



TRESTLEBOARD

VIEW FROM THE EAST

By Michael Kofta, Worshipful Master

Greetings from the East,

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless you and your families.

Brothers and Sisters, Season's Greetings.

What a busy, AWESOME and blessed year we have had!

To the Brothers in the line for 2020, congratulations on your elections and appointments. Take due and timely notice that the bar has been raised, at least another notch, for this next year. Congratulations to WB Michael Dale on his appointment as the Junior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona.

Congratulations to our Brothers who welcomed new additions to their families this past year: Brother Sean Godfrey and his wife Mary on the birth of their son, Preston Helmswith Godfrey Esq., on the 9th of August and Brother Benjamin Hinderer and his wife Michelle on the birth of their son, Walker José Hinderer, on the 7th of December.

Grand Lodge Events:

The Grand Lodge Leadership Conference was held in Casa Grande in March followed by the Grand Communication held in Tucson in June, where WB Michael Dale and myself were appointed to Junior Grand Deacon and Grand Sword Bearer, respectively.

It was great sadness that we attended services for Past Worshipful Grand Master Nelson in Flagstaff in August.

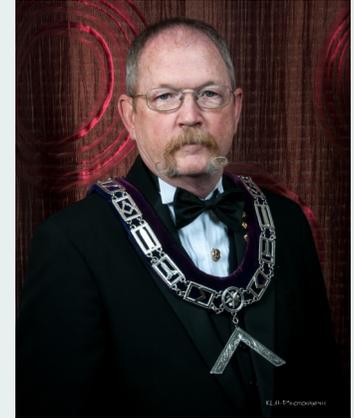
Travelling Brothers:

Many of the Brothers from Yuma Lodge have jumped in vehicles and journeyed across the state of Arizona and even into Southern California for visits during the past year.

Almost our entire officer line attended the first meeting at Imperial Lodge #390 in El Centro, California, after they merged with Brawley Lodge in July, for an Official Lodge Visit.

Many of the visits were in conjunction with WB Michael Dale's visits as the Junior Grand Deacon: White Mountain Lodge #3 in Globe in July; King Solomon Lodge #5 in Tombstone in August; Gila Valley Lodge #9 in Florence in September; Kingman Lodge #22 in Kingman and Ascension Lodge #89 (the "baby lodge") in October; Anahuac Lodge #81 in Tucson in November; and Adobe Lodge #41 in Tucson in December were visited during their stated meetings.

(continued on page next page)



STATED MEETINGS

Second Thursday of each month,
September through June.

Dinner at 6:30pm

Meeting at 7:30pm

REGULAR MEETINGS

Degree work most every
Thursday at 7:00pm.

Call (928) 783-7993 or visit
www.yumalodge17@gmail.com
for schedule.

OFFICE HOURS

Call (928) 503-4356 for an
appointment.

TRESTLEBOARD

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



VIEW FROM THE EAST (CONTINUED)

By Michael Kofta, Worshipful Master

Other visits were done during Outdoor Degrees put on by various lodges:

- A Third Degree in the Superstition Mountains called “The Lost Dutchman Degree” provided a fantastic backdrop for the occasion. It was a joint effort put on by lodges from Globe and Gila Valley in March.
- A Third Degree in Kingman for Kingman Lodge #22 where we were visited by elk from the area. MWB Jeff Carlton cooked some awesome steaks and Yuma Brothers pitched in and shucked corn for the meal in May.
- A Third Degree in Prescott put on by Azatlan Lodge #2 for the “Bill Fain Memorial Degree”, followed by a Third Degree in St. David for the San Pedro Lodge, which was also a joint event near beautiful downtown Benson in September.
- A Third Degree called the “Degree in Desert: The Gallows” was put on in Tombstone by King Solomon Lodge #5 and Prometheus Lodge #87 in November. Another interesting backdrop for a degree although the cool evening temperatures had us shivering for other reasons.
- Last but not least was an inspiring First Degree put on by Ascension Lodge #89. Ascension has a unique way to say the least at presenting the First Degree.

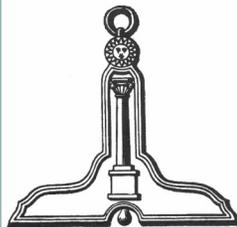
The Outdoor Degree for Yuma Lodge held on October 26th had a good attendance. Thank you all for attending and making it another AWESOME degree.

Many of our visits were accomplished in transportation which was graciously provided by our DDGM Mikel White and his wife Emily, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude for the snacks, drinks, and travelling companions of Tigger, Miss Piggy, and others.

Almost all of our events were captured and placed on Facebook. If you have any additional photos, please send them in.

Worshipful Brothers and Brothers, thank you for your support during 2019 and the opportunity and companionship to conduct the visits that we conducted this last year. I look forward to 2020!

Fraternally,
Michael A. Kofta
Worshipful Master



ONE LAST VIEW FROM THE WEST

By Michael Dale, PM

Mentoring

Brothers, I want to discuss the importance of bringing new Brothers into the Fraternity and the actual significance of mentoring the new Brothers. I have seen Brothers come through the door in flocks, only to be paired off with a single Brother, taught the words, and raised. When a Brother enters the lodge, he may be given an instructor or “mentor,” but it is still each and every member of a lodge’s responsibility to help that Brother become a successful Mason. If you see a new Brother come through the door, look for a passion within him,

something that can be cultivated to help our Fraternity progress in some way. Inspire interest and passion within the Brother, do not demand it of him. You can only lead a horse to water. It is up to us to inspire the horse to drink by kind fellowship and by example. Raise your Brothers knowing that the future of your lodge will be carried upon their backs. It is up to us to help shape each Brother into a Mason worthy of the name of our ancient Order.

Important Note

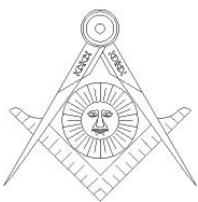
While Freemasonry is an important part of a member's life, it cannot interfere with his family, faith, or occupational commitments. Rather, Freemasonry reinforces that each member must focus on improving himself, caring for his family and community, fulfilling his personal vocational responsibility and, above all, revering his God. If he does all that, he will make an impact in ways that truly matter. What helps you be present and invested in yourself, your family, community and work?

ONE LAST GREETING FROM THE SOUTH

By Dale Kreger, PM

It is with sadness and joy that I have stepped out of line this coming year. I am proud of the new line officers for stepping up. This is your lodge; you can make it a great place to come to. You are going to be asked to do things that take some effort on your part for the good of the order; many have already done this, the others will also. Remember, you as line officers are going to be looked to as the lodge, that you are the face of the lodge. Be true to yourself and have a good year. May the blessing of heaven be with you.

Yours In Faith,
Dale Kreger, PM



Greetings brothers,

This year has been one of travels for many of the brothers. I unfortunately was only able to attend one of the trips to Prescott for an Outdoor Degree. It was a great time and great fellowship with my lodge brothers. I also enjoyed meeting new brothers from around the state and seeing other brothers I had met at previous functions. The coming year I am planning on attending more functions and hopefully meeting other members from around the state. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Benjamin Hinderer



Hey Brothers, this is DJ, aka The Big Bearded Guy. I would like to start off thanking our WM Mike Kofta for doing another term as WM. Also to all the line officers for all they have done in the past year.

This past year for me has been a blast, from going to Leadership Conference to going to Grand Communications. To the Brothers that never been to Leadership Conference, you should really try to go. It is a great way to meet Brothers from other lodges throughout Arizona and build relationships. Going to Grand Communications was special because I was able to support my father-in-law WB Mike Dale as he moves up the Grand Line. I've been able to travel to other lodges this year which was a great learning experience for me. By doing that I was able to learn from other lodges on how to make ours even better. To all our new Brothers, I would like to say Masonry has been one of the best things I jumped into. The more you put into it, the more you'll gain from it.

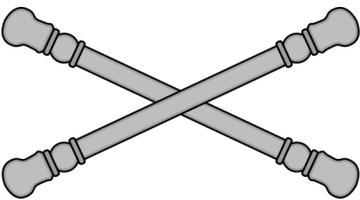
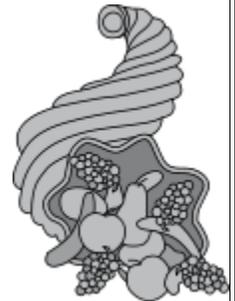
Brotherly Love,
Douglas W. Arps Jr. "DJ"

Well, a year has come and gone...my first year as a Master Mason and my first year as a proud member of the line officers for Yuma Lodge #17. To say that it has been easy would be incorrect. That being said, this has been one of the most fulfilling and uplifting things that I have done in my life.

Learning the work, trying to emulate my role models, and having fun while at it has been one of the highlights of this past year. I look forward to the one ahead. I moved from being the Junior Steward to the position of Senior Steward. The duties of this position are very important, since it is now my responsibility to make sure that new candidates are properly prepared to receive their degrees. I take on these duties with the pride and the seriousness that it deserves.

To whoever is reading this and has been wondering about "what do those guys do?" I tell you: take the step and ASK. Besides my family, I get to spend time with men whose company I enjoy. Men who always have something new for me to learn. Men who I can now call Brothers.

In Brotherly Love,
Hector Aponte



Fraternal Greetings Brethren,

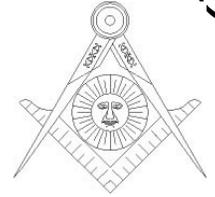
2019 has slipped by in the blink of an eye! I guess it's true when they say time flies when you're having fun, or just getting older? This year has by far been the most educating, strengthening, and fun year that I've had since being raised to Master Mason in 2009. The reason: "TRAVEL". We hear that word a lot in our work as Masons, and maybe don't give it the attention it deserves. Our very own WB Michael Dale was appointed as Junior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Arizona Free and Accepted Masons this year and with

that his duties of travel were given to him. He was given his list of Arizona lodges to visit for the year, and while most of these visits took place on a Monday or Wednesday, we as Brothers supported him and made sure he did not have to do it alone. As much as that sounds like a benefit to WB Dale, it was a great benefit to myself and our lodge. Visiting other lodges around the state, breaking bread, the fellowship, and seeing their work has been amazing! I firmly believe that this has been a great experience for the brothers that have traveled with us and in its own right partially responsible for the momentum and hard work in our own lodge. I can't wait for next year's Official Visit schedule! It has been my privilege and honor to be the Marshall of our lodge this past year and look forward to it again for 2020. Brothers, be kind, look well to your work and fellow men, and TRAVEL as much as you can!

Warm Regards,
Brad Hamner

VISIT TO AZTLAN #1 – FAIN RANCH OUTDOOR DEGREE, SEPTEMBER 7TH

By Antero Trujillo, Chaplain



Of all the Masonic ceremonies, this outdoor degree ceremony has an attraction of its own.

On this occasion, a group from our lodge decided to attend this outdoor ceremony which has taken place for 30 consecutive years. Aztlan Lodge has been in existence for 154 years.

Our delegation consisted of WB Michael Kofta, WM; WB Michael Dale, Senior Warden; WB Michael White, Secretary; WB Benjamin Hinderer, Senior Deacon; WB Roy Leon Wright, Senior Steward; WB Brad Hammer, Marshall; and myself, Chaplain.

We started from Mike Dale's home around 6:00am. We had a very nice, easy three-hour trip, courtesy of Mike White who did the driving. On arrival, we were impressed by the size and grandeur of the venue. Tall and majestic trees and green grass in such a beautiful setting, with extensive waves of grass and small lakes forming an idyllic setting. Also, there was a modern building with spacious rooms and furnished perfectly for visitors and attendees. Taking advantage of the terrain, conveniently situated in a private site, we found the perimeter of the outdoor lodge.

There is a story to this beautiful place, so perfectly suited to the expression of the Masonic spirit. Brother Bill Fain, PM of Aztlan Lodge #1, dedicated an extensive area of his property to build and equip the perfect spot for outdoor ceremonies. His descendants continue the Masonic tradition in this site.

On arrival we proceeded to register and then snacks were served in the reception room. The host lodge members and all visitors then proceeded to the event site. We all witnessed the first part of the ceremony and were able to observe the participation of the Officers of Aztlan Lodge #1 and the preparation of the candidate who was going to be elevated to Third Degree. At the conclusion of this first part we recessed and had lunch, which provided a chance to mingle and meet other members of the masonic community. During this period, MW Greg Vasquez gathered the Officials of the Grand Lodge who were present. We were very proud to see members of our lodge, WB Michael White, Deputy Grand Master District 6; WB Michael Dale, Junior Grand Deacon; and WB Michael Kofta, Grand Sword Bearer.

I would personally like to express my satisfaction of seeing and visiting with Brother George E. Weil, Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Arizona and also, Secretary of Aztlan Lodge #1.

The moment came for the second part of the ceremony, which is the presentation of the great drama in the granting of the Third Degree, where the principal participant is the candidate. Among the officers participating was MW Greg Vasquez and one of ours, Mike Dale. In conclusion, the interpretation and philosophy of the granting of this degree is beyond the scope of this article.

We could say that this ceremony represents a legend of Masonic tradition. It is supposed to inspire and preserve Masonic values while it is an invitation to analyze its contents. Also, our acceptance and rejoicing of the conclusion. The setting of this ceremony made us ponder the magnificence of creation and the presence of God among us. That evening we returned to Yuma with great memories of the wonderful experience we had and the reaffirmation of our masonic identity.

Antero A. Trujillo
Chaplain



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DEGREE WORK



April 18th – Brother Anthony “Tony” Bowen, Jr. received his First Degree



September 18th – Brother Jay Mayfield received his First Degree, led by Brother Benjamin Hinderer



October 17th – Brother Chris Perez received his First Degree, led by Brother DJ Arps.



November 7th – Brother Lauro Gonzalez received his First Degree, led by Brother Benjamin Hinderer.

Congratulations
Brothers

MASONIC BBQ

It took a lot of meat to feed all those hungry people – but the end result was worth it!

BEFORE



AFTER



FAMILY & FELLOWSHIP



Our Eastern Star brothers and sisters served up some delicious desserts and sold gorgeous holiday wreaths!



A huge THANK YOU to Emily White for getting all the salsa donated for the AMAZING salsa bar!



Leadership Conference



Our brothers in attendance had a great time learning more about the craft and fellowship, while meeting new brothers and reconnecting with brothers they had not seen for awhile.

The ladies enjoyed getting to know one another better and reconnecting with ladies from around the state.

A great time was had by all. We hope to see more brothers attend the Leadership Conference in the future!





MASONIC FAMILY NIGHT



Yuma Lodge #17 got together with our OES Yuma Chapter #14 members for a night of fellowship, fun, and FOOD!!!



This wasn't even HALF the food we had! There was something for everyone, so if you didn't eat, it was your own fault! Ms. Ruby Kofta even made some homemade lumpia...yum!!!



The men alternated between watching TV and hanging out back on the porch.

The ladies sat around and talked about life, family, and everything in between! They even had enough energy for a few rounds of Triominoes!



The kids got in on the action with some water play...even the dogs got to play in the pool!



Bikes for Books



Our brothers traveled to Dateland on May 17th for the Annual Bikes for Books program. Twenty children were given brand new bikes for participating. Congratulations to all the children who received bikes and great job reading all those books!



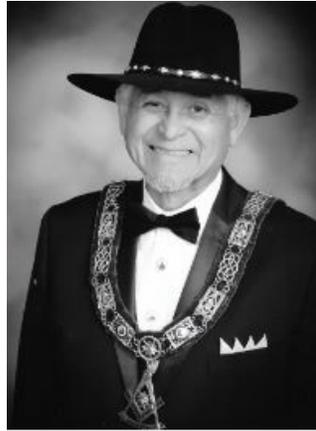
Scholarship Award



Our brothers presenting our annual scholarship to this year's recipient, Lexi Poole. A total of \$1,000 was given to help continue her education.

GRAND COMMUNICATIONS

Congratulations to our new Grand Master, Most Worshipful Greg Vasquez



Congratulations to our newly appointed Grand Officers from Yuma Lodge #17

Junior Grand Deacon,
Brother Michael Dale



Grand Sword Bearer,
Brother Michael Kofta



District Deputy Grand Master,
Brother Mikel White



Thank you to all our family and friends who came out to support our brothers!

TRAVELING

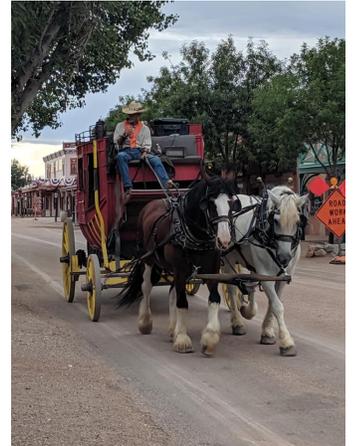


Several brothers attended the merging of Brawley Lodge #402 with Imperial Lodge #390 to become Imperial Valley Lodge #390 in California in July.

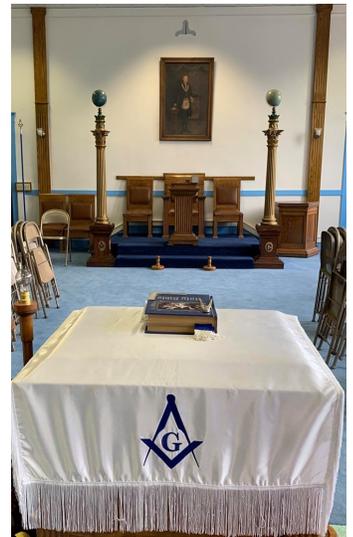


In July our brothers visited White Mountain #3 in Globe.

BROTHERS



In August our brothers headed to King Solomon Lodge #5 in Tombstone for the Official Visit of Worshipful Brother Michael Dale, Junior Grand Deacon. While there they were able to take in some of the sights of the Old West.

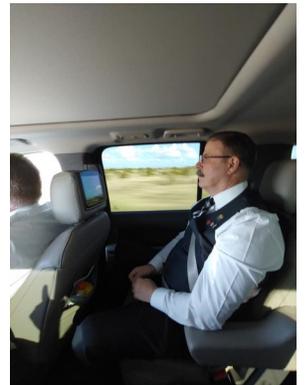


Brothers from Yuma Lodge #17 traveled to Flagstaff Lodge #7 in Flagstaff to attend the funeral of PGM MW Brother Nelson in August.

TRAVELING



On October 14th, several Brothers headed to Kingman Lodge #22 in Kingman for the Official Visit of WB Michael Dale, Junior Grand Deacon. It was a great visit!



On September 7th, we went to the Fain Ranch Outdoor Degree. It was a little warm, but worth the effort to see our Brothers in action!



On October 21st, we traveled to Ascension Lodge #89 in Phoenix for the Official Visit of WB Michael Dale, Junior Grand Deacon. It was truly an incredible experience and Ascension did a tremendous job!

BROTHERS



Some of the brothers visited Tombstone for the Outdoor Degree of King Solomon Lodge #5 and Prometheus Lodge #87 on November 23rd. Being in a historic place, walking where legends walked, made the event extra



Official Visit of the DGM, RW Brother Boyd Robertson



We had such an amazing visit from RW Brother Robertson at our Stated Meeting in September! Many of our brothers and visitors came for dinner and fellowship. Brother Mikel and his wife Emily cooked up a delicious dinner of tri-tip, potatoes, and vegetables! Our Easter Star Sisters and Brothers were also on-hand to help out and join in the celebration.



We also presented a donation to the Hospice of Yuma. This is an organization near and dear to us, so we do what we can to help out this very special organization.



Serving the Community



Brothers from Yuma Lodge #17 participated in their Highway Cleanup in October, making sure a section of Highway 95 continues to look beautiful!



Several brothers went to the local cemetery in October to clean up the area designated for our fallen brothers. We continue to do our part to honor our brethren, pay our respects, and help them to rest in peace.



OUTDOOR DEGREE



Another successful Outdoor Degree commenced on October 26th. We did a Third Degree for Brother Anthony “Tony” Bowen, Jr. We had many visitors from out of town and many of our Lodge brothers were able to attend. WB Michael Dale served as WM for the degree and was outstanding, as usual. Many raves were given for the meal prepared by WB Dale Kreger – it was simply delicious! Brother DJ Arps did a fantastic job spearheading the set-up and making sure we were ready for the day!



Installation of Officers

On December 14th, we had our 119th Installation of Officers. Congratulations of all our new officers and we look forward to the coming year!



Yuma Lodge
No. 17, F&AM
153 S. 2nd Avenue
Yuma, Arizona 85364

Office: (928) 783-7993
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