



The Masonic News



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July 2020

Grand Master's Edict #4 and Phase I Guidelines

Most Worshipful Grand Master Ronald D. Stites

To: All members of all subordinate Masonic Lodges in Nebraska

Acting under my authority as Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska, I hereby decree that Phase I of the resumption of lodge functions and activities will begin in Nebraska effective July 1, 2020. All Nebraska lodges will implement and comply with the below Phase I Guidelines and Directives. This Edict will remain in effect until further notice.

Additionally, supplemental information is provided for increased Coronavirus-19 (COVID-19) Pandemic background and awareness.

This Edict will be reviewed regularly. If the state of emergency is lifted, or restrictions of State and/or Federal authorities substantially change, this Edict will be updated as required.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

Ronald D. Stites
Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Nebraska

Phase I: Nebraska Lodges
Guidance, Directives, &
Supplemental Information

Effective July 1, 2020

The following guidance, directives, and supplemental information have been developed as Phase I for Nebraska lodges to open facilities during the Coronavirus Pandemic. Guidance and Directives will be updated when deemed appropriate after major restriction changes are announced.

As more is learned about this new virus, be aware that conditions, restrictions, and recommendations can change rapidly. Prior to re-opening a lodge, the leadership should familiarize itself with national, state, and local restrictions. Although the guidance, direction, and supplemental information being provided covers a wide range of topics, it is impossible to address every situation lodges will face.

When there is an absence of direction for unique circumstances, it is recommended that lodges refer to local restrictions, plan accordingly, and let common sense prevail.

Guidance:
Community spread of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) is occurring which poses a risk to the health and welfare of all. Therefore, members voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19 by attending Blue Lodge meetings/ activities.

If a lodge feels uncomfortable about having a meeting or activity, then do not have one. No penalty will be imposed for the decision.

Individual attendance is voluntary for lodge meetings and activities, and decisions to attend lodge are personal. Officers are reminded to inform the Worshipful Master of their planned absence beforehand.

If a brother has symptoms of COVID-19, or has family members with COVID-19, he should remain at home.

Perform a risk assessment of the lodge building. Pay specific attention to areas of high traffic, frequently touched surfaces, and meeting rooms where efforts are needed to maximize sanitation and allow appropriate social distancing.

This Guidance and subsequent Direction are the minimum. Worshipful Masters are allowed to establish stricter restrictions if they wish.

Directives:
Lodge Preparation:

Develop a plan for cleaning and disinfection. Note, if the space is vacant for 7 days or longer, routine cleaning methods will suffice in most situations.

Officers will familiarize themselves and comply with local and state restrictions regarding size of gatherings prior to notifying members of meetings.

Have hand sanitizer available at the entrance of the lodge. Verify soap and water is available in all restrooms and wash areas.

Lodge Meetings:

Meetings will be opened in the Entered Apprentice Degree.

Brethren are to wear masks in the lodge building. Once the business meeting has begun, and there is a minimum of 6 feet between attendees, the Worshipful Master will announce if masks will be worn or removed. If a brother chooses to keep his mask on, he may do so.

Upon arrival, brethren are to wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.

Avoid shaking hands.

The general use of gloves is optional. If gloves are worn they should not be cloth.

Pre- and/or post-meeting meals, snacks, refreshments, and social

time are discouraged and left to the discretion of the Worshipful Master.

Maintain social distancing before, during, and after each meeting.

Email all communications, minutes, agendas, and reports to brethren prior to the meeting. Post a copy outside of the lodge room. Do not provide individual copies for brethren.

Balloting should be done with paper ballots. The appointed tellers should either wear disposable gloves or use hand sanitizer while distributing ballots and after counting ballots.

The Secretary will maintain an accurate record of attendees for potential contact tracking.

Lodge Activities:

Investigation committees are authorized provided the committee members and petitioner are comfortable with the meeting.

Mentoring and proficiency for individuals and round tables are authorized. If social distancing cannot be maintained, masks are strongly encouraged.

Lodge social functions and fundraising activities are authorized. If food is served as part of a social function or fundraiser, conduct the event using the same restrictions as restaurants. Comply with local and state restrictions and at a minimum masks and gloves are to be worn during all food preparation, ordering, packaging, and delivery.

Supplemental Information:
How is a risk assessment performed?

Consider how many times a week the lodge building is used by all organizations including regular meetings, special meetings, youth groups, and community events. Assess the layout of the spaces in the building to determine where high traffic areas are located with surfaces that will be frequently touched. These surfaces may include:

Lodge room furniture, tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, bathroom fixtures.

Determine if current seating arrangements are appropriate or if they need be reorganized to maximize social distancing (6 feet apart). If soft or porous materials are present, see if they can be removed or how to correctly clean them. Approved cleaning products can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>. Take stock of current cleaning supplies and verify they are effective against SARS-CoV-2.

If the building is used frequently during a 7 day period, follow the provided flow chart and sanitation guidelines outlined by the CDC.

What are the recommended sanitation guidelines?

Most recommended sanitation is based on regular routine cleaning with attention paid to frequently

touched surfaces. The guidelines are split into two types of cleaning: routine and disinfection.

Routine cleaning involves using soap and water to clean appropriate surfaces. If an indoor space is vacant for 7 days or longer, then this method is recommended. This method also includes regular laundering and/or vacuuming of soft materials and clothing.

Disinfection of surfaces will kill germs and is intended for high-touch surfaces and items used frequently. There are currently 3 methods of disinfection:

Use of an EPA-registered disinfectant.

Diluted bleach solution of 1/3 cup bleach per gallon of water or 4 teaspoons per quart of water. This solution must be left on the surface for 1 minute and the solution will be effective for up to 24 hours. Do not mix bleach with ammonia or any other cleaning solution.

Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol

Disposable gloves should be used during all cleaning as well as any other personal protective equipment recommended by the manufacturer. Hand washing is recommended after any cleaning and after removing gloves.

Why are gloves optional during meetings?

Gloves are an excellent way to reduce viral transmission when properly used, which many times is not the case. Proper hand washing practices are equally effective as gloves for the majority of the population. Disposable nitrile gloves should be used if the need arises, and attention should be paid to what the wearer touches while wearing them to reduce unintended cross-contamination. Gloves can be cleaned with hand sanitizer. Proper glove removal practices should be used to avoid inadvertent hand contamination, and proper hand washing must occur after removing gloves.

What steps should be taken if a brother is diagnosed with COVID-19 after a meeting?

Any brother who attends a meeting and begins displaying symptoms of COVID-19 within 48 hours should seek medical advice and alert the Worshipful Master and Secretary. The Secretary will alert those brethren who attended the meeting of their exposure potential. If a COVID-19 test is administered, the brother is asked to inform the Worshipful Master and Secretary of the result, and they will update those brethren affected. The identity of the symptomatic brother will be considered confidential information.

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Electa Chapter #8

Mike Lagueux

I was sitting back reflecting on what I have actually gotten accomplished during the last months we have been “social distancing” and what I have figured out astounds me! It almost reminds me of an old song that goes something like; I’ve been counting flowers on the wall (that may not mean much to some of our younger members, but to the ones who remember wallpaper it will) that don’t bother me at all, playing solitaire to dawn with a deck of 51, smoking cigarettes (it was popular when the song was written, but I don’t) and watching Captain Kangaroo (again, our younger members may not know who that was) and it ends with, now don’t tell me I have nothing to do!

Admittedly, I probably haven’t gotten everything done that I thought I could do, but I feel pretty good about what I have done. Somehow I can now see the bed and

stands in our guest room where I have been putting “stuff” until later when I had time to go through it...yeah, you know that room I’m talking about. We all have one, we just close the door when we have company until we have time to do something with that important stuff we have been accumulating. I honestly don’t know how all that got there. Anyway, I finally got it straightened out. The room looks very strange and alien to me now.

I have tried to keep my mind going by reading. I started out reading parts for some of the organizations I belong to which quickly deteriorated to reading some books that are easier for me to stay with; you know, history, Native American folk lore and customs...wait, how did that Tom Clancy novel get on my stand? It can’t be that bad for me, it is reading...right?

I have also tried to get to some of those things I have been meaning to do around the house. My yard is beautiful, the grass is neatly trimmed, the trees are pruned, the garden is growing nicely... what did I do with that Clancy book? I know it seems like I keep getting distracted, but in all reality I have gotten some things done that I have been meaning to do for quite some time so that can’t be all bad... right?

One of the things I am somewhat glad of is the relationships I have managed to maintain during these trying times we are going through. And I have discovered it doesn’t take much to make someone know they are thought of. Sending a text to someone your thinking of, taking a few minutes to send an email to someone you haven’t communicated with nearly enough over the years, maybe just calling someone to say hello,

and how are you doing? Sometimes that’s all that a person may need to make their day a little easier.

Trying to expand my French vocabulary hasn’t gone as well as I think it should have...I keep finding myself reading the book a professor in Indiana wrote on Secret Societies! Funny how he almost has some things right but confuses the real Knights Templar with his version. Almost accurate in spots, almost factual, in spots, certainly interesting in a Masonic sort of way... what did I do with that Clancy book?

We were hoping to reopen our Lodges and Chapters in July but we seem to have not quite gotten it right yet. Social distancing seems to be working; the rate of new cases of the COVID 19 appears to be leveling and there is hope of a reduction in new cases... then our social system is interrupted by protests

where hundreds of people come together in close proximity and we begin experiencing new upticks in cases of the disease we are trying to stifle. On top of that there is extensive property damage in the millions of dollars and lawlessness...to what end?

Brothers and Sisters, I remain optimistic that we will come out of this unusual time we are living in better for having experienced it. We will not be unscathed by the experience, but possibly stronger as a society for it. I hope this short article finds you in good health, sound mind, and optimistic in your outlook. If all of these things are true for you, please, take a moment and thank God the Father for giving you all these blessings that help you to endure the difficulties we are going through. Until next month... God Bless and Keep you in His loving embrace.

Lancaster Lodge #54

Adam Thayer

We’re back! Kind of...

On July 3rd, the brothers of Lancaster Lodge #54 met for our first business meeting since March, and it was so good to be back in lodge together. While there was very little business for us to discuss, we were able to finally provide an update for the schools we supported months back when we paid off their student lunch debt, and it was nice to hear the

impact that we were able to have!

In addition, WM Matt discussed updates to the calendar which have had to take place due to the temporary shutdown of lodges. A few tentative dates we would like to highlight:

August 21 – Table Lodge
 September 18 – Masonic Family Picnic
 September 25 – Past Master’s Memorial

Ceremony
 November 13 – Veteran’s Memorial Ceremony and Awards Dinner

Of course, these dates are subject to change as needed, based on updated guidance provided by Grand Lodge, so stay tuned and coming to the business meetings for more information! A huge thank you to WM Matt for his hard work at adapting

his original twelve month plan to still function with three months completely removed!

You should have received communication from the lodge late last month regarding the re-opening of lodge; if you didn’t, please contact me to update your mailing address!

Finally, you may have noticed many small changes have happened

around the temple recently; the members of the New Masonic Temple Association have been working overtime during the shutdown to accomplish many of the items on their “to-do” list, and it has really paid off! A huge thank you to all of the board members who have taken advantage of this period to restore and improve the building!

Grand OES

Karan Birdsall

today and our Order struck me. Stay strong. Hang on. We can receive and offer support and service. "Why are you in so such hurry? Is it really worth the worry? "Hang on", a tiny voice did say, from somewhere deep inside the inner man. Help is on its way."

Please take care of yourself and then reach out to those around you that need your faith, hope, love and compassion. Stay well. Stay strong. Look forward to seeing you. Star love and with great expectations, Karan and Bruce



Greetings to each and all of our Sisters and Brothers. Prayers flow for your health, safety, joy and hope! The heat of summer partners well with ICE CREAM:) Hope you are finding creative ways to Dilly Dally and share a cool treat. Thank you to each chapter that is sharing photos and videos of their socials. It is awesome to see you, even though we are apart physically. Nebraska is a big state, its great to be able to travel to you via our virtual sharing. THANK YOU! KEEP IT UP! Eager to see more and post your chapter's social to our Dilly Dally playlist on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL. Reach into your freezer, grab another ice cream treat and check out the videos.

crew members to put the oxygen mask on ourselves first and then others. You can serve others more effectively and broadly when you are filled with oxygen. That is very true as we negotiate these days and challenges. The stronger you are, the greater your outreach and impact for others.

The needs around us are significant. Our Order equips us with the relationships that can fuel our ability to reach out in love and service. We can be the difference makers for those around us in our communities, state, nation and world. My prayers continue to include you and our Order and our ability to see, hear, and respond. May we be aware of where we can serve and respond guided by empathy, love and compassion.

A song from the late 1970's ran through my memory this week. I sought it out and listened to it again and again and read its lyrics. It was recorded by the Little River Band, its title is "Hang on - Help is on its way". Its application for



ICE CREAM is a great partner to summer heat! We are encouraging our members and chapters to reach out with a DILLY DALLY ... through safe, simple, social gatherings and opportunities to share ice cream treats.

You can visit the Nebraska Eastern Star web site (neoes.org) and access more information and suggestions for how to Dilly Dally. Also from the home page of the web site you can access



the Nebraska Eastern Star Youtube channel. Included on the channel is a category and play list featuring the Dilly Dally and see what our members and chapters are sharing.

Therapy Dog. She recently paid a visit to the Grand Chapter Office and shared her love and compassion with Grand Secretary Jan Thoman, PGM and Sister Sue Hedges, Worthy Matron of Martha Washington Chapter #153. Yumi's human family are Ken and Laurie Sieg (Grand Conductress) members of Temple Chapter #271.



Yumi has joined the ranks of Nebraska Star Dogs. She is well on her way to serving as a



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Temple Chapter #271

Temple Chapter #271 officers and members sends its love and greetings as we continue to distance ourselves in this time. Even though we haven't been able to meet, we've still stayed in contact with each other and we continue to think and pray for all our sisters and brothers.

This month, we have some exciting news to bring! The Temple

Chapter Scholarship Committee of Marilyn Jepson and Sandy Gleason and Worthy Matron Cindy Kehling took advantage of a beautiful evening to present Alex Martinez his certificate as the recipient of the Temple Chapter Scholarship for 2020. We are so blessed to be able to assist Alex in his journey and look forward to seeing all he can accomplish.

Tiffany Westerholt

In the meantime, like many others, we are anxious to get back together, to plan and have some events as well as be able to serve as we are called to do. We hope you are all staying safe and well and perhaps we will get to see you all soon!



North Star Lodge #227

Bob Tooker

And the fun continues. The Master and the Lodge Leadership of North Star have decided to delay open Lodge for another month. We don't like it but with the spike of the Covid-19, it seemed the prudent thing to do. A great portion of the attending members of our Lodge are geezers, myself included, so there you have it. Members are hard enough to get, so we don't need to put them in any more danger, plus several members have spouses who have other health issues. I am amazed at the numbers of people not wearing masks in public. I guess they are being "Darwin's Elves" helping to thin the herd by eliminating the weak and stupid. Just an observation.

The antifa minions are still looting killing and burning unabated. What really amazes me is that so far, no Masonic Lodges in town but I understand the Scottish Rite Temple took some hits and the Albert Pike Statue in Washington DC was destroyed. I can't imagine that our fraternity is held in high

esteem by that group. Small miracles I suppose. I guess the original reason for protests is now blasé and largely forgotten.

One of the things that has occupied my time during this trying time is working as a Mentor for the Lancaster County Veterans Treatment Court. This is a coalition of the Veterans Administration, Lancaster County District Court, County Prosecutor, Public Defender, County Probation Office, Lincoln Police Dept. and former Combat Veterans as Mentors. The Veterans that are admitted to the 18 to 24-month program are men and women from all branches of military service who have committed certain felonies. After being admitted into the program, they must post a bond, plead guilty, undergo random drug and alcohol screenings, undergo counseling and treatment by the VA or other approved sources. They must attend a weekly court hearing and report to the judge their weekly activities. They also must attend and successfully complete "life lessons" such as budgeting finances, spousal abuse training, community service and such. Depending on their disability level, they must be gainfully employed, attend college or vocational training, or do

voluntary work in the community. The program is divided into five levels with certain goals to be completed before advancement. When the program is successfully completed, upon graduation, the bond is returned, their felony is expunged from the record and they are given a new lease on life. Many in the program suffer from PTSD from their combat experiences. The Mentors task is not as a Counselor, Drill Sergeant, Priest or Benefactor. We are tasked to be a Roll-Model, Coach/Guide and Advocate. We listen, have weekly contact, be some one the Vet can confide in, assist the Vet and guide them to the available resources so they can initiate the process to solve their immediate problems. It's no free ride. If the Vet is late for testing, treatment appointments or Court, there are sanctions. Sanctions depend on the offense, their stage in the program and frequency of dropping the ball. It is amazing to see the transformation when the Vet finally "buys into" the program from the distrust, bad attitudes even poor life choices. Except for the VA and their Councilors, the rest of the team volunteer their time. It is not an adversarial program. The entire team is dedicated to the recovering Veterans

success. If you would like more information, corner me sometime.

Masonic Record of Ervin H. Unvert Jr.

Brother Ervin H. Unvert Jr. was born September 14, 1928 and departed this life April 17, 2020 at Rancho Palos Verdes, California.

Brother Unvert Petitioned North Star Lodge No. 227 Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons for Membership on October 3, 1951. He was elected to receive the degrees of Masonry on November 7, 1951. Brother Unvert received his Entered Apprentice Degree on November 14, 1951, was Passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft Mason on December 19, 1951, and was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on January 29, 1952 in North Star Lodge No. 227 A.F. & A.M. Lincoln, Nebraska.

Brother Unvert was presented with a 50 year membership award in 2002, a 60 year award in 2012, and a 65 year award in 2017.

Brother Unvert will be greatly missed by his Friends and Brothers of North Star Lodge No. 227 A.F. & A.M.

Well enough for now. Till next month.

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Bethel #5

Kristen Swisher

Bethel #5 has stayed busy despite being unable to meet yet due to the Supreme Bethel restrictions until August 31st. We met numerous times via Zoom to prepare for our first ever Virtual Grand Bethel. All ritual competitions were to be recorded and submitted to the committee and would then be judged by a small group of impartial judges. We are so proud of our Bethel #5 girls yet again this year! Here is the list of awards that were won by our very own Bethel #5 members:

Bethel with the highest membership increase - 31%
 1st Place Individual Voice - Gwen
 1st Place Individual Signing - Gwen
 1st Place Individual Piano - Sara
 2nd place Individual Instrument - Grace L
 1st Place Individual Instrument - Gwen
 Mick Memorial Scholarship - Grace L
 1st Place Chaplain - Sara
 2nd Place Jobie To Bee - Hailey
 2nd Place Obligation - Grace M
 1st Place 3rd Messenger Senior Division - Faith
 1st Place 5th Messenger Senior Division – Katrina
 2nd Place Capes & Crowns – Bethel #5
 1st Place Circle of 5 - Bethel #5

We will also be very well represented on the Grand Bethel floor again this year with 6 Grand Bethel Officers and Representatives! These young ladies were selected to the following positions:

Grand Bethel Junior Princess - Katrina
 Grand Bethel Inner Guard - Lauren
 Grand Bethel Representative to Idaho, Bahia 28, Rio Grande Do Sul, Rondônia, Sergipe - Grace
 Grand Bethel Representative to Michigan, British Columbia 2-47 - Sophie
 Grand Bethel Representative to Oregon, Pennsylvania, Minas Gerais 13-28 - Serenity
 Grand Bethel Representative to Wyoming, Wisconsin 53-79, Santa Catarina, Ontario, Saskatchewan – Elizabeth

The following week, Bethel #5 dug in for one of their biggest fundraisers to date! We operated our Wild Willy's Fireworks tent in the North 27th St. Sam's Club parking lot. We were overwhelmed with all the support we received and how insanely busy we were this year! We started with a full tent and lots of back stock left on our semi-trailer and ended up with 4 boxes of products to load up! Thank you to the members of Liberty Lodge #300 and Knights of St. Andrew for stepping up and volunteering to work an overnight shift to allow our members to get some much-needed rest! We also want to thank the hardest working Shrine clown around, Happy D Clown for stopping by and bringing so much HAPPYness to our tent! We also want to thank our own Deb and Jeanne for decorating our tent with awesome balloons to make it even more festive!!

Saturday, July 11, we held our first Virtual Installation and would like to congratulate Lauren and her Officers on a great upcoming term! I know it will be filled with challenges, but this group of amazing young ladies will handle it with true Job's Daughters qualities of patience and faith and will receive the rewards that will come.



Liberty Lodge #300

Lynn Friesen

After three months of no Masonic events, it is surreal to consider we are moving toward normalcy. At least some modified form of normalcy. What will our new normal be?

Reflecting on the last few months there are so many thoughts that rush through my mind of how Masonic Brothers have managed to adapt and try to remain engaged. I'll admit most of these thoughts are of my own personal reaction.

When things first started shutting down it was a harsh reality that Thursday nights, the night Liberty meets at the Masonic Temple, would not be the same. What had been a night of

the week to look forward to visit with Brothers, practice ritual, encourage and uplift each other was relegated to just another day. How could a single night every week of bonding with other Brothers be replaced?

One obvious conclusion was to use the opportunity to study and memorize ritual. What seemed like an obvious conclusion turned into a cipher sitting on a night stand that didn't get opened one time in three months' time. How could that happen? Why was it so hard to get motivated to do something that could enhance the Craft once we were able to return to Lodge?

Eventually Lodges started adapting and hosting zoom meetings to stay in touch. It was great to be able to see other Brothers and hear their stories. How had their lives changed? Many were working from home, some were furloughed and for others it was life as usual. Even with this new format of staying in touch it still wasn't the same as being in Lodge. What is it about being in Lodge that cements us together?

Even with the zoom meetings there was this sense of complacency. It wasn't an excitement to meet and look forward to a night of learning and fellowship. It felt like a night of dehumanizing a

bond between Brothers in some technological vortex. What would it be like when we finally would be able to meet in person? Would the spark once again be reignited? I was a little apprehensive of the answer going into our first business meeting in person in July.

What a difference being able to meet in person can make. There were smiles, jokes, laughter, stories, fellowship and education. With each passing moment you could feel the flame reigniting. It is that personal interaction that unites us. Even with a shortened year having that time we can band together can mean a lot.

For Liberty Lodge there will be plenty of weeks over the next few months working on our proficiency for degree work. Worshipful Master Hecht has plans for us to get through the EA degree in July, moving onto FC degree work in August and MM work in September and October. It would be great to see as many Brothers as possible on Thursday nights. Stop by the Masonic Temple at 7pm. Even with the social distancing, masks and other means to protect each other from the virus there is something special about being able to meet in person on the level. We hope to see you soon.

Lincoln Lodge #19

Bruce Anderson

As with most Lodges, our Lodge has not seen each other face to face for several months. It was good to have an actual face-to-face meeting. We could not do any degree work, but we could act on two petitions. We read one new petition and got the investigating committee assigned and we voted on another petition for a candidate to get started on his Masonic journey as soon as we can again confer degrees. As there was not much else to discuss, we all caught up on each other's doings. Our one Brother who sustained an eye injury at the recent protests in Lincoln was at the meeting and is slowly getting better.

As for myself, I recently have had my bank account number stolen. I had to close that account and open a new account. You don't realize how many places your numbers go and how hard sometimes it is to get them changed. Keep track of all of your finances and where they go.

I thought that as many of us are either working from home or just staying home, maybe some education on ritual work might be in order. Now would be a good time to learn a new part of a degree!

RITUAL LEARNING

The first step of learning any ritual is to know what you're saying! This should be obvious, but is often overlooked, because brethren are afraid to admit that they don't already know the right words. Don't be afraid to admit your own limits -- I've never met anyone who gets every single word right every time. Start out by listening to someone say the speech, preferably several times. (You should be doing this the entire previous year, listening to your predecessor.) Listen carefully, and make sure you understand what's being said; ask questions if you don't. (After lodge, of course.) Next, go through your cipher carefully, and see how much you can read. Mark words that you can't figure out, or that you're unsure of -- this is

the point to catch any mistakes you may be making. Then call or get together with a Ritualist or a reliable Past Master, and talk through it, reading out of the book slowly. Have him correct any mistakes and fill in the words you don't know. Take notes (preferably somewhere other than in the book), because you will forget the corrections as soon as you're on your own

Small-Scale Memorization

This is never anyone's favorite part; anyone can do it, but no-one finds it simple. It's considerably easier if you do it right, though. Start out by reading the speech over and over. Don't move on to the next step until you can read it from the cipher quickly, without breaks or hesitation. Read it out loud, when you get the chance. This step is particularly important and skipped more often than any other. Don't skip it -- this is how you get your brain and mouth trained to the words. It may sound silly, but it really matters -- the mental pathways used to talk are distinct from

those used to read. Now, start trying to learn sentences. Just sentences. Read the first word or two of the sentence, then try to fill in the remainder from memory. Don't fret if you can't do it immediately; it will probably take at least 5 or 10 times through before you're getting most of the sentences. You'll find some that are hard -- hammer those ones over and over (but don't totally neglect the rest while you do so). Again, get to the point where you're doing reasonably well on this, before going on to the next step.

Large-Scale Memorization

Once you've got most of the sentences, try to move on to paragraphs. Again, some will be easy and some hard. Try to understand exactly why this sentence follows that one -- in most cases, the ritual does make sense. An individual paragraph is almost always trying to express a single coherent thought, in pieces; figure out what that thought is, and why all the pieces are necessary. Keep at this

until you're able to get most paragraphs by glancing at the first word or two, or by thinking, "Okay, this is the description of truth," or something like that. Finally, start putting it all together. This is where the structural analysis in Step 2 gets important. You visualized the speech and figured out how it hooks together; use that visualization to connect the paragraphs. Make sure you have some clue why each paragraph follows the one before. In almost every case, the next paragraph is either a) continuing this thought, or b) moving on to a related thought. In both cases, you can make memorization much easier by understanding why it flows like that. Convince yourself that this paragraph obviously has to follow that one, and you'll never forget the order.

by WB. Mark Waks
Originally published in "Masonry Universal..." magazine, issue 26.

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Grand Master

301 N. Cotner Blvd.
 Lincoln, NE 68508-2315

Masonic Lodges

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 1635 L St. 68508 476-3453
 William Folsom, WM 420-2141
 wwfolson15@wabash.edu
 Bruce Anderson, Sec. 435-0974
 job60@ix.netcom.com
 1st Tues. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

Lancaster Lodge 54
 1635 L St. 68508 476-3453
 Matt Zier, W.M. 531-800-4650
 matthew.zier@gmail.com
 Adam Thayer, Sec. 314-6310
 adam.thayer@gmail.com
 1st Fri. Reg. Communication 7:00 p.m.

East Lincoln Lodge 210
 2700 S St. 68503 476-2412
 Jeff Buhrman, W.M. 703-732-4765
 jeff.buhrman@hotmail.com
 Thomas Michaelson, Sec., 423-1984
 901 Starview Lane 68512
 1st Thur. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

North Star Lodge 227
 2610 N. 48th St. 68504 466-2236
 Bruce Watkins, W.M.
 Steve Wetzel, Sec. 488-8198
 swetzel849@aol.com
 1518 Skyline Drive 68506
 1st Wed. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

George Washington Lodge 250
 4430 N. 70th St. 68507
 Roger Warnke, W.M. 465-8486
 3037 San Agustin Dr., 68516
 Dan Brunsen, Sec.-Treas. 432-2099
 1st Tue. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

Hickman Lodge 256
 4641 Cooper Ave., 68506
 1st Thur. Reg. Communication 7:00 p.m.

Cotner Lodge 297
 1542 No. 65th St. 68505 413-1332
 1st Mon. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

Liberty Lodge 300
 1635 L St. 68508 476-3453
 Dennis Hecht, W.M.
 dlnc@windstream.net
 Brent Myers, Sec. 580-5400
 brent@legacystrings.com
 1st Thur. Reg. Communication 7:00 p.m.

Craftsmen Lodge 314
 2645 B St. 68502 475-2820
 1st Tues. Reg. Communication 7:00 p.m.

College View Lodge 320
 4641 Cooper Ave. 68506
 1st Wed. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

Tabula Rasa Lodge 332
 1635 L St. 68508 476-3453
 3rd Tue. Reg. Communication 6:00 p.m.

Lebanon Lodge 3
 Prince Hall Affiliation 430-7003
 1630 N. 24th St. 68503-1117
 2nd Tue. Reg. Communication 7:00 p.m.

York Rite

Grand York Rite of Nebraska
 Michael E. Jones 367-3342
 Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter
 Walter Johnson 308-532-6314
 Most Ill. Grand Master, Grand Council
 LaVern Work II 296-5321
 Rite Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery
 Dennis Newman 490-1381
 Grand Secretary

Lincoln Chapter 6 R.A.M.
 1635 L St. 68508 476-3453
 Adam Thayer, High Priest 314-6310
 333 S. 44th St, 68510
 Tom Michaelson, Sec. 423-1984
 901 Starview Ln, 68512
 1st Wed.
 Covered-dish dinner 6:15 p.m.
 Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Lincoln Council 4 Cryptic Masons
 1635 L St. 68508 476-3453
 Don Gray, Ill. Master ???-????8
 Tom Michaelson, Recorder 423-1984
 1st Wed.
 Covered-dish dinner 6:15 p.m.
 Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Mount Moriah Commandery 4
 1635 L St. 68508 476-3453
 Carl Plants, Cmdr. 477-9464
 6124 NW 6th St, 68521
 Tom Michaelson, Recorder 423-1984
 1st Mon.
 Covered-dish dinner 6:15 p.m.
 Business meeting 7:00 p.m.

Scottish Rite

Scottish Rite Temple
 332 S. Centennial Mall 435-2144
 P.O. Box 95013 68509-5013
 Bruce Wood, Gen. Sec.
 Edward Boone, Venerable Master
 Micah Evans, Wise Master
 Don Albrecht, Commander
 James Batten, Master of Kadosh
 3rd Wed. Bus. Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Shrine

Sesostris Temple
 1050 Saltillo Rd 474-6890
 Roca, Ne 68430
 Dan Johnson, Potentate 450-4461
 105 E. 6th St. 68372

Daughters of the Nile
 Naphle Temple No. 6
 Jennifer Olsen, Queen 840-3173
 5930 Meadowbrook Ln 68510

Eastern Star

Eastern Star Grand Chapter of Nebraska
 Karan Birdsall
 Worthy Grand Matron
 Bruce A Baker
 Worthy Grand Patron
 Jan Thoman
 Grand Secretary
 301 N. Cotner Blvd, Suite 200
 Lincoln NE 68505-2315
 nebraskaoes@msn.com
 402-937-7056
 1-844-309-6855

Electa Chapter 8
 1635 L St. 68508 476-3453
 Denise Lagueux, W.M.
 Don Frank, W.P.
 Elizabeth Benson, Sec. 310-0416
 2019 Harwood St. 68502
 1st Sat. Meeting 2:00 or 7:30 p.m.

Electa Chapter Kensington
 Susie Dunn, Sec. 890-6733
 4000 Garfield St. 68506
 2nd Thurs. 11:00 AM

Past Matrons Club
 Ilah Anderson, Courtesy Chair
 Dona Y. Hurst, Sec.-Treas. 421-1108

Myrtle Chapter 94
 2610 No. 48th St. 68504 466-2236
 Dehnia Bullerdiek, W.M.
 dehnia.bullerdiek@gmail.com
 Greg Mason, W.P.
 gregemason@gmail.com
 Deb Kendle, Sec. 617-3991
 dmkendle@gmail.com
 2nd and 4th Tues. 7:30 p.m.

Myrtle Club
 Connie Weir, Pres. 488-9040
 cdweir01@gmail.com
 Deb Kendle, V.P. 617-3991
 dmkendle@gmail.com
 Jeanne Bonnett, Sec 465-4817
 fjbbonnett@twc.com
 Robyn Mason, Courtesy 484-5756
 robynkt@gmail.com

Martha Washington Chapter 153
 4430 N. 70th St. 68507
 Susan Hedges, W.M. 672-8603
 suehedgesoes@yahoo.com
 Andy Martin, W.P. 416-9961
 amartin6@outlook.com
 Betty Kirby, Sec. 450-9137
 4501 Eagle Ridge Rd. 68516
 1st Thurs. 7:30 p.m.

Temple Chapter 271
 332 S. Centennial Mall 68508 435-2144
 Cindy Kehling, W.M. 430-6101
 4031 S. 80th St., 68506
 Andy Seachord, W.P. 309-9336
 3160 S. 72nd St. Apt 205, 68506
 Melinda Brage, Sec. 488-0837
 620 Leavitt Ln 68510-2530
 1st Mon. Stated Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Past Matrons Club
 Marilyn Jepson, President 423-6049

Columbia Chapter 275
 1542 No. 65th St. 68505
 Trudi Thornburg, W.M. 430-9393
 2730 S. 154th St., Walton 68461
 tthornburg60@gmail.com
 John Quinn, W.P.
 10901 O St., 68520
 Kaylene Martin, Sec. 488-6388
 1st Tues. Stated Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Columbia Chapter Kensington
 Kaylene Martin, Pres. 488-6388
 401 S. 84th St. 68510 4th Tues.

Past Matrons & Past Patrons Club
 Trudy Thornburg, Pres. 430-2165
 Nancy Weers, Vice-Pres. 466-3750

Starcraft Chapter 307
 2645 B St. 68502 475-2820
 Bridget Anderson, W.M. 440-3434
 2610 S. 26th St., 68502
 Dennis Brydl, WP, 423-6982
 2510 Kessler Blvd. 68502
 Cora Redwine, Sec. 438-9447
 4101 N.12th St., 68521
 1st Wed. Stated Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Capitol Chapter 320
 4641 Cooper Ave., 68506
 Martha Cabieles, W.M.
 Jairo Cabieles, W.P. 875-1711
 Douglas B. Johnson, Sec. 421-7006
 4600 Birch Hollow Dr. 68516-5107
 1st Mon. 7:30 p.m.

Youth Groups

DeMolay

Lincoln Chapter
 Ryan Binge, Master Councilor
 Katie Warwick, Chapter Sweetheart
 Brent Warwick, Chapter Dad 770-0693
 Meetings 2nd and 4th Wed. 7:00 p.m.
 332 Centennial Mall South
 Please send correspondence to:
 Brent Warwick 770-0693
 bwarwick@inebraska.com

Dr. Frederick Eiche Chapter
 No Master Councilor
 No Chapter Sweetheart
 No Chapter Dad
 No Meetings

Job's Daughters

Bethel 5
 Please send all correspondence to:
 1635 L St. 68508-2510 476-3453
 Kristen Swisher, Guardian 202-7113
 416 N. 19th St., Beatrice, 68310
 LeRoy Rosenthal, ABG, 416-4825
 4702 W. Ramsey Rd.68524
 Heather Leuschen, Sec. 540-0179
 640 W. 6th St, Palmyra, 68418
 Gwen Leuschen, Honored Queen
 2nd and 4th Sat. 10:00 a.m. or 3:00 p.m.
 Dark July and August

Bethel 27
 2610 N. 48th St.
 Please send all correspondence to:
 Sarah Watts, BG 890-1569
 410 North 100th Circle 68527
 wattsfamily410@gmail.com
 Tom Anderson, ABG 450-1651
 3812 NW 49th St. 68524
 toa7777@gmail.com
 Marissa Roesler, Sec. 432-5184
 7542 South St, 68506
 roeslerms3@gmail.com
 Elena Watts, Honored Queen
 1st & 3rd Sun. 1:30 p.m.

Bethel 63
 1542 No. 65th Street
 Kristi Thornburg, Guardian 430-4533
 8235 Northwoods Dr Apt 304 68505
 kristi1482@hotmail.com
 Eric Bahm, Assoc. Guardian 770-0693
 3710 LaSalle St, 68516
 ericdbahm@gmail.com
 Beth Jacobson, Sec. 770-9814
 220 West G St, Elmwood, 68349
 laurabethjacobson@hotmail.com
 1st and 3rd Thurs. 7:00 p.m.

Rainbow for Girls

Lincoln Assembly 6
 332 S. Centennial Mall (Scottish Rite)
 Please send all correspondence to:
 Tiffany Westerholt, Mother Advisor
 618 W. Burt Dr. 68521 304-8238
 Laurie Sieg, Advisory Board Chair
 7600 Baldwin Ave 68507 464-2410
 lauriesieg@gmail.com
 Karli Young, Worthy Advisor
 1st and 3rd Tues. 7:00 p.m

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 Michelle Smith, Pres.
 Please send all correspondence to:
 Michelle Smith, Pres.
 601 West B St., Lincoln, Ne 68522

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 1300 Avenue D
 Plattsmouth NE 68048-1055

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*All submissions may be edited for length and content. The Masonic
 News Board makes all final decisions.*

COMING EVENTS IN MASONRY

EDITOR'S NOTE: As we are just starting to re-open the various bodies in the Masonic Family, no events have been reported yet. Please contact the appropriate Masonic body leadership prior to attending any event or meeting to verify any restrictions in place.

Open with restrictions: All lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, all York Rite chapters and councils.

Not yet open: All chapters under the jurisdiction of the Grand OES of Nebraska, all York Rite commanderies.

Current status unknown: Scottish Rite, Shrine, all youth groups.

Tales From The North (Dakota)

Tyler T. Hall

Greetings from Bismarck/ Mandan, North Dakota, from Brother Tyler, a perpetual member of North Star Lodge No. 227 in Lincoln, Nebraska, and dual member of Mandan Lodge No. 8 in Mandan, North Dakota. I bring you news and experiences from my travels from DeMolay to Masonry to other appendant bodies in Lincoln, Nebraska, to the Twin Cities of Minnesota, and finally to western North Dakota. Hope you enjoy each month as we go on a trip together in search for that which may not have been too lost.

Grand Lodge of North Dakota, June 13, 2020:
With the soft opening of states and Grand Jurisdictions, Grand Lodges who hold their Annual Communications during the spring/summer, had to either cancel or invent different ways to conduct their required annual business during the days of the pandemic.

For the Grand Lodge of North Dakota, we were originally going to hold the 131st Annual Communication in Devils Lake, North Dakota, on Friday, June 12 – Saturday, June 13, with the traditional fun day on Thursday, June 11, with 4-man Golf Scramble and a Clay Shoot. Things obviously had to change, so the Grand Lodge Committees met the weekend prior via Zoom or Microsoft Teams, where our Grand Lodge has been working with more over the last few months.

On Friday, June 12, just a few essential Grand Lodge members set up the rooms and technology at the Grand Lodge offices in Fargo, North Dakota. Via Microsoft Team's Live Streaming, Grand Master gave greetings, introduced the candidates for Junior Grand Warden, and officially opened the electronic ballots for Grand Lodge elected officers, Grand Lodge Committee candidates, and regular Grand Lodge initiatives/by-law changes. Elections were electronic by prior registration which required a double entry of the voter registration ID number assigned. Those registered and allowed to vote at Grand Lodge (Grand Lodge Officers, Lodge Officers, Past Masters)

- over 140 registered and just over 80 voted electronically – did so between being declared open at 3:30 PM Friday until being declared closed at 11:00 AM Saturday. As we don't yet have legislation for this process yet, the Grand Lodge on Saturday morning voted to ratify the said vote for official record.

On Saturday, June 13, as 2019-2020 Senior Grand Steward, I traveled from Mandan to Fargo (roughly 3 hours straight east on I-94) to officially open the Grand Lodge of North Dakota in full form. Limited numbers were in attendance including the Grand Lodge Officers, and were asked to practice physical distancing with masks given to us by the Grand Master. The masks were light blue with a Masonic emblem on the left side.

Saturday at 9:00 AM, at the Fargo Masonic Center (next to Grand Lodge offices) Grand Lodge was opened in full form. Grand Lodge was called "At Ease" while the Grand Lodge opened for registrants via Microsoft Teams video stream again at 10:30 AM, continuing with awards, speeches, and brief reports, and closing back up after the 11:00 AM declaration of ballot closing. We then finished with a closed/tyled meeting of official business before closing Grand Lodge in full form.

Lunch was on our own, but we went to a delicious restaurant in Fargo. It was great to catch up with the Brothers, and we felt blessed to be able to do even this Annual Communication when other Grand Jurisdictions and States are under more restrictions. For the most part, North Dakota is less populated in such a vast special area.

At 2:00 PM the Grand Lodge Live Streaming was again put up for view as the new Grand Lodge Officers were installed.

Congrats to our 2020-2021 Grand Lodge of North Dakota Officers! MW Bob Wedberg Jr, Grand Master, and his team, including myself again as Senior Grand Steward. My good friend and brother, RW Danny Haugen, now Deputy

Grand Master, is also a member of my North Dakota Lodge, Mandan Lodge #8, and without his help with the technology team and stills with Microsoft Teams, secure electronic balloting, Live Streaming, and A/V, we wouldn't have been as smooth as we were in this year's Annual Communication.

We celebrated with a small crowd at the El Zagal Shrine Center, next door, at the Arabian, their oasis. MW Bob happens to be a Past Potentate and current Recorder for El Zagal as well.

Lots of stories in between, but more articles yet to come...Thanks for listening.



2019-2020 GLND Grand Line Officers, left to right: RW Rick Wightman, Junior Grand Warden; RW Danny Haugen, Senior Grand Warden; MW Lowell Domier, Grand Master; RW Bob Wedberg Jr., Deputy Grand Master.



Grand Lodge of North Dakota – Above = 2019-2020 Grand Officers; Below = 2020-2021.



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