

Semper Fidelis

Trestleboard

May brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us.

Look to the East

This month I would like to talk about personal conduct and accountability. As human beings and men we all have a responsibility to conduct ourselves in the best manner possible and to be accountable for our conduct and actions. As Masons that responsibility is exponentially greater. The general public will judge our entire fraternity on the conduct and actions of one Mason. And while none of us is without flaw and frailty, we should strive to conduct ourselves at the highest levels of morality and honor in all of our transactions with each other and the rest of the world.

Most of us have Masonic emblems or decals on our vehicles. Some of us wear Masonic shirts and hats. Almost all of us wear some form of Masonic jewelry. Remember that you represent not only yourself but every Mason on the planet. Conduct yourselves in a manner that brings equal pleasure to yourself and honor to the Fraternity. And if by chance your conduct or actions are less than honorable, take accountability. Make amends, apologize, but mostly strive to be better in the future.

I hope this message finds you all and finds you well.

And always remember...I love you all, and there's absolutely nothing you can do about it!!



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JP Ledford
Master

Officers of the Lodge 2026

	Master	J.P. Ledford	
Senior Warden	Antonio Saenz, Jr	Junior Warden	Jimmy Johnson
Treasurer	Earl Wilson	Secretary	WB Jason Caldwell
Senior Deacon	Nate Bailey	Junior Deacon	Austin Dorschel
Senior Steward	Steve Lewandowski	Junior Steward	Jeff Blackwell
Chaplain	WB Denny Norris	Tyler	Harry Weatherly

Brethren, please do not forget to take a moment, as we always do in our Lodge; to remember the sick, ailing, and those away from their families defending our way of life...and add to it our families.

On the Secretary's Desk

Brethren,

As we start into the Spring of 2026, we are already looking to be busy. This often requires many in the Lodge to attend more functions, such as practices, coaching and Lodge clean-ups. While we are at the Lodge, let us all make sure that we are taking care of the financial state of the Lodge, Putting things back the way we found them, turning off the lights, and putting the HVAC where it was set, allows everyone to continue to enjoy the usage of the building and allows us to make that money go further.

We also have a Lodge Library. You can check out a book to read, but please sign it out and return it in the same condition that you took it. We continue to offer this for all the Brethren to further their personal educational endeavors.

We also have an Open House coming on April 29th. If in your circle of acquaintance, you know of anyone who is interested in our Fraternity, please invite them. Families are welcome!!

If you have any updates to your mailing address, phone number, email address, please send to: semperfidelislodge680@gmail.com.

Jason Caldwell
Secretary

*'DON'T BEND; DON'T
WATER IT DOWN;
DON'T TRY TO MAKE
IT LOGICAL; DON'T
EDIT YOUR OWN SOUL
ACCORDING TO THE
FASHION. RATHER,
FOLLOW YOUR MOST
INTENSE OBSESSIONS
MERCILESSLY.'
FRANZ KAFKA*

Upcoming Events

Brethren,

Upcoming events are in the works and if you have any ideas for our Lodge bring them up so we can all benefit from your ideas.

- 01 April—Fellowcraft Degree
- 04 April—Breakfast
- 06 April—Sojourners
- 08 April—Stated Communication—Education will be by Steve Lewandowski
- 09 April—Ritual Workshop
- 11 April—Jacksonville Chapter Order of Eastern Star—Installation of Officers
- 12 April—DeMolay
- 14 April—OES
- 18 April—School of Instruction
- 18 April—Breakfast
- 18 April—Sojourners—1000
- 22 April—Stated Communication—Mike Register
- 25 April—Ladies Night Out
- 26 April—DeMolay
- 28 April—OES
- 28 April—Discussion Group
- 29 April—Open House



All of these events are located on the calendar online with details. Remember that we have transitioned to Grand View. Please log onto Grand View at nc.grandview.systems.

If anyone wants to help with the upcoming events, please let the Officers know.

Random pictures of the Lodge:



The Wisdom of Yoda

*The True Test of a Man's Character
Is What He Does When No One is Watching!*



Happy Birthday Brothers

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

04/04 DANIEL WADE RAINS
 04/05 DUSTIN THOMAS SHANLE
 04/11 HAMPTON DAVIS HADLEY
 04/13 JOSHUA BRYCE KANUCK
 04/15 JOSEPH ALLEN MURRAY
 04/18 GILBERT MOCTEZUMA, JR.
 04/21 JEREMY GENE ROBERTS
 04/24 JARED RANDALL PEARCE
 04/25 GARY JAMES BODIE PULLINGS

04/04 MAT CONSTANTINE RAYMOND
04/07 DONALD RAY BUTCHER
 04/11 RALPH DAVID WICKER, JR.
 04/13 LUIS REY MARTINEZ
 04/16 LEONARD CHARLES TROTTER
 04/21 JEFFREY CHRISTIAN BLACKWELL
 04/24 MICHAEL ANTHONY HODGES
04/25 WILLIAM WALTER FITZPATRICK
 04/28 QUINTON DESHAUN HARRIS

Those in **BOLD** are over the age of 70

Necrology Report

Brethren,

As of our last report, we have not had any notifications of any Brother 'Laying down forever his working tools of life.'

Keep watching out for each other and ensure our Brothers are doing well.

Ensure your families know your wishes upon passing. Notifying the Lodge and requesting Masonic Honors (if you so desire) is vital to ensure we get things accomplished according to your wishes.



Did You Know?

Something to get people thinking:

When we look in the Master Mason Degree Lecture, we learn that upon the discovery of the 47th Problem of Euclid, Pythagoras, sacrificed a hecatomb. Anciently, this would have been 100 oxen. It can also be used as a large, public offering.

Masonic Education:

How Freemasonry Guides Us in Creating a Balanced Life

In Freemasonry, balance is about creating stability and resilience within ourselves. The process of building this balance is beautifully illustrated in the Masonic allegory of building a temple, not a physical structure, but an inner temple where we cultivate strength of character, clarity of mind, and alignment with our values. Let's explore how this temple-building allegory teaches us to live a life of harmony and strength.

Building the Inner Temple: A Foundation of Balance

The temple we build as Masons is a symbol of our lives, our character, and our values. Just as any great structure requires a stable foundation, a balanced life begins with a clear set of core principles. Freemasonry guides us to lay this foundation by encouraging us to reflect on virtues like integrity, justice, and compassion, qualities that form the bedrock of a stable and meaningful life.

Think of it this way: if we build our lives on shifting priorities or superficial goals, we are like a temple built on sand, vulnerable to every wave or storm. But by rooting ourselves in these Masonic virtues, we establish a foundation that remains strong no matter what challenges we face. This stability is the first step toward achieving balance; it grounds us and gives us a clear sense of purpose.

The Working Tools: Instruments of Inner Balance

The working tools of Freemasonry serve as symbols for the skills and habits that help us construct a balanced life. Each tool, from the square to the level, offers a lesson not just for ritual, but for how we conduct ourselves daily.

For instance, the plumb teaches us uprightness, a reminder to stay true to our principles. Living with integrity is a cornerstone of balance because it means we aren't swayed by external pressures or distractions. The square reminds us to keep our actions fair and just; treating others with respect and honesty. These values keep us grounded in our relationships, adding stability to our social lives and interactions. And the compass represents our ability to set boundaries, to moderate our behavior, and to maintain a sense of proportion. Balance often requires saying "no," knowing when to push forward and when to step back. By applying these tools inwardly, we bring a sense of alignment to every aspect of our lives.

Finding Equilibrium: Work, Service, and Self-Care

In the Masonic tradition, we're taught to divide our time into three main parts: work, service, and rest. This division speaks directly to the concept of balance and challenges us to manage our time in a way that honors all our obligations, both to ourselves and to others.

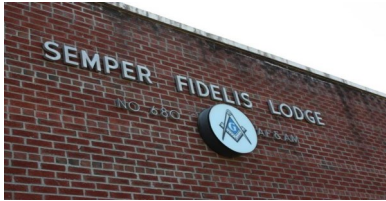
However, finding this equilibrium can be difficult. The demands of modern life often pull us in many directions, leaving us with little time for self-reflection or personal growth. Yet Freemasonry emphasizes that we cannot achieve balance if we neglect any one of these areas. The work we do professionally and personally must be fulfilling, aligned with our values, and contribute meaningfully to our lives. Our service to others, whether within the Lodge or in our communities, must come from a place of genuine commitment. And our time for refreshment, our moments of rest and relaxation, must be seen not as an indulgence, but as a necessary part of our own stability and health.

True balance means making intentional choices to respect all aspects of our lives, seeing each as a part of the whole. It is in this balance that we find resilience, the strength to handle both life's triumphs and its setbacks with equanimity.

The Role of Ritual: Aligning with Our Higher Selves

Freemasonry's rituals play an important role in helping us center ourselves and stay focused on what truly matters. When we step into the Lodge, we leave behind the noise of the outside world. The words we recite, the symbols we engage with, and the acts of reflection all serve to remind us of our purpose and the inner work we're committed to.

These rituals are more than just formalities; they are opportunities to realign with our higher selves. Through ritual, we practice the discipline of self-examination, regularly checking whether our actions match our values, whether our aspirations are grounded in the principles we uphold. This repeated alignment with our Masonic teachings helps us to cultivate inner harmony. Just as a well-maintained temple requires regular care and attention, our inner temple needs ritual, reflection, and focus.



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Masonic Education Cont:

Facing Life's Challenges: Resilience through Balance

Life will inevitably bring challenges. Times when balance is difficult to maintain. The allegory of the temple-building process reminds us that just as stones may be chipped, weathered, or shifted over time, so too we might encounter periods of struggle, loss, or doubt. But Freemasonry teaches us that resilience is built through our balanced foundation. When we face these challenges, it is the strength of our inner temple, our grounding in Masonic values, that allows us to withstand the trials.

Resilience is not just about surviving difficult times; it's about maintaining our composure and focus amid them. A balanced life doesn't mean a life free from adversity, it means a life in which we can meet adversity with the stability of character, perspective, and inner peace. Freemasonry guides us to find resilience by returning to our values, our working tools, and our commitment to building a life of integrity and balance.

The Eternal Temple: A Lifelong Process

The beauty of the Masonic approach to balance is that it's seen as a lifelong process. Just as the construction of a grand temple takes years, sometimes even lifetimes, the building of our inner temple is never truly finished. Freemasonry reminds us that balance is something we constantly work toward, always refining, always learning. The journey is as important as the destination, because every decision, every effort to live in harmony with our principles, shapes who we become.

Each degree we undertake, each lesson we absorb, and each moment of reflection helps us grow stronger in our resolve. And each step in this journey adds to the stability and beauty of the inner temple we are building.

Conclusion

Brethren, the allegory of building a temple within ourselves teaches us that balance is more than just managing our time. It's about creating a life that reflects our highest values and supports our growth, resilience, and integrity. By applying the lessons of Freemasonry, by using the working tools symbolically in our daily lives, and by aligning with our values through ritual and reflection, we construct a life that is not only balanced but also resilient and deeply meaningful.

As we continue our Masonic journey, let's remember that our work is never truly done. Building a balanced life is a continuous process, one that demands our commitment, our discipline, and our constant reflection. But as we lay each stone in our inner temple, we create a legacy of strength, wisdom, and peace, a lasting testament to the values of Freemasonry.