Yuma Lodge No. 17, F&AM



July/August Volume 20, Issue 04

## TRESTLEBOARD

## VIEW FROM THE EAST

By Michael Kofta, Worshipful Master

Greetings from the East,

Brothers and Sisters, greetings. May the Great Architect Of The Universe continue to bestow his many blessings upon you.

With the current pandemic, the recent curfew, stay-in-place orders and such, it has been difficult for many of us to fraternize with our Brothers and Sisters how we would like to. However, we remain strong and healthy and hopefully we will be able to come together soon. You can look forward to many changes in the future to maintain the health and safety of our fraternity and families.

I have passed our email communications from Grand Lodge on to the line officers. You can call or communicate with either me or them if you have any questions on the upcoming resolutions for Grand Lodge.

An abbreviated Grand Lodge will be occurring near the end of this month and the results will appear in the next Trestleboard.

Due to the Stated Meeting of April being cancelled, the next Stated Meeting will be on August 13, 2020. Unless things improve dramatically by then, there will be no dinner prior to, or social gatherings of Brethren in the Lodge either before or after Lodge meeting.

Other recommended Personal Precautionary Measures are:

- 1. Stay at home when you are sick, not feeling well, or do not feel comfortable in attending meetings. If you or a family member are at higher risk for severe illness, you should avoid attending meetings in congregated settings.
- 2. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- 3. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- 4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- 5. Wearing of cloth face coverings, in public settings where other physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

Brothers and Sisters, your health and well-being remain of the utmost priority. If there is anything either myself or the Lodge can do for you, please do not hesitate to ask.

Lodge officers, it is imperative that you remain proficient in your ritual so that you may be able to advance in the coming Masonic year.

(continued on next page)



#### STATED MEETINGS

Second Thursday of each month, September through June.

There will be no dinner preceding meeting until further notice

Meeting at 7:30pm

#### REGULAR MEETINGS

Degree work most every Thursday at 7:00pm.

Call (928) 783–7993 or visit <u>www.yumalodge17@gmail.com</u> for schedule.

#### OFFICE HOURS

Call (928) 503–4356 for an appointment.

#### TRESTLEBOARD

Published bi-monthly.

Article submissions are due on the 15th of each even-numbered month.

Sabrina Arps, publisher (928) 246–6580 ncbudgirl88@gmail.com



## **2020 OFFICERS**

#### Worshipful Master

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#### Senior Steward

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#### Junior Steward

## **VIEW FROM THE EAST (continued)**

## By Michael Kofta, Worshipful Master

Brothers and Sisters, please reach out to our other members who you have not been able to sit with in Lodge, Temple, or Chapter to ensure that they are still doing well and are not in need of anything.

Until we meet again, please stay safe, stay healthy, and stay connected to one another.

Fraternally, Michael A. Kofta Worshipful Master



## **VIEW FROM THE WEST**

#### By Sean Godfrey

## **Uplifting the Depravity**

As we close out yet another season and enter in to the third quarter, what a year it has been thus far. As I wrote to you earlier in the year, as we began this journey together into this new decade, I referred to it

as the "year of vision: 2020". However, I do not think any of us could've ever envisioned our world would be so changed by the level of disparity and depravity that has seemingly gripped and overtaken the mindscape of the Nation(s) of the world, by indirectly affecting the entire human race.

I recently came across a painting in my travels that hung near the Physical Therapy ward of the Veterans Administration Hospital, as I traversed my wheelchair through their nearly empty desolate corridors, that read: Mind-Full | Mindful?

On one side of the painting depicted man's bustling thoughts: overwhelming with emotion, triumph and fear, and on the other simply a crystal clear day, the sun, at it's meridian, casting down its rays over a beautiful canopy of trees.

In these current and uncertain times of National crisis and worldwide catastrophe, with pandemic flu(s), race wars/riots, civil protest, and unrest, it is more apparent now so than ever that we must become mindful and not "mind-full" of ourselves, the world(s), and those around us in which we live.

I continue to pray that the G.A.O.T.U. continues to be with, and within each and every one of you and your loved ones, and may you all be guided by the light in which emanates from the center of all well governed lodges.

Have a great summer, be safe, be well, stay connected and as always, just because we are going "dark" does not mean there is no light in Masonry. Please get with myself, any of the lodge officers, and/or the curator of our library, W.B. Mikel K. White, and we will be more than happy to open the library unto you. \**All works must first be approved/ checked-out through the curator before leaving.*\*

Fraternally yours, Sean R. Godfrey Senior Warden

## **GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH**

By Benjamin Hinderer

## Greetings from the SOUTH,

Good Day Brothers,

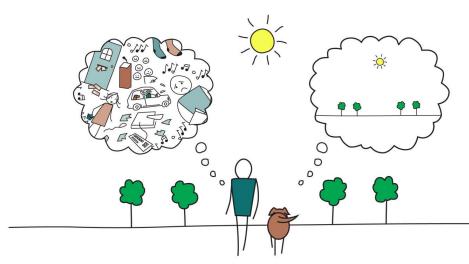
First of all, I know many people do not believe that the Coronavirus is as serious as people are making it out to be. I assure you that it is a serious threat to many people's well-being. We should take it seriously and take every precaution we can to keep all of our brethren safe. No one is sure how long it will last. There are many conflicting resources on the topic. All I can tell you is that you should take it

seriously and keep your family safe. It has made me realize who and what is important in my life.

I recently had my Thyroid removed and I would like to give a huge shout out to our brother Antero Trujillo, for not only being there for me as my anesthesiologist, but also being there for me as a Brother. It meant so much to my family and myself that he was willing to do that for me. He followed me through the whole procedure and checked up on me after. I cannot express in words how much this meant to me.

Besides all of the Coronavirus, the country is also in a state of uproar like it has never been before. We must remember to look to our core values of brotherly love, relief, and truth to help get the world back on its feet. If we look to one another we can all make it through this unscathed hopefully. If any brother is in need of any assistance, do not hesitate to ask for help.

Benjamin Hinderer Junior Warden



Mind Full, or Mindful?



Secretary: yumalodge17@gmail.com

Trestleboard: ncbudgirl88@gmail.com



## 2020 OFFICERS (CONTINUED)

## Marshall

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## <u>Chaplain</u>

Antero A. Trujillo (Norma) (928) 581–6286 altrujillo2001@yahoo.com

## Tyler

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Douglas W. Arps Jr. "DJ", 2022 (928) 503–9802 crimswrestling@gmail.com

## Donate online at: YumaLodge17.org

## Yuma Lodge No. 17

Stated Meetings: Second Thursday at 7:30pm (there will be no dinner preceding meeting until further notice)

Degree Work: Most every Thursday at 7:00pm.

Trustees' Meetings: Monday prior to Stated Meeting at 6:00pm. Lodge members welcome.

## **York Rite Bodies**

Stated Meetings: First Monday at 7:30pm.

Practice: Third Monday at 7:30pm.

## **Order of the Eastern Star**

Meetings: Second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00pm, preceded by dinner at 6:00pm.

## Yuma Shrine Club

Meetings: Second Monday at 7:00pm.

## Yuma Shrine Ladies Lunch

12 Noon, Second Monday of each month September through April Call Betsy Ramirez at (928) 210–8740 for location.



facebook.com/YumaMasons

## July 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Grand Communications – CANCELLED (due to COVID-19 pandemic)

# August 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 STATED	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



## FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR GRAND DEACON

By Michael Dale

## Masonic Leadership in the Lodge

I think it is safe to say that in our business and social life, and as Freemasons, we have seen examples of both good and poor leadership. We know that good leadership is important to business and military organizations, because even the power of the paycheck or the power of the chain of command is not sufficient to move men to do their very best. Leadership is equally essential in a irretion like Freemasonry if the membership is to be motivated and inspired.

volunteer organization like Freemasonry, if the membership is to be motivated and inspired.

The problem is that leadership itself is not always well understood. In fact, it is often confused with management, and while there is some overlap, they are not the same thing. Management focuses on organizational and bureaucratic skills. Leadership focuses more on interpersonal skills. I want to address what I think are some of the personal attributes you must cultivate in order to be a good leader, and then discuss some of the skills or traits of the leader.

What is leadership?

It is the art of influencing and directing people to obtain their trust, respect, confidence, and loyal cooperation. Some of us are born with greater instinctive leadership skills than others, but everyone can improve his skills by observation, experience, and emulation. I think there are eight essential qualities of a good leader.

- The first is integrity. This must be the foundation of all your words and actions. Never sacrifice your credibility; once lost, it is virtually impossible to regain.
- The second is self-discipline. If you cannot govern yourself, you will not be able to govern others.
- The third is energy and enthusiasm. If you are not excited and motivated, it is hard to instill this feeling in others.
- The fourth is initiative and determination. Leadership is difficult and decisions are hard, but do not allow yourself to be paralyzed. Take the initiative. Figure out what needs to be done, do it, and have the fortitude to see it through.
- The fifth is justness. You must act fairly with your Brethren and fellow Lodge officers on all occasions.
- The sixth is firmness and kindness. You must be decisive and resolute if you are to make progress, but you should not be overbearing and heavy-handed. You need to treat your Brethren and fellow Lodge officers with kindness and courtesy.
- The seventh is courage. You have to have the moral courage to do what is right when it is not convenient, and even when it is unpopular.
- The eighth is imagination. You must have a vision, decide what is possible, determine what is important, and develop a strategy.

The net of all of this is that the leader has to set the example. It is not enough to know the principles of leadership. You must exhibit them.

In addition to these eight essential qualities of a good leader, eight additional leadership skills or traits need to be cultivated.

The first of these is bearing or command presence. This is the way in which you carry yourself, and is the product of dignity, sharpness in appearance and action, firm and unhurried speech, and self-confidence. What this means in practice is that the ritual and business part of a stated meeting should be carried out with professional bearing. The rest of the meeting can be more informal and fun. It is an art to be able to alternate between the two. You need to show your command presence when the inevitable curve balls come your way at meetings. Remember to be adaptable, exercise patience, and maintain your bearing. You also need to show your command presence when mistakes are made. Being human, you and your officers will make mistakes when conducting the ritual and conferring the degrees. Nevertheless, remember to stay the course and drive on. The important thing is to impress the visitors and the candidates, and provide them with an outstanding and enlightening experience.

The second is communication, which is the ability to speak, write, and teach. If you need practice in these areas, take the initiative to practice them whenever you can. One way is to give a presentation to the Lodge. You will be in the East soon enough, but it is better to practice now. As Worshipful Master, maintain close communication with your Wardens. Work as a team and remember that part of your job is to train them to take your place.

The third is loyalty downward. This means taking care of your people, both your junior officers and the Brethren. As the leader, your job is to remove the obstacles in their way, and put them in a position to succeed. Make sure they have the training and the tools they need, and back them to the hilt. When men believe you have their back, they will work hard for you.

(continued on page 6)

## FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR GRAND DEACON (CONTINUED)

#### By Michael Dale

Part of this skill is to delegate as much as possible. Tell your officers and committee chairs what results you want, but not how to do it. Only give them guidance as they need it, and never micromanage. Delegating means decentralizing authority. Although, as the Worshipful Master, you have the overall responsibility, you should give your team all the authority and discretion they can handle.

Another part of this skill is to encourage teamwork. We are stronger when we work together than when we work separately – or worse yet – when we work at cross-purposes. Moreover, of course, ensure that your officers and the members of your team receive all the credit due them. You can never thank people enough for the good work they contribute.

The fourth leadership trait is competence. As the leader, you have to work hard to learn your business so others can see you know what you are doing. This will help you earn the confidence of your Brethren. It is a good idea to obtain your proficiency card as soon as possible, and get to know where to find answers to any questions.

The fifth trait is attitude. As the leader, you need to have a "can-do" attitude. The mark of a leader is to do the best you can with what you have, and do it with confidence and enthusiasm.

The sixth trait is devotion. The Worshipful Master must be devoted to the Craft and its traditions, and must work to foster that attitude in his officers and the members of his Lodge. The leader sets the example. If you take Freemasonry seriously, so will your Brethren.

The seventh trait deals with orders or direction. As Worshipful Master, you must issue and enforce orders. You do not want to give direction without careful consideration of the facts and circumstances, but once you understand the issue, you should not waiver. You also should realize that issuing an order, as hard as that may be, is the easy part. The hard part – but also the important part of your responsibility – is to ensure that the order is carried out, either by your junior officers or by your committees.

The eighth trait deals with praise and reprimand. The basic rule is to praise in public and reprimand in private. Make use of formal occasions, such as the stated meetings, the district class, or other special events, to present a Brother with recognition. Do not criticize a Brother in front of others; take him aside, explain the problem, and when finished, end on a positive note with some compliments. Remember, at bottom we are all Brothers and that is what is most important.

Let me conclude with a few final observations. The principles I have talked about are important to all of the Brethren in a Lodge. We recognize that every Lodge already has Brethren who are not in line but who, nevertheless, are leaders who the Brethren look up to, admire, emulate, and follow. We know that it is necessary that the officers of the Lodge be good leaders, if the Lodge is to prosper. In addition, we want those in the Lodge who may, in the future, wish to be in line to hone their leadership skills.

Always remember the power of example. As an officer you must keep in mind that the Masons in your Lodge will take their cue from you, so always conduct yourself as a Master Mason should. The good name and esprit de corps of the Craft are in your hands – you can make or break it.

Never overlook our traditions or our ritual. We are justly proud of our traditions, which have taken centuries to establish. Take care to be courteous to all your Brethren and to show respect to the senior officers and Past Masters. It is greatly appreciated and shows good discipline. Never be afraid to be seen as a hard charger. Look sharp, act sharp, and carry yourself as an officer. Execute the ritual with precision and feeling.

Remember, our objective is harmony, cooperation, and teamwork, with all of the Brethren pursuing their work on behalf of the Lodge and Freemasonry with enthusiasm. This is best achieved with good leadership, and good leadership is achieved by cultivating in your character the virtue and honor expected of a Lodge officer. At the end of the day, if the officers and Brethren of your Lodge are successful, then you are a successful leader.

Our Lodges are what we make of them, so let each of us do everything in our power to increase the prestige and reputation of our gentle Craft. Remember, a Lodge with good leadership will be a successful Lodge, in terms of its reputation, membership development, educational opportunities, and community service. The destiny of Freemasonry in Arizona depends on us.

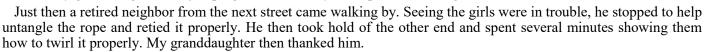


## MOMMY, IS THAT MAN A MASON?

by Ex. Comp. Don Maybaugh, Jr. (Ohio), The Royal Arch Mason - Spring 1977

The following story was related to me by my daughter.

A couple of months ago, my five-year-old granddaughter was in the front yard, jumping rope with her sister. The one end of the rope was tied to a tree, the other end, in the hands of her sister was being twirled. My granddaughter was jumping when suddenly the rope became tangled.



His answer to her was, "Honey, you don't have to thank me it was my duty," after which he continued walking down the street. My granddaughter then went into the house and asked her mother, "Mommy, is that man a Mason?" Her mother smiled and said, "Yes, honey, that man is a Mason!"

They say that out of the mouths of babes come words of wisdom. That same man was senior warden 30 years ago, when I was raised a Master Mason. Although, due to ill health, he had not attended lodge in the last few years, he still remembered his obligations. When he was active, he inspired me enough that I vowed to myself that someday I would become master. Due to my work for 20 years, I was unable to fulfill that vow. But, in the last few years, I have been privileged to serve as master, high priest, and now as generalissimo of my Commandery. I am hoping to serve as commander next year.

As such, I have often heard, "Why is attendance in all bodies on the decline?" We strive for perfection in our lodge ritual work, but do we, as Masons, let our light shine before men that they may see our good works?

(continued on page 8)

## STAR IN THE EAST

Submitted by B.J. Dale, Conductress (Carolyn Simson, Worthy Matron)

#### Greetings everyone!

We hope that this issue finds everyone well and getting past cabin fever. Our Chapter is still on lockdown. Everything has been cancelled for the rest of our year, so all members are staying in their positions until further notice. We will continue to help out the Yuma Food Bank as much as we can. We plan on continuing our "social gathering ZOOM meetings" through the summer just to check in and keep in touch with everyone. Everyone that we have checked in with seems to be handling this pandemic in the best way possible.

We would like to wish a belated Happy Birthday to our JUNE birthdays: Mike Kofta (6/6) and Carol Cloud(6/21). We would also like to wish a Happy Birthday to our upcoming birthdays:

- JULY: B.J. Dale (7/9), Worthy Matron Carolyn Simson (7/12), Johnnie Bowden, PGM (7/17), Mary Godfrey (7/17), Lou Strahm (7/31)
- AUGUST: David Gillis, PGP (8/3), Marge Scheafer (8/4), Dona Smith (8/25).

We hope you are all able to spend your special day with a loved one.

We would like to send a special Congratulations to our Worthy Patron, Michael Dale, who was installed as Senior Grand Deacon for the Grand Lodge of Arizona for 2020–2021. We are so excited for him and extremely proud of him!

Until next time, please keep all of our ailing members in your thoughts and prayers. If you know someone that isn't feeling well, would appreciate a phone call or card, or may need assistance getting to appointments or to the store, please call Carolyn Simson (Worthy Matron) 928 247–5962 (or any Chapter member) to let her know. We miss seeing all of you and we hope to see everyone's smiling faces when we are able to start up with our meetings again. Take care and be safe!

Carolyn Simson, Worthy Matron Michael Dale, Worthy Patron

## YUMA CHAPTER NO. 14 ORDER of the EASTERN STAR

The meetings are held the SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY of each month, September through June. All members are welcome. A light meal is served at 6pm, followed by a meeting at 7pm. Refreshments are served after the meeting. Hope to see you there. If you have questions please call the lodge at (928) 783–7993.





#### MOMMY, IS THAT MAN A MASON? (continued)

The Mason of whom I have spoken, although unable to attend lodge, was able to impress a five-year-old girl. Can we not learn from this event that our everyday lives in lodge, work and the home are what it is all about? My little granddaughter has seen me rush home from work, dress and hurry to lodge. The night I was installed as master, she gave me a worshipful master's pin to wear on my lapel.

She may be only five years old, but she seems to know what Masonry is about.

I ask each of you who read this now...during your lifetime, how many times has the question been asked about you by your neighbors, adults and children alike, is he a Mason?

Earlier this evening we gave this man a Masonic burial service. I than related this event to his widow and family. Upon returning home, I asked myself: How many times has this man let his light before other that they could see his good works?

He served Wellington Lodge as master and was high priest of Wellington Chapter during the year 1947. His name: Lloyd Irish.

Brotherly Love, Douglas W. Arps, Jr. (DJ) Senior Deacon

## **PUBLISHER'S CORNER**

I don't know about you, but we are having some major fellowship withdrawals in our house! My girls miss going down to the lodge and helping out and seeing everyone. Brooke keeps asking when it's going to be "boys night at the lodge" again. (That's what she lovingly calls



Stated Meeting night!) I miss getting to see my sisters and brothers and just having fun together. I know we'll get to be together soon and Eastern Star has been having Zoom meetings, but it's just not the same. Being stuck at home with just my kids has made me miss adult humans! LOL

Please continue to practice social distancing and self-quarantine if you need to. Stay at home unless absolutely necessary! The spike in COVID cases in Yuma is a little scary, but if we continue to follow guidelines we can make Yuma safe again! Even though we should refrain from being with one another, that doesn't mean we can't talk to one another. Reach out to your Brothers and Sisters, check in on them, make sure they are okay or see if they need anything.

If there is anything you would like to see in the Trestleboard or have any suggestions, please feel free to let me know! If you attend an event, don't forget to take pictures and submit them, either to me or on Facebook. Take care and stay safe!

Sincerely,

Sabrina Arps

## Committees

## **MASTER'S PROGRAMS** Audit TBD Budget Worshipful Master **By-Laws** Quaid E. Smith, PM, KYGCH Hector Aponte **Cemetery Clean-up** Roy Wright, Chairman **Facilities Maintenance** Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ" Timothy Williams, PM Funeral Mikel K. White, PM Grievance Michael A. Dale, PM Library/Archives Mikel K. White, PM **Masonic Education & Ritual** Mikel K. White, PM, DDGM Timothy Williams, PM Michael A. Dale, PM **Masonic Relief** Worshipful Master **Master's Advisory** Michael A. Dale, PM Mikel K. White, PM, DDGM Timothy W. Williams, PM Wives, Widows, and Orphans Quaid E. Smith, PM, KYGCH Brad Hamner

## **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** Candidate Instruction

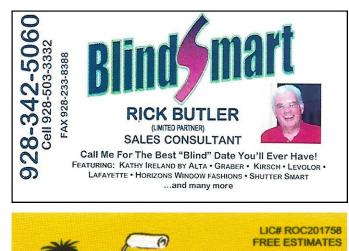
Quaid Smith, PM, KYGCH Antero Trujillo **Officer Instruction** Mikel K. White, PM, DDGM FUNDRAISING Chairman – Dale Kreger, PM Co-Chairmen – Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ" Brad Hamner Barbeque Chairman – Mikel K. White, PM, DDGM Trustees Balloon Glow Dale Kreger, PM Raffle & Other Venues Stewards

## PUBLIC SCHOOL/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Bikes for Books Brad Hamner Roadside Clean-up Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ" Law Enforcement Memorial Hector Aponte Scholarship/Classroom Grants Chairman – Sean R. Godfrey

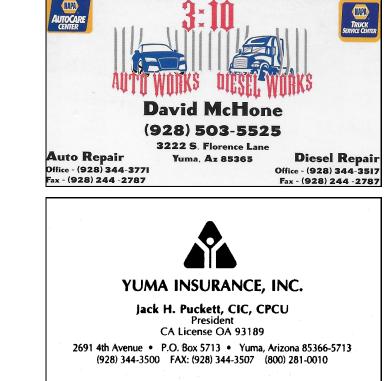
**MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS/FRATERNAL SUPPORT Birthday Cards** Benjamin T. Hinderer Facebook Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ" Mason of the Year SW & JW **Membership Participation/Retention** Worshipful Master **Sickness and Distress** Antero Trujillo **Trestleboard** Sabrina Arps, Publisher Timothy Williams, PM, Printing Jerry Leckrone, PM, Distribution Website Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"





(928)210-8404

**Dale Kreger** 





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