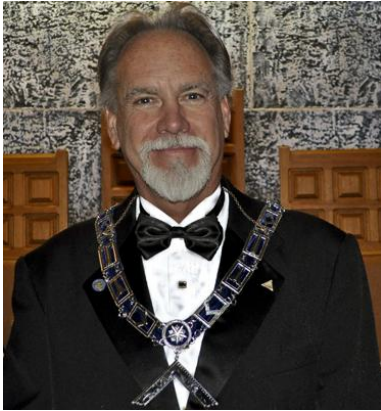




From the East



You Should Have Been There

Being mindful of all the social events that went on in my life in high school and college (many years ago now), I dreaded with a passion to hear these words, "You should have been there." I look back on those days, when I heard reports about some event or party that I missed, and view some large holes in my life of what could have been, another fantastic memory I might have recalled in later years, if I only had gone and been a part of it rather than hear about it second hand. I always wanted to be a part of memory making events, so in many cases I was the one to host them or acquire the support to make things happen. Doing this not only gave me the thrills in life I so cherished, but also consigned valuable memories of joy and delight to those friends closest to me, a common bond of life lived to the fullest, cherished recollections and reflections which make up the thrilling scenes in our story of otherwise humdrum existence.

On March 8th, Peoria #31 had such an event - Past Master's Night, a first degree performed entirely by past masters of this Lodge or those who are members of this Lodge who were past masters of another Lodge. "You should have been there!"

I learned this type of event had not been held for years and certainly not within the four years I've been a member of Peoria #31. The brothers of this Lodge supported the occasion in a big way with well over 50 witnessing the historic gala. Past masters from the year 1967 to the present infused the meeting with such electricity and excitement that it seemed like a class reunion, complete with broad grins, hugs, and camaraderie that I've

never before witnessed. This Lodge may never again see the 44 year span of past masters all under one roof. Brothers who have not attended in years mixed with Lodge legends and current officers in a fanciful evening of good cheer and good work. If you did not attend Lodge that night, I feel sorry for your loss of potentially lasting Masonic recollections. "You should have been there."

Have no fear though brothers if you missed our Past Master Night and the associated bonding remembrances. The dedicated officers of your Lodge are in the planning stages of assembling an even greater event and it is scheduled to take place on April 26th. Mark your calendars. Don't come down with the flu or get caught out of town for this one. Invitation letters have gone out to select Past Grand Masters and WB Steve Brooker has already secured many of the officer positions. Don't miss it. I'm giving you fair warning. The last time a Past Grand Master Night took place at Peoria #31, somewhere in the neighborhood of 125 brothers absolutely packed the house. Masons from all over the state are expected to attend this huge and historic event.

Because of limited space and seating, the idea of a sign-up and RSVP will be employed so we know how many prime rib dinners to make and serve that night before the scheduled first degree initiation begins at our normal time of 7:00 pm. Don't wait too long to arrange for your seat or you'll be reading another article in the June Trestleboard saying that, "You should have been there!"

PS: It might be a good idea to attend Lodge in the coming weeks to find out more information about how much dinner will cost and how to sign-up. See you at Lodge.

Wayne De Vliegher – WM



From the West

Work for Today. Build for Tomorrow.

Consider how things happen in your life? Is it some helter-skelter jumble of missed appointments, heaps of unfinished tasks and a persistent gnawing suspicion that you've forgotten something? Are you always over promising then chronically making excuses, mostly claiming that you are just too busy in hopes that others will take pity on your burden, or desiring they offer to relieve you of their expectations until you get "*caught up?*"

If so, then you need a dose of Dr. Freemasonry's patented time management balm. This miracle of modern and ancient miracles can help anyone to get better results by using the very lessons we teach in Lodge. Successful people think their way through the obstacles they encounter [external] and the myriad problems they spawn [self inflicted], to work effectively and efficiently, always holding themselves accountable, so no one else has to. Competent time management requires very little effort actually. Let's assume you want to build a cathedral or a temple or a palace.

First, plan your work. If you don't know what you are building, then it's nearly impossible to get organized. The architect begins the design process by determining what features the finished product needs in order to make it useful, and then he must put all those fragments into a workable order to make the whole thing usable.

Second, structure the work. Without a sequence of operations to guide the progress, you'll have the roofers show up before the walls are erected. A horrible waste of their time and adding unnecessary delays

because they will be in everyone else's way.

Third, choose the materials wisely. Too often a project will falter if a major part doesn't suit the need. Sometimes it requires a hard decision when it is discovered that a choice already made isn't working well, either because the part has failed to function as expected or was intentionally misrepresented. It takes courage to admit to a bad decision and then take appropriate action. The old saying, "*One bad apple doesn't spoil the whole bunch*" couldn't be more wrong. The consequences of concealing or ignoring a poor choice will be to the future detriment of all. Fourth, take no shortcuts. Haste does make waste. Strict quality control may seem to some to be time consuming or interference, but the reward of a finished product that lasts and lasts far outweighs any excuses, any consolation, any savings or any rush to completion.

So, the next time you step into the Lodge, take a careful look at the work we are doing and determine for yourself, if we are planning, organizing and executing to erect an enduring monument to Freemasonry. It is our ardent desire to exceed your expectations at every opportunity. But we will never know how successfully we are accomplishing that job without your feedback and your involvement.

Because, ultimately, you are step one, step two, step three and step four; both in the work we do today and what we build for tomorrow.

May God bless us and forgive us.
Ed Barron - SW

From the desk of your Secretary

Petitions for the Degrees:



Have you taken the time to read the front of a Petition for the degrees. As the Deputy Grand Secretary I literally review and process hundreds of petitions per year. I recently reread the front of the petition and it contains some very valuable information for the candidate and you. The next time you grab a petition for a prospective Mason take the time and read the front and it will amaze you with its contents.

Brothers all lodges are glad to see petitions for the degrees because it says we are growing as an organization and we will be maintaining our Masonic heritage. I need your help when you fill out these petitions. Please be sure to print (neatly) all of the information required on the form. The requirements for lines 23 & 24, are the names and signatures of two brothers (one must be a Peoria No.31 member in good standing) who have known the petitioner for at least six (6) months. Also required is that the individual petitioner must be an Arizona resident for at least six (6) months. If one of the Brothers is an out-of-state Mason in good standing a copy of his 2011 dues card must accompany the petition when it is submitted. The names of the two Masons who signed on lines 23 & 24 may NOT be used as one of the three references required on line 21. Last, but not least, the petitioning fee must accompany the petition when turned in to the secretary. Current petitioning fee is \$217.00, please tell the petitioner so the fee does not surprise him. Also inform the petitioner that the

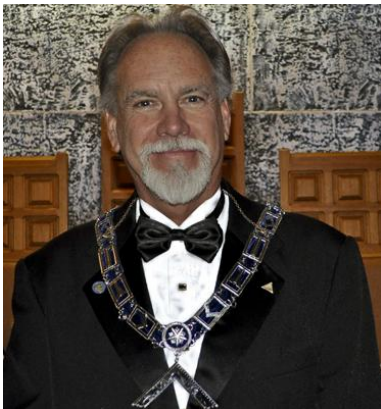
current dues are \$130.00 per year. They are due to the Lodge the day he becomes a Master Mason. They will be prorated from that month.

If you have any questions please call me at 623-980-8002

Fraternally,

Samuel Graziano, Jr, Secretary

Why We Had A Past Master's Night? (3/8/2011)



First of all, I'd like to thank everyone that came to Lodge for our Past Master's night. There is something beneficial and educational for everyone who attends Lodge, even if you have witnessed the degree work dozens or even hundreds of times over and you have to look hard to find that which qualifies as education.

That night, especially that night, such was the case and you didn't have to search extensively for the benefit. The past leadership of this Lodge, those who have served at the highest level, was in the process of educating and demonstrating certain principles of Freemasonry to us that night.

Second, I'd like to thank all of our Past Master's for being there to show their continued devotion for the care of the members of this Lodge and to Brother Dale Justus for working hard to assemble all the pieces we enjoyed witnessing.

So, why have a Past Master's night? Is it to get these men, who have done such a commendable job of conducting an initiation that night, to finally make an appearance at Lodge? Well...yes. But that's not the main reason to have a Past Master's night.

Is it to give these men something to do with their time other than staying home to watch TV, go to school, be with their families or wives, conduct business, or perform chores? Well...yes.

Is it to give these men another crack at performing officer duties, to initiate a good and true man, into our beloved fraternity, and to show that they have not forgotten that which has been entrusted to their care? Well... yes.

These reasons are all valid. But the real reason to had a Past Master's night was to teach and make clear, to all present, a valuable lesson in Masonic theory.

What lesson you ask? One of the most important lessons that can be taught regarding, in part, our obligation which we solemnly and sincerely promised and swore as FC and MMs: that when a Lodge summons comes to you, you do not shirk your duty to obey because of petty piques or personal grievances, nor distance of travel or prior commitments, nor sickness or injury, or any other reason or excuse that might be employed to avoid supporting that which we deem so important, so vital to Masonry in the presence of God - the addition of another good man to our ancient and honorable order. These PMs are demonstrating to us tonight that they are willing to deny the self for the good of the many, for the good of the Lodge, and because they have done so, we all benefit.

The summons may come in the form of a phone call or text, a fax, or an email or a letter, but when it comes, all Masons good and true would do well to imitate the example set here tonight and respond like our teachers our leaders have so well demonstrated.

Thank you again, to all of you PMs for caring and overcoming and teaching us what it means to be a Freemason.

Wayne De Vliegheer - WM



MASONIC EDUCATION

WHAT ARE BUSINESS MEETINGS?

You may have heard the claim that Masons don't use "*Parliamentary Procedure*" or "*Roberts Rules of Order*" in our business meetings as an absolute, while this is technically correct, it is simultaneously only partially correct. The argument supposes the Worshipful Master unilaterally rules the meeting and therefore anything he says goes and any processes he chooses to employ are perfectly correct.

Yet, the ultimate purpose of a Stated [monthly business] meeting is to yield control over the operations of the Lodge to the members in attendance, while the Master directs the process. His duty is to divine through everyone's collective wisdom what the Lodge shall and shall not do with respect to activities, finances, membership applications, committees, and any other matters that may be brought up for consideration and vote.

In order for these meetings to be productive, there must be order and continuity which fosters security that our little democracies work to promote the general welfare of all, including those who are unable to attend as well those who choose not to attend. If no procedural rules are employed or followed, then the meetings can result in chaos or subjugation.

To a newcomer, the '*what we do and how we do what we do*', may seem strange. To some it may appear an odd alchemy of the Gavel vs. the Brethren. In reality, everyone guided by the Master should strive to find accord on every matter considered, by:

- Adhering to the admonition, "*Look well to your ballot and vote FOR THE GOOD of Masonry.*" This sentiment applies to everything we consider doing, not just Candidate elections.
- Conducting the business in a consistent and orderly fashion.

- Maintaining continuity of policies and procedures.
- Respecting everyone's need to understand and anticipate what will occur and how it will be handled.

Unlike a business, corporation or government entity, which uses parliamentary procedure to run their meetings, Masons have these obvious distinctions:

- Lodges are not run by a Board of Directors, they are run by the members in attendance. It's easiest to picture the Lodge as a co-op where everyone enjoys an equal say (*One-man One-vote.*) If you fail to attend the meeting for any reason, then you abdicate your vote, since there is no proxy votes allowed.
- The gavel being the symbol of the Masters' authority has the deciding say. The Master can halt any matter brought up, can cease any oration, can define the scope and end discussion on any matter with a single rap of the gavel up to the point a vote is taken. After the vote, the Master must obey the will of the Lodge.
- There is no basis for "*Call the Question*" which is a motion to end discussion and force a vote. The Master makes that determination and is under no compulsion to comply with that request.
- There are no quorum calls, since all issues under consideration (*unless the Arizona Masonic Code [AMC] or the Lodge by-laws dictate otherwise*) are decided by a simple majority (*50% + one*) of those in attendance. The minimum requirement is one or more elected pedestal Officer(s) and members totaling five or more equals a quorum. Consequently, no quorum = no meeting. (AMC Sec. 65)
- The descending order of precedence of Arizona Masonic Law is as follows:
 1. The Constitution (*the controlling legal document and authority*)
 2. The General Regulations

3. The remaining Laws and Rules of Freemasonry in the AMC
 4. Edicts of the Grand Master
 5. Lodge Charter (*The franchise agreement issued by the Grand Lodge under which a Lodge is given authority to exist and operate.*)
 6. Lodge By-Laws
 7. Adopted Lodge policies (*These persist until changed or abrogated by the Lodge*)
 8. Edicts of the Master. (*An edict is a lawful order where the presiding Officer formally asserts his choice in how something is performed as a standing rule. No authority can be exercised to create new law. NOTE: Edicts of the Grand Master and Worshipful Master expire upon the completion of their respective terms of Office*)
- NO BUSINESS can be conducted at any meeting except on the Date, Time and Location that is stated in the Lodge By-Laws (*which is why it is called the Stated Meeting*), without a special dispensation from the Grand Master.
 - No committee Chairman or vote by a committee can kill a matter referred to them, nor can they dismiss it by simply omitting it from their agenda. Their duty is to report their finding as a recommendation.
 - All Master Mason¹ members in good standing present must vote on every motion and none can be excused or refuse to Ballot for any reason. Only Master Masons¹ can make motions and vote. EA's and FC's can join in the discussion and volunteer to sit on a committee only with the permission of the Master. No EA, FC or visitor can make a motion or vote on any matter.
 - Despite what you may have heard, the Master (*he also being a member*) must vote on every matter brought before the Lodge. In the event of a tie vote, except votes by Ballot, then the Master in addition to his regular vote shall cast the deciding vote.
 - If you disagree with an action(s) taken by the Master, know

this; on decisions of the Master, there shall be no appeal to the Lodge, (*unless you can persuade the Master to reconsider his actions or decisions*) that objection must be presented to the Grand Master in the form of Masonic Charges against the Master.

There are then two things for Members and Masters to seriously consider;

1. Be very careful who you elect as the Worshipful Master.
2. No Master wants to show up to a Stated meeting where the only others in attendance are the two crickets chirping in the corner.

Our business meetings are intended to be a place where Brothers can join together in the spirit of peace, harmony and brotherly love to fulfill their legal obligations, and satisfy our collective needs and aspirations for the benefit of all. Bringing this to fruition requires everyone to be knowledgeable in our ways, never abandoning their duty or fearing retribution for speaking out.

Your regular and punctual attendance is particularly requested. When you attend, the good we hope to accomplish is better represented and better satisfied.

- ¹ **Being a *Master Mason in good standing* is predicated on possessing a current dues card.**

If you have a question why we do what we do, please ask and I will try to provide an answer.

Ed Barron, SW, Master Ritualist, Code Wonk