

March/April Volume 21, Issue 02

## TRESTLEBOARD

#### VIEW FROM THE EAST

By Mikel White, Worshipful Master

#### Greetings from the East,

Yuma Lodge

No. 17, F&AM

Brothers it's March and the lodge is in full swing...

First, I would like to thank Sabrina Arps, our wonderful editor of the Trestleboard. She is trying to get line officers to write and get their articles in on time and put together. Next, thank you line officers for stepping up and reopening the Lodge and taking the punishment to bring back the proficiencies levels where they need to be. We have finished a few first degrees and now we are moving on to second degrees. By the time the lodge goes dark for the summer we will have exemplified all three degrees as a Lodge.

February 21st was our annual BBQ from 11am–3pm. We moved it back to the Lodge this year for a drive-thru BBQ pickup. Thank you to everyone who supported the Lodge in this annual BBQ. It is our big fundraiser of the year. We will also have a gun raffle going on at the Lodge. Please contact Brad Hamner for information and tickets.

In March we will have Leadership Conference (called "Masonicon") in Prescott from March 26th–28th. In the month of March we also have trips scheduled with the Senior Grand Deacon Michael Dale, PM for Official Visits throughout the state. Please support your local Grand Lodge Officer and travel with him. For further information contact Brother SGD Michael Dale, PM (or his "secretary") for travel details.

More activities coming to a lodge near you. Please stay tuned.

Fraternally, Mikel K. White, PM/DDGM Worshipful Master





#### 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



#### **2021 OFFICERS**

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#### **Secretary**

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#### Senior Steward

Brad E. Hamner (928) 919–6866 bradwyo@gmail.com

#### Junior Steward

Lauro Gonzalez (Elma) (520) 241–7099 Igonzalezii@hotmail.com



#### VIEW FROM THE WEST

By Benjamin Hinderer

Hello Brothers,

Your Senior Warden here currently in Puerto Rico visiting some family. I thought I would get some knowledge about Freemasonry and pass it along to you.

"The Masonic history in Puerto Rico begins in the year 1803, however, these lodges answered to different foreign Grand Lodges, like those in France, Spain, Cuba, Santo Domingo, and even Pennsylvania, USA. The first known Lodge that existed Puerto Rico was called '*Restauración*', and it was founded in 1811 in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. This Lodge was created with the help of the Grand Lodge Unida de Colón, Cuba. This Grand Lodge and the one from Puerto Rico were under the Spanish domain, the Grand Orient of Spain. In 1863, the Grand Lodge of Venezuela founded the Lodge Boriquén #57 after Puerto Rico had contact with South America, which was done after France temporarily took the island as a colony. However, even after all these, the most solid Masonic Lodge in Puerto Rico was called Unión Germana, which was founded in San Germán, Puerto Rico. This Lodge was founded under order of the Grand Lodge of Santo Domingo."

"After Puerto Rico had its first provincial Lodge in 1884, the Grand Lodge of Colón, Cuba let Puerto Rico found its own Grand Lodge, which is known as the Grand Lodge Soberana of Free and Accepted Mason in 1885. Though the Grand Lodge was founded first at Mayagüez, the Lodge was relocated to San Juan, which is the capital of Puerto Rico. At first, there were 14 Lodges active at that time, but of those 14 lodges, only 7 still remain active today. Those remaining Lodges are: Adelphia #1 at Mayagüez; Tanamá #2 at Arecibo; Estrella de Luquillo #5 at San Juan; Aurora #7 at Ponce; Unión #10 at Guayama; San Juan Bautista #12 at San Juan; and Iris de Paz #13 at Arroyo. The Most Worshipful Brother Santiago Palmer (1844–1908) was the first Grand Master in Puerto Rico, who was once held prisoner at El Morro as Freemasonry was persecuted by the Spanish regime."

"The Scottish Rite in Puerto Rico received its license by the USA Scottish Rite-Southern Jurisdiction in 1903. However, the York Rite reached Puerto Rico in 1903 after the USA invasion that happened in 1898 with only the Capitular Degrees. The Cryptic Degrees were instituted in 1907 and the Chivalric degrees in 1977. There are 68 known Scottish Rite Lodges, while there is only one York Rite lodge. There are also Shriner Order and the Order of the Eastern Star."

--Grand Lodge Soberana, Puerto Rico

Benjamin Hinderer Senior Warden

#### **GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH**

By Douglas Arps, Jr.

Greetings from the SOUTH,

As most of you guys know I am the Chairman of Lodge facilities, so if there is anything that pops up that you guys notice please bring it to my attention or the Worshipful Master and we will address them. One of the main issues we were having were some plumbing issues, which is why the upstairs men's bathroom was out of service. I'm pleased to say that Dale and I went down there mid-January to start the work on it and we found out that one of the pipes had a pretty good crack in it. We were able to fix it ourselves, so the bathroom is operational again.

Back in the beginning of January we had a highway clean-up that turned out good. We collected a lot of trash off the road. Thank you to the brothers who were able to attend and also thank you to Brother Chris Perez for bringing out the doughnuts. Next thing to get done at the Lodge is to stretch out the carpet on the second floor. As you may have noticed it has buckles in certain areas but we'll do our best to make them flat.

By the time you read this our annual BBQ will have already happened. I hope it turns out good. We did things different this year, not having it at the Civic Center like we normally do due to COVID. It was held at the lodge drive-thru style. Can't wait to see how the rest of the year turns out.

We have had a few more Entered Apprentices and hope to see them as Master Masons soon. It sure would be a good time right now for Masonry to grow. Leadership Conference, now called Masonicon, is happening and it should be a good one. It will be held up in Prescott this year; to those brothers who haven't had the pleasure of going, you should try to attend. It is a really good chance to link up with brothers you haven't seen in awhile or meet new ones; plus you can learn a few things about Masonry and ask questions.

We do have plans this year to do some raffles throughout the year. We already have one going for the gun raffle, so if you would like tickets contact Brother Brad Hamner or myself and we'll be glad to get you some tickets. There is talk about trying to do things outside of Lodge. It can be done as long as we remember the CDC guidelines. Maybe a fishing day or gun safety or maybe just a simple lunch. If you have any ideas throw them out!

Brotherly Love, Douglas Arps, Jr. "DJ" Junior Warden



#### **2021 OFFICERS** (CONTINUED)

#### **Marshall**

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

**Tyler** Jeff Grimes, PM (928) 246-1594

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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Donate online at: YumaLodge17.org



Secretary: yumalodge17@gmail.com

Trestleboard: ncbudgirl88@gmail.com

#### 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 (there will be no dinner preceding meeting until further notice)

#### 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

March 2021									
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT			
	1	2	3	4 2nd Degree	5	6			
7	8 Winslow #13 OV	9 Harrison #70 OV	10 Central AZ #14 OV	11 STATED Sun City #72 OV	12	13			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
21	22	23 Initiation	24	25	26 Masonicon	27 Masonico			
28 Masonicon	29	30	31						

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Degree Work – Check with Pedestal Officers Wilcox #20 OV – Thursday, May 6th Hunters Paradise #85 OV (Phoenix) – Monday, May 24th OES Installation of Officers – Date TBD GRAND COMMUNICATIONS – June

April 2021									
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT			
				1	2	3			
4	5 \land 🎽	6	7	8 STATED	9	10			
11	12	13 Wayfarers #50 0V	14 Williams- Grand Canyon #38 OV	15	16	17			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
25	26	27	28	29	30				

Brothers and Sisters,

SECRETARY'S TABLE By WB Michael Kofta

Our New Year is off to a great start in spite of COVID–19. By wearing our masks, gloves and maintaining our social distancing, we are doing our best to stay healthy.

There are still a few Brothers that need to pay their dues for 2021. Instructions for logging into Grandview have been mailed out with the new dues cards. I have only gotten a little feedback from members that have logged into Grandview. I haven't heard any feedback yet from the line officers on assisting their Brothers with their logins. Grandview is the future, so please log in and update your information.

The Annual BBQ will have already taken place by the time the Trestleboard is published. If you received tickets, please submit your donations for the tickets. The Annual BBQ is currently the main fundraiser for the Lodge and your support is necessary to keep our dues where they are currently at.

Information for the upcoming Masonicon 2021 has been published and many of the line officers have already registered. Hope to see you there.

Degree work is starting to come together and our new Masons are eager to further themselves in Masonry.

If you need any assistance in general or with practicing or on proficiency, feel free to contact me.

Fraternally, Michael A. Kofta, PM Lodge Secretary

Excerpt from the Pocket Encyclopedia of Masonic Symbols:

"Alter, symbol of worship, of faith, of the sanctum sanctorum, or holy of holies of King Solomon's Temple. The focus of Masonic life in Lodge, it's support of the Great Lights is itself a symbol that faith supports life.

Brotherly Love, Roy Wright Senior Deacon



#### VERGIL MASON

By Antero Trujillo, Chaplain

INITIATION

Expression derived from the Latin "Initia" or also "Initiate", which means the beginning of a science or creed.

#### **MYSTERIES**

It is the name by which religious assemblies whose ceremonies were practiced in secret were known in ancient times, their doctrines are taught only to the chosen, whose intellectual and moral qualities join a tremendously rigorous initiation.

On this occasion we present a fragment of Mark Booth's book "The Sacred History", describing the initiation of the Great Roman Poet VERGIL.

My intention is to compare this ceremony with Masonic initiation in a future article.

Vergil was an initiate of the ancient schools. Reconstruction from the Aeneid and other scattered literary references show that after a long period of preparation which might have involved long periods of fasting, sensory deprivation, meditation, prolonged solitude, bathing in highly scented water that may have been drugged (the "Water of Forgetfulness" and "Waters of Memory"), the disoriented candidate for initiation would have been led by priests wearing masks into, it seemed, the very bowels of the Earth. The candidate witnessed a sacrifice, was dragged through small holes in a wall, propelled into pits and finally taken to an inner sanctum where they had an experience that was partly an experience of physical place and partly

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**VERGIL MASON** By Antero Trujillo, Chaplain

visionary an experience not totally unlike a modern séance but much more elaborate and conceived on a much larger scale. The candidate might spend days underground, typically three days, though Apollonius is reported to have spent seven, before being led upward again to the heavens.

The great initiates of the ancient world describe this as a profoundly moving experience which fundamentally altered their understanding of the world.

Some people are born with a visionary consciousness. Others may be initiated into it by the ceremonies of secret societies. The techniques for inducting higher states of consciousness and contacting higher intelligence are among the most closely guarded secrets of the secret societies.

Mark Booth: "The Sacret History"



Several brothers participated in a Highway Cleanup on January 9th. Our section of Highway 95 is looking good!







All photos provided by Brother DJ Arps

















Our annual Masonic BBQ looked a little different this year. Due to the current pandemic, we had it down at the Masonic Lodge with a "drive-thru" service. People could also come to the sidewalk entrance to place an order or pick-up. We did a pit-style barbeque instead of tri-tip. The pit barbeque got rave reviews! It was all-hands on deck, with many of our brothers preparing orders, taking tickets and money, and even some of our Masonic kids came down to help run orders out to cars!















(*left*) We were even able to take phone orders throughout the day!(*right*) One of our local TV stations came down to showcase the BBQ and show their support!



One of our future Masons came down for a taste test – he approved!





Special THANK YOU to Mrs. Emily White for providing all photos of the BBQ!



# Stratta Stratta



WM Mikel White, WB Mike Kofta, and Brothers DJ
Arps and Brad Hamner traveled with Senior Grand
Deacon Michael Dale for the Official Visit of
Downtown Lodge #86 in Tucson on December 28th,
2020. BJ Dale traveled with them to keep the
shenanigans to a minimum...bless her heart!











All photos provided by Brother DJ Arps

# STATIS STATIS



Brother John Brooks IV received his First Degree on February 4th



Brother Joe Alvarez received his First Degree on February 13th



# STATED MEETING



We had a great turnout for our first Stated Meeting of 2021 on January 14th











WB Mike Kofta, WB Michael Dale, and Brother DJ Arps had the distinct pleasure of presenting Brother Jack Stanton, Sr. with his 65-year pin, award, and card in Masonry from his home Lodge of Sultan-Monroe Lodge #160 in Monroe, Washington and the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Washington. His wife Sherry Stanton was by his side for the presentation.

All photos provided by Brother DJ Arps



**STAR IN THE EAST** Submitted by B.J. Dale, Conductress (Carolyn Simson, Worthy Matron)

Yuma Chapter is back in the swing of things with in-person meetings. We have missed each other and we are very happy to be back together even while practicing social distance. We will be





welcoming TWO new members at our initiation on March 23rd. Growing our family is always exciting and we can't wait for our new members to join us!

We were able to participate in our annual Flower Delivery for Valentine's Day on February 12th–14th, helping our local flower shop The Flower Mine. Bringing joy and happiness to all the special loved ones in our community is such a delight and a highlight of our year! WM Carolyn Simson is extremely proud and grateful to all our members who delivered flowers this year. Our volunteers worked extra hard to make sure as many bouquets were delivered as possible. Because of their hard work, we received a generous donation from The Flower Mine, the most we have ever received! We are hoping to be able to continue our support of The Flower Mine by helping them for Mother's Day and Mexican Mother's Day.

During the month of February, our Chapter participated in a fundraiser/service project to help the Power Paws Assistance Dogs in support of the Most Worthy Grand Matron's Service Dog project. Power Paws trains service dogs to help military veterans and other disabled persons with day-to-day tasks and general support. We asked people to "sponsor" a Cinch Sac that would be filled with dog essentials (bowls, food, treats, etc.) for us to donate to Power Paws, who would then give them to new dog owners to help them get started on their new journey with their four-legged friends! We would like to give a special THANK YOU to Yuma Lodge #17, who very generously donated \$253 to our fundraiser, which is enough to sponsor 10 bags! We are on-track to have 23 bags sponsored, which shatters our goal of 10 bags!



WM Carolyn Simson, B.J. Dale, and Molly Veile will be getting together to help sew masks for the Masking with the Stars group that started right here in Arizona. If anyone would like an OES or Masonic logo embroidered mask, please contact

Carolyn or any member of Yuma Chapter. You can also find lots more information by searching for the Masking with the Stars group on Facebook. All masks are FREE for anyone who requests one. If you would like donate fabric, thread, or any other sewing materials, please contact a Yuma Chapter member. The goal of the Masking with the Stars group is for people to wear their masks with the OES or Masonic logo in their communities to start a healthy dialogue about OES and Masons.

We would like to give a special CONGRATULATIONS to Marvel Leader, who had her 75th OES anniversary on February 25th! She was initiated into Yuma Chapter, so this makes her milestone even

more special. Congratulation Marvel! We are so blessed to have her as part of our OES family!

We want to wish a Happy Birthday to our upcoming birthdays:

- MARCH: Gene Bowden (3/3), Lella Daniel (3/13), Karen Shields (3/13), Pauline Roach (3/26), Kathryn Erwin (3/30)
- APRIL: Joyce Snay (4/4), Ginger Wright (4/6), Mikel White (4/17), Richard Leader (4/26)

Until next time, please keep all of our ailing members in your thoughts and prayers. If you know someone that is not 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) at (928) 247–5962 (or any Chapter member) to let her know. We hope to see all of you soon. 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. Due to the current pandemic, refreshments before and after the meetings have been suspended until further notice. Meeting begins promptly at 7pm. Hope to see you there. If you have questions please call the lodge at (928) 783–7993.



### **Masonic Anniversaries**

#### When you became a Master Mason

#### MARCH

Stewart Bradshaw Rick Butler Jacob Casey Phillip Durbin Patrick Ferguson David Fitzpatrick Frederico Gomez William Hamner Kurt Harrison Albert Jarvis James Lakey Jerome Leckrone Chy Luy Shawn Price Earl Roberts Merritt Thomas Herbert Townsend Antero Trujillo Donald Washum John Wavada Robert Wright

#### APRIL

Fernando Balderama Alan Bowman Raymond Evans William Fain Darrell Fischer Gregory Hyland Dale Le Mond Russell Leonard James London Luther Moorehead Harold Neece Donald Oehmke Jack Prather David Sears Ward Seibel Joseph Sullivan IV Reece Taylor John Willen David Woods Scott Zender

## "The true Mason's level of discernment increases with every use of the working tools, because the true Mason is ever working on himself. " – William Howard Taft

#### **PUBLISHER'S CORNER**

Rarely am I stunned into speechlessness. Once again, the support Yuma Lodge gives to their family and community is truly amazing.

As a member of Yuma Chapter #14 OES, we decided to do a service project/fundraiser for Power Paws Assistance Dogs, an organization that trains assistance dogs to give to veterans and disabled persons. To help them out, we did a Cinch Sac fundraiser where people could

project/fundraiser for give to veterans and where people could or dogs and their new owners. I

"sponsor" a cinch sac bag to be purchased and filled with pet essentials for dogs and their new owners. I asked my husband to mention the fundraiser at the stated meeting to see if the Masons would be willing to help out their OES Sisters and Brothers. When he came home from the meeting, he handed me a donation – enough to sponsor TEN BAGS for our fundraiser.

Gentlemen, I am truly humbled by your generosity. "Thank you" does not seem like enough to express how grateful I am for your donation. You all helped shatter the goal I set for our Chapter and you will help bring lots of smiles to very special people. Yuma Lodge doesn't do service projects or make donations for the recognition; you do them out of the kindness of your hearts and that's what makes you all some of the greatest people I have the pleasure of knowing. Being a part of the Masonic family is one of the things I value most and I am honored to know you all. Again, thank you for opening your hearts and for your tremendous donation!

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 see any corrections that need to be addressed, please let me know those as well! 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** Michael A. Dale, PM

**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 Roy Wright

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 Dale L. Kreger, PM Timothy W. Williams, PM

Wives, Widows, and Orphans Quaid E. Smith, PM, KYGCH

#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**Candidate Instruction** 

Michael Kofta, PM Officer Instruction Mikel K. White, PM, DDGM

#### FUNDRAISING

**Chairman – Dale Kreger, PM** Co-Chairmen – Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ" Brad Hamner

#### Barbeque

Mikel K. White, PM, DDGM Balloon Glow Dale L. Kreger, PM Midnight at the Oasis Mikel K. White, PM, DDGM Raffle & Other Venues

Stewards

#### PUBLIC SCHOOL/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Bikes for Books Brad Hamner Law Enforcement Memorial Hector Aponte Roadside Clean-up Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Scholarship/Classroom Grants Hector Aponte Dale L. Kreger, PM Roy Wright

### 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 Quaid E. Smith, PM, KYGCH Antero Trujillo

**Trestleboard** Sabrina Arps, Publisher Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Website Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ" Wills and Bequests TBD













#### **Masonic Specialty License Plates**



ServiceArizona.com Fee goes to charities supported by Arizona Masons.