

SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

2024 JANUARY-JUNE

Brethren,

I am once again confronted with the reality that I have the privilege of working with some of the finest Masons in the world; we happy few who strive to attain that noble contention of whom best can work and agree. Please accept my humble gratitude for all that you have done and will do in service to our Craft, I know of no other profession which so reliably cultivates peace and harmony wheresoever its members are found.

This year, we continue our efforts to host some of the most celebrated artists and intellectuals in our community. Below you will find a number of (hopefully) interesting and tantalizing events for your enjoyment and enrichment, many of which involve education on the greater Masonic family, but also subjects of a wider range that I hope will challenge you to aspire to greater heights of knowledge.

Fraternally and truly yours,


Worshipful Master




February 20th

Program: The Order of Athelstan

Right Worshipful Brother David Grindle, Secretary of Sallish Court No. 96 of the Provincial Grand Court of the United States of America of the Masonic Order of Athelstan, joins us for an evening of education and fraternalism.

“The Masonic Order of Athelstan was constituted in the USA on February 8th, 2011, during AMD Week with two Courts established, one in North Carolina and the other in Pennsylvania. The order is relatively new in its founding country of England...in existence for a little over five years.”



March 19th



Program: Professor Mark Alfino, Ph.D.

Mark Alfino teaches for the Philosophy Department at Gonzaga University. His teaching and research interests are broad, but tend to focus on two general problems: the nature of language and the nature of values. He joins us to give a lecture on reevaluating our modes political discourse.

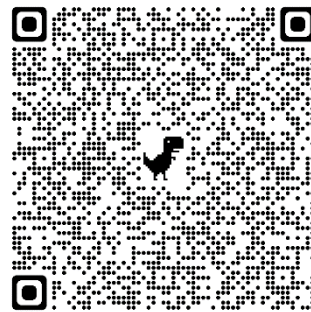
April 16th

Program: The Red Cross of Constantine

The Red Cross of Constantine is officially The Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and St. John the Evangelist. The purpose of the Constantinian Orders are to commemorate the first elevation of Christianity from the position of a despised and proscribed heresy to that of a legally recognized and honored religion, to cultivate the social virtues, and to appeal to the intellectual and moral qualities.



FIELD TRIP ALERT!



Esoterika Lodge No. 316, located at 2006 NW Market St. Seattle, WA, meets on the fourth Tuesday this June, April 23rd, and we need to make reservations before we can visit them! Dinner is \$30 per brother and I will need to RSVP for interested parties no later than April 16th. We will be setting up carpooling plans and giving out details with the presentation of this schedule and as the date approaches. *Be there and be Square!*

May 21st



Program: Daughters of the Nile

Daughters of the Nile is an international fraternal organization for women 18 years of age or older. They are related by birth or marriage to a Shriner, Master Mason, or a Daughters of the Nile. They may also be a majority member in good standing of a Masonic-related organization for girls, or a former patient at a Shriners Hospitals for Children® (with or without a Masonic relationship).

VISITATION OF THE GRAND MASTER

Most Worshipful Brother Steve Martin joins us for a formal visitation. You may find the procedure for this particular scenario in your Lodge Officers Handbook, Chapter 2, pg. 22.



June 16th

Program: Resolutions

This is the meeting before the annual communication and we will be discussing the resolutions which will come before the Grand Lodge. I will be printing and/or otherwise distributing copies of the resolutions for your review at least one month before this meeting so that you all may have ample time to digest the information.



Freemasonry was established in Washington Territory through the Grand Lodge of Oregon. Until 1853, Washington was part of Oregon territory. The first four lodges chartered were Olympia (1853), Steilacoom (1854), Grand Mound (1857) and Washington (1858). Delegates from these lodges met in convention and formed the Grand Lodge of Washington State on December 8, 1858, some 31 years before statehood.

In 1869, the Grand Lodge of Washington chartered the first lodge in Alaska Territory. The Grand Lodge continued to charter lodges in Alaska until 1981 when they formed their own Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge, in conjunction with Washington Masonic Charities, is deeply involved in a number of philanthropic and charitable endeavors that include educational scholarships, improving reading programs, disaster relief, research funding and much more. Being an integral neighbor in the community, most lodges in the jurisdiction support local sports, scholastic and civic programs, event and activities.

-George Washington Masonic National Memorial archive, 2019

Brethren,



In this section, I have recapitulated several items which you will remember from last year and added a few others with the intention of reinforcing those dicta which are serving us well and to offer my reflections on the past year.

Many of the following directives are meant to serve at least two practical functions; that of instructing and that of preparing all of us for greater responsibilities and challenges. These practical functions will hopefully contribute to a more existential, farther-reaching goal; that of uplifting the members of our Lodge and promoting a more sustainable environment for the future.

I have done my level-best to study the Washington Masonic Code and many other foundational Masonic texts to ensure that everything herein outlined is in conformity with the former and in keeping with the spirit of our royal art. Having said this, some items you read will challenge you, and others will require you to consider Masonry from a new perspective entirely. Yet the confidence reposed in me is not a *carte blanche* power, and though I have done much to secure the legality of all my proposals and ideas, you can *and should* conduct your own researches into the codices and the "lex non scripta," of Freemasonry. Your dignity and good name are as important to me as my own.

I am holding this office in trust, temporarily, for all of you.

To perpetrate a lie against your brothers, or against anyone, is to take advantage of the trust that is established between you and them. Presuming that they cannot, or will not perform their own research, demonstrates how poorly you think of them. Think for yourselves, acknowledging as well that "distinctions exist among men to preserve subordination" and good order, not for the elevation of one over another. I have promised to lead you to the best of my ability, and to preserve all masonic usages, and I will do everything in my power to fulfill these duties to you and to Masonry.

Fraternally and truly yours,

A blue ink signature of the Worshipful Master, written in a cursive style. Below the signature is the title "Worshipful Master" in a black, serif font. Underneath the title is a decorative graphic element consisting of a central circular emblem flanked by two sets of wings, all resting on a horizontal base.

First things, first

The officers of this Lodge have certain responsibilities imposed upon them by their obligations, many of which you can find enumerated in the WMC, the Standard Work, and the Lodge Officer's Handbook. However, in addition to these codified duties, are those I have devised for the health and ongoing success of the Lodge which I will herein outline.

Every Officer Has Three Jobs

1. Training his replacement
2. Learning from his superior the duties of *that* office
3. Fulfilling the duties of his current post

The Senior Deacon is responsible for his counterpart, the Junior Deacon. A senior officer is an example to his junior; he sets the pace and determines best practice for emerging situations. Not only this, but the senior officer ensures that the junior officer can take up the responsibilities of the former in the case of his absence.

By extension, this is the case for every officer in the Lodge. The Junior Deacon, for example, makes the Senior Steward his special responsibility, so that, in the case that the Senior Deacon is absent, the Junior Deacon takes his chair, and the Senior Steward advances to the Junior Deacon's office, *pro-tempore*; so-on and so-forth.

In this fashion, all officers have a *de facto* understudy, if you will; a brother on whom he can call in the case of a temporarily vacant office. This system, even if properly implemented, will never be a perfect solution for the problems brought on by sudden vacancies. However, it is an effective implement in our toolbox which will aid us in stabilizing and elevating our work.

Floor Work & Decorum

In my view, respectfully and earnestly executed floor work is inseparably linked with a general respect for our regular proceedings; how conducted, and how well attended. One item (rather a set of items) that is(are) often overlooked or improperly understood, are the states of "Off-session" and "Free from restraint." Both these states of the Lodge are detailed and prescribed in the Standard work and in the Lodge Officer's Handbook, so I will not elaborate on them here. Suffice it to say that how a Lodge conducts itself in any state reflects its leadership.

The pride you take in executing your floor work and representing proper decorum is a sign of your dedication, yet not all Masons have the same interests and passions. This should be recognized. In keeping with that spirit, I will say that a minimum number of ceremonial rules apply to all Masons. These include, but are not limited to, standing when seeking to be addressed; referring to each other respectfully, and using concise, ordered speech whenever possible.

Visitation and Communication

Two years ago, under Worshipful Brother Landry's leadership, we had the privilege of visiting a sister Lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction of Idaho, and I believe it was a resounding success. It is my hope to execute two "field trips" this year; one visitation to a lodge in Washington, and a tour of the old Temple on Riverside. However, a brother does not have to be a Master Mason to visit another Lodge in *this* jurisdiction, as long as one of the officers, or another Master Mason of our lodge can attend with you,

or if I am given enough notice to prepare the way for you, so to speak. I encourage you to get out there and *cultivate friendships* this year.

Visitation is a privilege, not a right and one of the reasons we usually require that a Master Mason accompany Apprentices or Fellowcrafts is because, frankly, you may not know how to handle yourself in all situations, likely or not, and it pays to have a guide (just ask Dante). In any case, visitation is vital to the health and wellbeing of our institution, and although we are all busy throughout the year, try to find time to make an extra trip.

Preparedness

Any worthwhile endeavor within the realm of the Craft begins with an idea, and this idea multiplies itself and becomes a realized force in the world around its champion. In Masonry, we learn to subdue our *irregular* passions, but this should not suggest to you that passions in, and of themselves, are to be suspected or avoided. Passion, in the non-classical terminology, is usually associated with love, devotion, sensualism, and vivacity. Remember that as long as passions are well regulated, you can let them fuel your drive, just don't let them drive the car.

So, if you are interested in cultivating a skill or realizing a goal, start preparing now! The officers of our Lodge want to help you, and we want you to manifest your fidelity to the Craft with whatever zeal and talent you can bring to the floor. It can seem overwhelming sometimes when we think about all the various routes we could take and consider the true breadth of the Order we are a part of, but the best place to start is in your heart.