

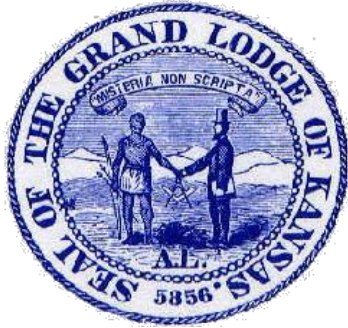


The OBSERVER



Second Qtr. 2016

Volume 65, No. 2



The Observer – The Official
Publication of Overland Park
Lodge #436 A.F. & A.M.

OFFICERS

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W.: Ken Mickey	Treas.
W.: Charles Frost	S.D.
Daniel Helm	J.D.
Callan Martin	S.S.
Sean Orner	J.S.
Duane Marshall	Chaplain
Gary Long	Tyler

TRUSTEES

W.: Brian Weese
W.: Fred Kemp
W.: Jason Daniels

TRESTLE BOARD

Stated Meetings 7:30 pm
1st & 3rd Thursdays
Study Club 7:30 pm
2nd and 4th Thursdays
Degree Work – As scheduled

Visit www.opmasons.org

Overland Park Lodge #436 www.opmasons.org Ph: 913-815-0003

A Word from the East

Greetings Brethren,

Grand Lodge was March 18th and 19th. Thanks to those who attended. Pictures of the event can be found on the lodge App and the Kansas Masons website.

The good news is that the lodge has been very busy the last four months. We had a very successful turnout for our Valentines Dinner (about 31 people). We voted on purchasing bibles to give to our newly raised Master Masons. Sean Orner and Callan Martin are our newest Master Masons to receive these new bibles. We also have had two first degrees and one Fellowcraft degree recently.

Attendance is still very low. At times we barely have enough brothers to open lodge. Take pride in your lodge and attend at least once or more a month. Encourage others to attend.

In January, we voted on a new lodge pin to give to visiting brethren and also to newly raised Master Masons of our Lodge. They have arrived and are available to you for \$5.00 each to cover our costs. Thanks to R.:W.: Kevin Hughes for designing and ordering them.

Unfortunately, we will not have the free cancer screening clinic this year at the O.P. Fall Festival. From what I understand, there were a lot of new applications this year and we were encouraged to re-apply again next year.

On April 21 we had our first visit from our new DDGM R.:W.: Galen Graves. It seemed he was very pleased with the Lodge's progress and our efforts to communicate, not only with each other, but also with the community. He did stress, however, that we need more lecturers.

The Widows Dinner will be held at the Lodge on May 7, at 4:00 pm. Music will be provided by Master harpist Michael Oshiver. By the time you receive this communication it will probably already have passed.

May 19th will be a special night for two reasons. Come early for dinner, meet and celebrate with our newest masonic foundation scholarship award winners. Also, during our regular stated meeting, we will honor our second quarter birthday Brothers.

During our first stated meeting in May, we will discuss our next fellowship and family dinner event.

Fraternally Yours,

Mark Kramsky,
Master O P Lodge #436

DID YOU KNOW?

Whence came the Due Guard?

It is a symbol of obligation; a reminder by him who uses it to all who see him do so that he remembers his promises. Masonic authorities are not in complete agreement as to the derivation of the words, although they unite as to what the words signify. Mackey thinks the word means "to duly guard against." Lesser authorities are convinced the phrase has a French derivation coming from "Dieu Garde" – God guard (me or you).

Why is a Master addressed as "Worshipful"?

Few Masonic matters are less understood by the non-Masonic public than this. The word "worchyppe" or "worchyp" is Old English, and means "greatly respected." In the Wycliffe Bible, "Honor thy father and thy mother" appears as "Worchyp thy fadir and thy modir.

"Worshipful" therefore in modern Masonry continues an ancient word meaning "greatly respected." A Grand Master is "Most Worshipful," that is, "Most Greatly Respected."

"BUILDING KANSAS: FACING CHALLENGES AND ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH KMF"

You recently received a beautiful presentation folder from Robert A. Shively, Executive Director of the Kansas Masonic Foundation.

In the brochure, he put a "Campaign Pledger Form" asking for a five year pledge / commitment. There are nine programs that will be financially supported by KMF with the money going to four Kansas Institutions of Learning. These are University of Kansas, Fort Hays State, Emporia State and Kansas State University.

The largest outlay will be to Emporia State for a Kansas Masonic Literacy Center. This is to be \$8.5 Million over a 10 year period. All the others are over a five year period. The second largest is for \$5.0 Million for the Masonic Cancer Alliance at the University of Kansas.

It is my understanding that our Lodge will be approached for a five year commitment. Come to Lodge and help us determine "how" and "how much" we should pledge.

The Illustrated History of Free Masonry

This book was entered into the Library of Congress in 1892 by Moses W. Redding.

An excerpt follows regarding Masonic Colors:

1. **Blue, azure blue, the color of the vast vault of Heaven, is symbolic of universal friendship. It was the color of one of the Vails of the Tabernacle.**
2. **Purple (red and blue combined). This was also the color of one of the Vails of the Tabernacle...In the American Rite, purple is symbolic of union, from the mixture of red and blue – Mark Master, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master.**
3. **Red – scarlet. As the image of fire it was used by the Egyptians to designate life, love, and zeal. Scarlet was the color of the third Vail of the Tabernacle.**
4. **White. This is one of the most ancient and most generally diffused of all the colors. In the Mysteries it constituted, as it does in Masonry, the investiture of the candidate.**
5. **Black has always been a symbol of mourning.**
6. **Yellow. This color was anciently symbolical of light – Divine light.**
7. **Green. With the Egyptians this color symbolized the Creator, Preserver and Instructor of man .**

THE VALUE OF MASONIC EDUCATION REVEALED IN A “PARABLE”

R. W. Brother Samuel H. Bennett, a DDGM of the Grand Lodge of Florida, wrote the following:

Somewhere at some time an Investigation Committee was examining a candidate for the three degrees of Freemasonry. One of the questions asked was, “What part of Freemasonry interests you the best?” To which the candidate replied, “I like the concept of the moral compass best.” The inquiry continued, “What part of the moral compass?” “Well, I guess the parables.” The committeemen raised their eyebrows, but persisted, “Would you relate one to us?”

The candidate really didn’t know what to say, so he ran a bluff.

“Once upon a time a Mason was traveling and fell among thieves, and his cable-tow slid up and was choking him during the struggle. He broke free and jumped into his convertible car and drove away furiously. As he was driving, his hair got caught in a low branch of a sycamore tree and pulled him from the car and left him hanging there. He hung there many days and nights, and ravens brought him food to eat and water to drink. Then one night, while he was hanging there, his wife came along and cut off his hair, and he fell to the ground. Then it began to rain 40 days and 40 nights, so they hid in the cleft of a nearby cave for protection. The next morning they met a wayfaring man who said, ‘Come in and take supper with me.’ The Mason answered, ‘I can’t at this time for a man is chasing me.’”

The candidate eventually concluded his long drawn-out story. The members of the committee looked at one another with definite bewilderment. No one felt qualified to question the candidate further, for each member had a deep suspicion about his own knowledge of Freemasonry. So the candidate’s petition was approved without further discussion.

We have always been known as “Men of Honor and Distinction.” And yet I feel that sometimes we spend more time talking about Freemasonry than we do studying Freemasonry. Even the education of a 50-year member of the Craft does not preclude the need for an on-going program of Masonic Education. I encourage each of you to stretch your cable-tow and attend whenever you’re able the “Schools of Instruction,” “Masonic Leadership Training.” “Open Books,” other educational opportunities, and, of course, your Blue Lodge.

Reprinted from “Emessay Notes” provided by subscription from “The Masonic Service Association of North America”

Masonic Education

Improve your
Masonic Education
by joining us on the
second and fourth
Thursdays of each
month at 7:30 pm.
You will improve
yourself in
knowledge and gain
ceremonial
proficiency.

Upcoming Events

MAY 19TH
6 pm: Dinner,
presentation of
Scholarships, 2nd Qtr
Masonic Birthdays
celebrated

June 25th
T-Bones game at 7
pm

August 18th
6 pm: Dinner, 3rd Qtr
Masonic Birthdays

Check the Calendar
for upcoming special
events including
Initiations, Passings
and Raisings.

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ESOTERICISM – A MATTER OF DEGREES

Is Freemasonry esoteric, or not? The short answer is “Yes, no, maybe.”

By definition, esotericism is any topic “intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with a specialized knowledge or interest”. This certainly applies to Masonry.

The term is tainted to some people, and acceptable to others; hence, it may not be easy to wholly accept or discard the term “esoteric Masonry.” Like an onion, each “esoteric” layer successively builds upon the other. We can all agree that Masonry is intended to be understood by few, and that it’s a kind of specialized knowledge.

But the questions are – what kind of specialized knowledge, and are the real “secrets?” For some the Master Mason Degrees has been interpreted in a variety of different ways by different people. For some, it’s a story of fidelity; for others, it teaches hope in the immortality of the soul; and yet for others it’s a lesson in alchemy, etc.

Since 1717 there have been more than 1,000 “Masonic” degrees created. The most popular survived and are included in many of the Rites, Orders, Systems we know today. Like a meal, each degree is only as good as its creator.

You may have different “flavors” for your taste buds: e.g. Scottish Rite, York Rite, etc. Freemasonry is an eclectic organization and, at various times, we have borrowed the language and symbols of many traditions.

Perhaps it would be better if we were to quit quibbling over such things and find common ground on which we “can best work or best agree.”

Overland Park Masonic Lodge #436

The Freemasons of Overland Park Lodge are a group of Men belonging to a greater Fraternity, or Sacred Band of Friends and Brothers, who are united in the prospect of making good men better, practicing charity, walking and acting with just honor before God and Man and working toward that eternal goal of uniting all mankind in a single Brotherhood under the perfect Fatherhood of the Great Architect of the Universe through Truth, Compassion and Brotherly Love.