keynote speaker at the banquet on Friday night. I encourage all to attend and see Grand Commander Cole. He is a gifted speaker and will no doubt make a presentation that will be appeal to all Masons and their significant others.

Also joining us for this year's session are national Masonic Scholars Oscar Alleyne and Allan Casalou. They will each present interesting and dynamic topics both to the general session and in breakout sessions.

We will also feature in our breakout sessions new and exciting programing. This year's Annual Communication breakout sessions will present far more than the general business topics

that we usually present. This year, we will have talented speakers discussing interesting and useful topics. Did you ever wonder how you can use our Charitable endeavors to increase lodge membership? Do you have an interest in Masonic music and composers? Do you want to learn about effective means to communicate your lodge events? Do you have questions about your lodge's Masonic antiques? All this and more will be addressed in our education sessions.

In a more important sense, however, the Annual Communication represents the transition of power and the election of our new officers. The Grand Lodge officers have worked hard during 2022, and I have no doubt that they will continue to work for the benefit of the craft in 2023 and years to come. The Annual Communication presents your opportunity to make your voice heard and to witness the transition of the leadership of Minnesota Masonry.

I encourage every Mason and their significant other to attend the Annual Communication and its functions. There will be a ladies' program on Friday, April 14. There will also be social opportunities and a dynamic brunch will be hosted by Minnesota Masonic Charities.

I look forward to seeing you in St. Cloud in April.

Fraternally yours,

— Tony Krall  
Grand Master

### A MESSAGE FROM THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON

## Pam Willette



Greetings from Eastern Star. The year has been going by fast and here it is time for another article. I want to talk about Scholarships. Eastern Star has money to give away and I hope some of you will encourage your high school seniors and those attending college to check us out.

Go to [mnoes.com](http://mnoes.com) and click on Serve and you will find the scholarships that we have available.

Our first scholarship we have available is called ESTARL. This stands for Eastern Star Training Award for Religious Leadership. It is for anyone, from any faith tradition seeking education in religious leadership. It can be used for undergraduate and graduate level education. It can be used for continuing education such as Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) or Spiritual Formation/Direction at accredited programs. The minimum scholarship is \$2000. You can still apply if you don't need \$2000.

We have the M. Josephine Ruhsam scholarship. M. Josephine was in line to be the Most Worthy Grand Matron for the General Grand Chapter when she passed away. The General Grand Chapter oversees all Chapters (except New York and New Jersey) around the world. Money that was set aside for the year

and various donations and memorials were used to create this scholarship. This program is available to graduating high school seniors.

Our last scholarship program is available to students. This is the Pat Rasmusson Continuing Education scholarship. Pat Rasmusson is a member of Whittemore Chapter in Osseo and was Most Worthy Grand Matron of the General Grand Chapter from 2003-2006. Many fundraisers were held to help Pat during her years and for her session. The scholarship was created out of the remaining funds. The Pat Rasmusson scholarships are to be used to help applicants continue their education through technical-vocational training, the liberal arts, or preparation for professional specializations and will be granted strictly to students continuing their post-secondary education in the academic year following receipt of the scholarship.

I hope all of you find 2023 to be a great year. I will leave you with this: Use your voice for kindness, your ears for compassion, your hands for charity, your mind for truth and your Heart for Love.

— Pam Willette  
Worthy Grand Matron  
Minnesota Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star

# Grand Lodge 170<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication



It is time to plan to attend the 170th Grand Lodge Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. This year's festivities will again be held at The Park Event Center

**GRAND MASTER TONY R. KRALL URGES ALL MINNESOTA LODGES TO SEND THEIR FULL QUOTA OF DELEGATES TO THE 2023 MEETING**

in Waite Park, Minnesota. Grand Master Tony R. Krall urges all Minnesota Lodges to send their full quota of delegates to the 2023 meeting. While the Master and Wardens are voting delegates, all Master Masons in good standing are welcome to attend any events. Lodge officers and members are encouraged to bring their spouse/partner, for a weekend of Masonic fun and fellowship.

**THIS YEAR'S COMMUNICATION HIGHLIGHTS WILL INCLUDE THREE NATIONALLY RENOWNED SPEAKERS, THREE SETS OF BREAKOUT SESSIONS, AND A NEWLY RECONFIGURED SCHEDULE**

This year's communication highlights will include three nationally renowned speakers, three sets of breakout sessions, and a newly reconfigured schedule. Full details, hotel and registration information, and tentative schedules can be found at: [mnfreemasons.org/ancom23](https://mnfreemasons.org/ancom23)

Invitations are being sent to all Lodge Delegates (Masters and Wardens) and Grand Lodge members (GLOs, ADs, DRs, PGMs, Custodians, etc.). Please be careful to use the registration code from your invitation to ensure you get the correct tickets.

We have room blocks reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn and Residence Inn hotels attached to the event center. Room reservations must be made by March 24, 2022, but both hotels are expected to sell out before the deadline.

Delegates may begin securing their credentials at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, April 14th, at the registration tables in the foyer of the event center. Please remember to bring your 2023 dues card, so we can quickly get you checked in and your credentials assigned.

**NEW THIS YEAR, THE PUBLIC OPENING SESSION HAS BEEN MOVED TO SATURDAY**

New this year, the public opening session has been moved to Saturday, so the tyled business session will begin promptly at 9 AM on Friday, April 14th, when the Officers of the Grand Master's lodge formally open the Grand Lodge. The public session, open to guests, will now take place following the Minnesota Masonic Charities Brunch on Saturday morning.

Grand Master Krall has promised that our 170th Annual Communication will be one that no active Minnesota Mason will want to miss. The open Installation of Officers is tentatively scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday. All members, their families, and guests are invited to attend.

The annual breakout sessions continue to be one of the most important parts of our Annual Communication— we will again have breakout sessions on the agenda for Saturday. Please visit the Annual Communication web page for breakout session details and schedule.

Six resolutions to amend the Minnesota Masonic Code have been submitted for consideration at this year's communication. The full text of each is being mailed to every constituent lodge, sent via email to all members, and published on the Grand Lodge website: [mnfreemasons.org/ancom23-resolutions](https://mnfreemasons.org/ancom23-resolutions)

To view full article



Scan the QR code

## Minnesota Freemasons Oral History Project

Share your story with us! In commemoration of our 170th Anniversary, we are launching a new membership outreach campaign, MN Freemasons Oral History Project. You can expect to be contacted by Publishing Concepts Inc (PCI), our partner who will help us develop our stories into a formal legacy book (hardbound and digital) that will be available for purchase. Proceeds from the campaign will further our mission and support programs that help our Masonic family.

For more information, please visit: [mnfreemasons.org/oral-history-project](https://mnfreemasons.org/oral-history-project)





# Minnesota Masonic Charities at The 170<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication



There will be an MMC informational booth in the lobby of the event center. In addition to getting information on the various programs offered by MMC, lodges should stop by to learn more about reserving a table for the September gala.

MMC COO John Schwietz and the MN Masonic Histories & Mysteries podcast will once again be set up in the lobby to interview members, visitors, and guests on all things Masonic in Minnesota. Stop by and chat with host John Schwietz.



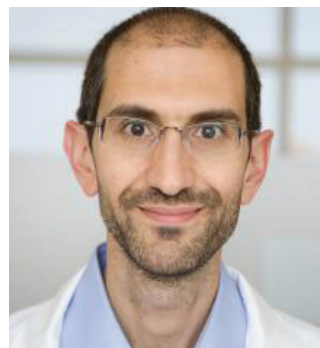
Minnesota Masonic Charities joint partnership with the Grand Lodge and Fire Suppression Solutions stopping by the FST booth in the lobby!

Don't miss the Minnesota Masonic

Historical Society and Museum display set up for the weekend inside the lodge room!

There are three scheduled MMC breakout sessions on Friday (4/14) afternoon. (1) Promote your lodge in the community, (2) Masonic Heritage and Preservation, (3) Grow your lodge through philanthropy. There's also a breakout session for the FST program.

The traditional Minnesota Masonic Charities breakfast is now the MMC brunch, which always proves to be one of the weekend's best events. With the delayed start time, this will be a not-to-be-missed activity featuring a presentation by:



**Dr. Emmanuel Antonarakis**  
named **Masonic Cancer Center Associate Director for Translational Research and Director of Genitourinary Oncology in HOT Division** | **Masonic Cancer Center** (umn.edu)

## THE HERITAGE CENTER STAFF IS HAPPY TO ACCEPT HELP FROM VOLUNTEERS

As you may know, the Heritage Center Staff is happy to accept help from volunteers!

In addition to ushers for events in the Ives Auditorium, we also need occasional (or regular) assistance in the form of (or from) Museum and Library attendants. The primary duty is to welcome visitors and answer questions about the Heritage Center. While not required to be a Mason, general knowledge of Freemasonry and its associated organizations is helpful.

The main times when we need assistance are Saturday and Sunday afternoons. We ask for a commitment of 3-5 hours a week, 1-2 days a month. Ideally, we would like a rotating schedule of people. Does this interest you? Please visit, call, or email Mark Anderson if you enjoy being a "part of the action" at the Heritage Center. You may reach him at 952.948.6503 or [mark.anderson@mnmasonic.org](mailto:mark.anderson@mnmasonic.org)

Thank you!



# Minnesota Masonic Home

Thank you to everyone who came to Dan Patch Hall to make fleece tie blankets for kids at the Masonic Children's Hospital. Overall we had a full house all afternoon, and we made over 42 blankets! Stay tuned for more volunteer activities via the Grand Lodge Facebook page!



## Operative Masonry

In the second degree we find this definition of Operative Masonry: "A proper application of the useful rules of architecture, whence a structure will derive figure, strength and beauty."

The photo below shows a grand example of Medieval operative stone masonry, the cloister of the Abby of Maubuisson in Saint-Ouen-l'Aumone, France. It was built in the mid-1200's for an order of Cistercian nuns.



In the 1980s the French Department of Archives decided to open the Abbey for public viewing, as part of the cultural heritage of France. But many of the building's stones had deteriorated over the centuries, some so much so that it was considered unsafe for public viewing.

A team of experts in Medieval architecture was brought in to evaluate the structure and decided to restore it by completely disassembling the cloister, repairing or replacing any deteriorated stone, and then restoring each stone to its original location. The team took hundreds of photographs, made thousands of measurements using laser positioning equipment, and created a 3D system of coordinates so that each stone could be labeled with its exact position, relative to a fixed reference point. And then they brought in a group of stone masons to do the work of disassembly, repair and reconstruction.

As soon as the stone masons began disassembling the room they noticed that there were marks chiseled into the mortared faces of the building stones. They immediately recognized these marks as the same shorthand they learned in their own apprenticeships, still in use more than seven hundred years later. One of the masons was quoted in the local newspaper as saying they could have done the job without the elegant laser positioning and 3D coordinate system, just following the instructions left by an unknown 13th century Master, or overseer of the work. He said it felt eerie but moving, essentially working for a foreman who died seven centuries before this crew of stone masons was even born. "The stones were all hewn, squared and numbered in the quarries where they were raised."



# Leadership in Masonry: How You Communicate Can Be as Important as What You Communicate



FROM THE GRAND LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER WB ANDREW NIEMYER

What is your communications “style?” Do you send emails, use a messaging app, phone calls, texts, or even traditional mailers to reach out to your Brothers and Sisters?

Do you work through your Secretary or other officers to convey necessary information to as many as possible? Do you make the time at every Communication to clearly articulate your thoughts, ideas, upcoming Trestle Board planning, and any guidance you want those attending to receive? Do you think about those matters ahead of time, whether to yourself or consulting with your other officers?

It’s worth the time for each of us to think about the differences between communicating with our groups as a whole and with individuals. Group communications tend to be, at least initially, “one-way” in nature, from sender to recipient. Naturally, one-on-one communications invite response and a natural flow as each person in the conversation goes from “communicator” to “listener” and back and forth.

Group communications from a leader can be visionary (“This is where I want to see us heading”), organizational (“I need a Brother to take charge of organizing this upcoming event”), cooperative (“We need to discuss this matter together at the next Communication openly”), or even parental (“Will whoever takes the last cup of coffee in the coffee urn, make a new pot of coffee! Stop leaving it for others.”), or any combination of the above. These kinds of communications lend themselves to some of the methods listed above or even via visual prompts like a sign in the Lodge kitchen.



A key to helping make these communications effective when not delivered live to the group itself is leveraging various means to help personalize the message. Be it the use of a filter to add each recipient’s name to an email or an open invitation for each recipient to respond to you, this helps the impact of the communication on the addressees whenever possible. It sends the

implied message that you, as the communicator, care about them not only a group but also as individuals.

Individual communications fulfill a leadership role that is arguably different from group communications but no less important. It



allows us the opportunity to really connect with people in a unique way, which can help foster close friendships, cement bonds, and by its simple act, lend itself to enhancing our leadership skills.

While for some of us talking to Brothers or Sisters one-on-one can be outside of our comfort zones, it allows us to tailor the message we wish to convey in a way that the person we’re talking to can truly take it to heart. Be it a gentle word meant to quietly convey your desire to see a matter attended to or corrected or to help make them feel welcome as a part of a greater whole, the fact that you make the time to talk directly to people help sends a non-verbal message that you feel that they matter enough to both the group and to you that you’ve carved out time to talk to them. It also encourages dialogue, from which both parties can benefit.

While it’s easy these days to use digital methods, be it email, text, or a messaging platform, in the end, the spoken word carries the greatest heft and meaning to recipients. There are no barriers between the gentle tongue and the ear open to receiving the message. It is always worth considering, especially in individual communications, if directly speaking to someone is the best way to ensure they’ve received your message.

In summary, before you engage in communications, consider what method of communication may work the best in achieving the results you wish to see happen in each specific situation. From this determination, you can better tailor the way you communicate as much as what it is you want to say.

*Seek More Light, Quarite plus lucem*

*WB Andrew Niemyer*

*Grand Lodge Education Officer*

*PM Ionic Lodge 186*

*aniemyer@gmail.com*





# Minnesota Masonic Charities Scholarship

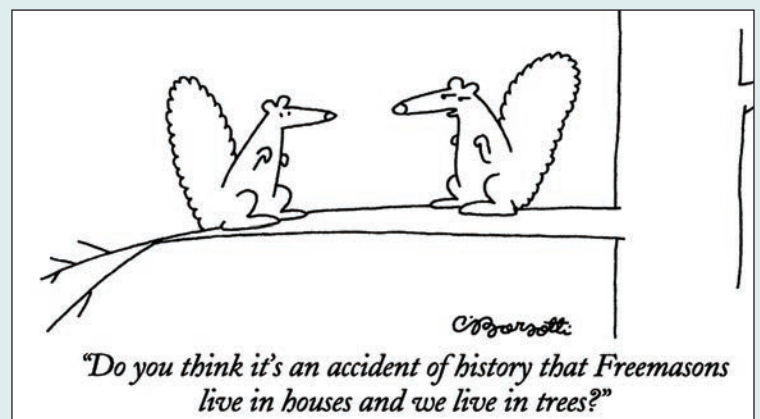
On January 1, 2023, Minnesota Masonic Charities launched a revolutionary scholarship idea called the Selfless scholar. Our society recognizes and rewards great academic achievers with honor rolls, special ceremonies, and countless academic scholarships. What do we do for the students in our schools and communities who are extraordinary at making others feel like they matter? How do we recognize and reward great kindness achievers? That is where the Selfless Scholar program comes in.

Most scholarship programs require applicants to describe their attributes and successes to benefit themselves. The Selfless Scholar encourages students to look beyond themselves and acknowledge the extraordinary kindness of a friend, peer, or classmate by nominating that person for their character and telling their story. This program is unique because the \$5,000 award is shared between the nominee and the nominator.

The program will begin with 12 Selfless Scholar recognitions throughout Minnesota. "Our objective is two-fold," explained John Schwietz, MMC's Chief Operating Officer, "recognize and reward those who make others feel like they matter and uncover heart-warming stories that would otherwise go untold."

Schwietz added, "For decades, Minnesota Masonic Charities has strongly supported academic achievers. We will proudly continue to do so. However, making others feel like they matter is just as important as scoring a 35 or 36 on an ACT or a 4.0 GPA."

The scholarship application deadline is February 15th. For more information on the Selfless Scholar program, visit [mnmasoniccharities.org/scholarships/student-scholarships](http://mnmasoniccharities.org/scholarships/student-scholarships)





# Fraternity Comes First



Every Minnesota Freemason, apart perhaps from those few made masons at sight, has heard the following words upon first being admitted to the lodge room:

“Vouchsafe thine aid, Almighty Father of the Universe, to this our present convention; and grant that this candidate for Masonry may dedicate and devote his life to Thy service, and become a true and faithful Brother among us. Endue him with a competency of Thy divine wisdom, that by the secrets of our Art, he may be better enabled to display the beauties of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, to the honor of Thy holy name.”

We live at a time when many businesses, educational institutions, charities, and other organizations feel it necessary to have a “mission statement.” If there ought to be a mission statement for our Craft, we could do worse than choosing “to display the beauties of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.”

I propose to take these objectives in reverse order.

## Truth

“What is truth?” In the eighteenth chapter of the Gospel of St. John, verse 38, this is the question asked of Jesus by Pontius Pilate, who then abandoned Him to the baying mob. Pilate was not an admirable character, but his question is a good one.

A common definition of truth holds that it is the property of being in accord with fact or reality. Another definition holds that truth is the aim of belief, whereas falsehood is a fault.

When we seek to define truth more minutely, it quickly becomes apparent that there are different avenues to truth, because there are different ways of knowing.

In mathematics, truth is arrived at by deduction from first principles. The theorems of mathematics must be so proven. And while mathematical proof may be difficult and time-consuming (Fermat’s last theorem, posited in 1637, was not proven until 1995), all of mathematics exists in embryo in the human mind. Plato describes knowledge as a sort of recollection (anamnesis), and in the dialogue Meno, Socrates famously elicits the solution of a mathematical problem – the one we know as the Pythagorean theorem, or the Forty-Seventh Problem of Euclid – by asking a series of questions of a young and ignorant slave boy. The latter, prompted by them, shows that he understands it. Mathematical knowledge is, to put it in terms of our computerized age, hard-wired in the human memory, needing only to be retrieved.

Natural science, on the other hand, proceeds by disproof rather than proof. Unlike a mathematical theorem, a scientific theory can be demonstrated many times, but can never be proved. It is, on the contrary, true only until further notice. Science is not merely a collection of facts, but another way of knowing – the scientific method. It begins with the observations of patterns in nature. A consistent pattern can be summarized in an hypothesis, which is then tested by experiment, and if not disproved, it becomes a theory. Yet theories are constantly re-tested by refined observation and experiment. It is the aim of experiment to disprove the theory it tests. Many, many results consistent with a theory can be invalidated by one experiment that disproves it.

It was, for example, the prevalent theory in the eighteenth century that combustion involved the liberation of a substance called phlogiston from the material being burned. Just about all things that burned lost weight in so doing, and this was attributed to their giving up their phlogiston. The chemist Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier showed that when the element mercury was caused to burn by focusing the sunlight on it through a magnifying glass, the combustion product, which we now call mercuric oxide, weighed more than the mercury that was burned. Since such a result would require phlogiston to have negative mass, Lavoisier’s experiment disproved the phlogiston theory, which Lavoisier replaced with the theory of oxidation.

There are questions that cannot be answered either by mathematical analysis or by the scientific method. What is the good? What is the beautiful? What is the purpose of our existence? Why is there suffering? What happens to our consciousness after we die? Such questions fall into the field of philosophy.

The word philosophy is supposed to have been coined in 518 BC by our ancient brother Pythagoras, while at the court of Leon, tyrant of Phlius. The word “tyrant” at the time did not necessarily refer to a cruel or capricious ruler, merely to one who had seized power (often with popular support). Still, one had to be on his guard when in the presence of such a ruler, for he might prove to be cruel, capricious, or both.

Leon asked Pythagoras whether he was wise (sophos). Whether in complete sincerity, or out of caution, Pythagoras replied that he was not, but rather a lover of wisdom, a philosopher – from philos (love) and sophia (wisdom). This answer apparently satisfied Leon.

It is a testimony to the insights of the ancient Greek thinkers that while we have largely rejected their science, and though we still base our mathematics on theirs we have added much to it, on matters of philosophy we don’t seem to have advanced very far beyond them. Perhaps this is so because truth is harder to determine about many philosophical questions, and it often becomes evident only after a long time.

Although the Seven Liberal Arts are commended to our attention in the extensive Middle Chamber lecture of the Fellow-Craft degree, the proper study of all Freemasons is philosophical, particularly as it has to do with ethics. The early American Masonic lecturer Thomas Smith Webb (1771 – 1819) described Freemasonry as “a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.” This summary is monitorial in many U.S. jurisdictions.



## Relief

We turn now to relief. Relief is another word for charity, the relief of the distress of our fellow human beings. Freemasonry has had a charitable aspect ever since it first came into being. Our obligations call upon us to contribute to the relief of a distressed worthy brother, his widow and orphans. Masonic hospitals, old-age homes, orphanages, schools, scholarships, and libraries abound around the world. Our own Minnesota Masonic Foundation, the Masonic Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Masonic Home, and similar institutions supported by appendant bodies are too well known to require extensive description.

Yet, having taken some amount of time to examine on one hand Truth, or philosophy, and on the other, Relief or charity, we are compelled to admit that both are accessible outside the Craft as well as in it.

## Brotherly Love

I submit that it is a distraction to concentrate upon Masonic philosophy or charity without acknowledging the primacy of Brotherly Love – Fraternity.

If it were not for Fraternity, we would not have Masonic philosophy, extensive as it is. Without Fraternity, what would have induced Albert Pike to write *Morals and Dogma* – what would have inspired the Masonic encyclopedias of Albert Gallatin Mackey or Robert Freke Gould, or the 136 volumes published to date of *Ars quatuor coronatorum*? Without Fraternity, what would have given rise to the charitable foundations, hospitals, old-age homes, or all of the other charitable works the Craft has built since the foundation of the Premier Grand Lodge in 1717?

Fraternity came first – and it should continue to come first. If it should ever fail to do so, then the superstructure of Masonic philosophy and charity built upon it would crumble, and all that remained would be a ruin, like those of a past civilization that had ceased to exist.

As some of you will know, in addition to being a printer and publisher, I'm a community banker. I started in that business not as an employee but as an owner; my father had been a director, later the board chairman, and a principal stockholder. I became a stockholder myself almost fifty years ago and on my dad's death I was elected to the board. When that happened, the then chairman – my father's friend and successor – told me "I'm going to put you on the discount committee. You'll learn a lot about human nature on the discount committee."

The discount committee, I should note, is the board committee that approves or declines loans – and deals with their collection, when people can't or won't pay the bank back. That's one occasion when you learn a lot about human nature.

But what else have I learned? It is very simple – trust makes the world go around. Banks operate by enabling depositors to pool their money, which the bank then lends to borrowers. For a bank to succeed, its depositors must have faith that the bank will give them back their money when they want it. The bank must have faith that its borrowers will pay bank their loans – plus interest – in full and on time. The word credit shares the same Latin root – *credo* (meaning "I believe") – as do creed, credibility, etc. Extending credit is an act of faith in one's fellow man.

What has been remarkable to me about my experience in this business is how the great majority of people are true to their words, and do exactly what they have promised. Very, very small numbers of people fail to do so, and these are – needless to say – the source of the vast majority of problems at any bank. There are other sources of risk in banking, but simple credit risk is the most common of them.

A simple formula all bankers know is called "the Five C's of Credit." The C's stand for what qualifies a borrower: in order, Character, Capacity, Collateral, Capital, and Conditions. Note which of these comes first!

The financial industry is exhaustively regulated. We are required to document everything. Regulators don't like to leave much to discretion. There must be a written policy for everything. Banks are subject to regular examinations, in which government agencies look into how they have conducted their businesses.

One doesn't have rules unless there has been a previous problem with behavior that the rule is made to prevent. There are good reasons for bank regulation.

Nonetheless, some of the regulatory measures to which we are subject present odd contradictions.

The oddest of these was a time when the examiners looked at my bank's policies, and they criticized our inclusion of the Five C's of Credit. What they particularly didn't like was the inclusion of character. They said it was too subjective.

If you wonder why our country has economic problems, look at the people governing us, and ask why they dislike a reference to character.

If the Five C's of Credit are part of the foundation of our economy, character is the cornerstone.

And this is what brings us back to Fraternity. Our Craft admits no one knowingly into its ranks who is unworthy of our trust – who lacks character. Moreover, the candidate must reciprocate by trusting us – how else is he to follow his guide and fear no danger?

This is not to say that there are not those among us who have failed to live up to their obligations, but in my experience such persons are very few. Fraternity is based on trust, and I have to say that I have very, very seldom found a brother to betray that trust. This is a rare and valuable thing. It is consistent with the experience of just about every Mason with whom I've ever discussed it.

Masonic brotherhood and the trust it inspires are based on character. We are defiantly old-fashioned in insisting upon it, and long may we continue so doing. Without character, there can be no trust; without trust, there can be no fraternity; and without fraternity, there can be no Freemasonry. So mote it be!

*- Michael Swisher, St. Johns Lodge No. 1*



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Arizona Masonic Reunion

Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>

## Grand Lodge Virtual Town Hall, Grand View Seminars

Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>

## Grand Lodge Virtual Town Hall, Grand View Seminars

Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Florida Masonic Reunion

Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Grand Bethel MN Job's Daughters

Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>  
Cragun's Resort, Brainerd

## Statewide Masonic Membership Seminar

Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>  
Minneapolis Scottish Rite Temple, Minneapolis

## 170<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication

Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>  
The Park Event Center, Waite Park

## Lynnhurst Turkey Dinner

Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>  
Lost Spur Event Center, Eagan

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>  
Corner Stone Lodge No. 99, Fergus Falls

## Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star

Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>  
St. Cloud

### Keynote Speaker



James D. Cole, Sovereign Grand Commander, Supreme Council, 33°, Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, and Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia

Keynote Speaker, 170th Annual Communication Banquet (Friday, April 14, 2023)

### Breakout Session



Allan Casalou, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of California  
2023 Duane E. Anderson Excellence in Masonic Education Award Recipient

MINNESOTA FREEMASONS  
Breakout session  
The Apron and the Robe: Masonic Principles Embodied by the Life and Work of Chief Justice Earl Warren.

### Breakout Session



E. Oscar Alleyne, Past Junior Grand Warden, Grand Lodge of New York  
2020 Duane E. Anderson Excellence in Masonic Education Award Recipient

MINNESOTA FREEMASONS  
Breakout Session  
Clandestine Masonry



**Welcome back to the Masonic Conundrum!** Conundrum #94 Our most recent Conundrum looked at a unique military formation in the 20th Century. In it, we asked if anyone could name any US military unit since 1900 that was intentionally and deliberately formed exclusively by Master Masons.

**THE ANSWER:** *The Masonic Ambulance Corps was formed in May 1917 by brothers from Alta Vista Lodge No. 464 and Bethlehem Lodge No. 453 in San Francisco, CA.*

On 4 August 1917, the volunteers left San Francisco for training at Camp Lewis in Washington. By late 1917, following the United States declaration of war, the volunteer Masons were officially inducted into the army as the 364th Ambulance Company, one of four such units in the 316th Sanitary Train of the 91st Division. On 11 October 1917, the Corps was honored at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of California in San Francisco during the final entertainment session of the Communication.

The Masonic Ambulance Corps departed for France from New York City, aboard the U.S.S. Olympic, on 12 July 1918. They docked in South Hampton, UK, and crossed the English Channel to Cherbourg, France, on 21 July 1918.

On 26 July 1918, the Corps became separated from the 91st Division and became "lost" in Saint-Nazaire until 24 August by taking the wrong train. On 30 July, the Corps attended a banquet at the Masonic Club. On 4 August, the Corps held its first-anniversary dinner at the Hotel Fontainebleau. During this time in Saint-Nazaire, each member of the Corps was made an honorary member of the Masonic Club of Base Section No. 1.

4 September 1918: The Corps is "found," departs Saint-Nazaire, and rejoins the 91st Division in support of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. From 9 September - 15 September 1918, they were a part of the Battle of St. Mihiel. The Corps earned their first Battle Star. They returned to Paris on 24 September 1918, and two days later deployed on the first day of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.



The Palace Hotel on 2 August 1919. They held their 50th Reunion on 4 August 1967 at the Hotel Claremont in Oakland, CA.

**Correct Answers:** Brother Karl Knotko, Mesaba #255 in Hibbing did a deep dive into history and found the unit, as I did, among the vast archives of the Grand Lodge of California.

**Conundrum #95:** This Conundrum takes back to the earliest years of English Freemasonry in what was then Britain's colonies in North America. Can you tell us who was the first American Provincial Grand Master appointed by the Grand Lodge of England, and when was he appointed?

Send your answers by April 18, 2023 to [masonicconundrum@gmail.com](mailto:masonicconundrum@gmail.com)



From October 1918 through December/January 1919: The Corps is billeted in Flanders. They departed France aboard the U.S.S. Virginian on 7 April 1919, sailing out of Saint-Nazaire. They landed in Hoboken, NJ, on 20 April 1919. The Corps arrived home to the Bay Area on 9 May 1919 to a very happy and welcoming city.

Shortly after returning from overseas, members of the Corps formed a permanent organization with headquarters at the Masonic Club at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. On 1 August 1919, members of the Corps threw their first annual ball in the large ballroom at The Palace Hotel in San Francisco. It was followed by a banquet at



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