

The Grand Lodge of Iowa, A.F. & A.M.  
**GRAND LODGE BULLETIN**

Volume 127 Number 1

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

March 2025

“TEAM”



Front Row, L.to R.: Grand Tyler, James C. Mason, Indianola, Deputy Grand Master, Keith R. Voss, Jefferson, Senior Grand Warden, Donald A. Drennan, Atlantic, Grand Master, A. J. Brown, Bloomfield, Junior Grand Warden, Ronald J. Mullenger, Hamlin, Grand Secretary, Craig L. Davis, West Des Moines, Grand Treasurer, Bruce D. Thomas, Algona, Grand Chaplain, Theodore M. Boomgarden, Mason City, Back Row, L.To R.: Grand Marshal, Mitchell A. Petty, Grimes, Junior Grand Steward, Erik L. Brincks, Ankeny, Senior Grand Steward, Michael C. McLain, Creston, Junior Grand Deacon, Skylar R. Watson, Adel, Senior Grand Deacon, Curtis A. Klyn, Boone, Grand Dad, Floyd E. Brown, Bloomfield, Deputy Grand Secretary, Kelly H. Bruce, Boone, Grand Musician, John M. Klaus, Mount Vernon.

**Grand Lodge of Iowa**  
**Grand Lodge Officers, 2024-2025**

**GRAND LODGE OFFICERS 2024-2025**

Grand Master A. J. Brown, Bloomfield  
Deputy Grand Master Keith R. Voss, Jefferson  
Senior Grand Warden Donald A. Drennan, Atlantic  
Junior Grand Warden Ronald J. Mullenger, Hamlin  
Grand Treasurer Bruce D. Thomas, Algona  
Grand Secretary Craig L. Davis, West Des Moines  
Grand Chaplain Theodore M. Boomgarden, Mason City  
Deputy Grand Secretary Kelly H. Bruce, Boone  
Grand Marshal Mitchell A. Petty, West Des Moines  
Senior Grand Deacon Curtis A. Klyn, Boone  
Junior Grand Deacon Skylar Watson, Adel  
Senior Grand Steward Michael C. McClain, Creston  
Junior Grand Steward Erik L. Brincks, Boone  
Grand Tyler James C. Mason, Indianola  
Grand Musician John M. Klaus, Mount Vernon, P.G.T.

**GRAND LODGE TRUSTEES**

Arthur G. Crandon, P.G.M., Gilman, Chairman  
William K. Paisley, P.G.T., Elkhorn, NE  
Eric A. Rozeboom, P.G.M., Sanborn  
William W. Post, P.G.M., West Des Moines  
Theodore C. Wiley, P.G.M., Mount Pleasant

**BOARD OF CUSTODIANS**

Terry E. Osborne, P.G.M., Brooklyn, Chairman  
Neil R. Paulsen, P.S.G.W., Avoca, Secretary  
W. Scott Hull, P.D.G.M., Boone

**HOSPITAL CONTACTS**

MSA Veterans Hospital Visitors:  
State Coordinator - Gerald A. Edgar, Garner  
Des Moines - Jerry L. Luedtke, Norwalk  
Iowa City - Kevin A. Nelson, Waterloo

**TRUSTEES GRAND CHARITY FUNDS**

Jason A. Wolcott, Tipton, Chairman  
Matthew A. Buckley, P.G.T., Davenport  
Randy L. Tolley, Dubuque  
Christopher P. Soebbing, Davenport  
Robert E. Breckenridge, P.G.T., Ottumwa  
Tami Tegeler, Secretary, Iowa Masonic Health Facilities,  
Bettendorf 52722-8370

**TRUSTEES ROWLEY MEMORIAL MASONIC TRUST**

Neil R. Paulsen, P.S.G.W., Avoca, Chairman  
Arthur W. Pixler, P.G.T., Fenton  
Hollie F. Smith, Des Moines  
David K. Aves, P.J.G.W., Boone  
A. Lyle Miller, P.J.G.W., Manilla

**GRAND LODGE BULLETIN**

Grand Secretary Craig L. Davis, Editor, email: grand-secretary@gl-iowa.org

**LODGE SERVICE COMMITTEE**

Deputy G.S. Kelly H. Bruce, Executive Director, email: dgs@gl-iowa.org

**CONTENTS FOR MARCH 2025**

Grand Master's Message	19
Darrell G. Fremont Letter in Black	20
Full Moon Lodge Rededication	25
Iowa Masonic Charities	31
Holy Land Pilgrimage	33
Masonic Rally	37
England & Scotland Trip	40
One Day Class Registration	43

**THE GRAND LODGE BULLETIN**

"The Bulletin" is published four times annually (March, June, September, and December) by the Grand Lodge of Iowa, A.F. & A.M., P.O. Box 279, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406-0279, as a means of communication between its subordinate lodges and members. Mailed free upon request to Iowa lodges and Freemasons, and as an exchange to public institutions and representative periodicals throughout the world. Address all mail subscriptions, change of address notices (P.O.D. FORM 3579), news releases and Letters to the Editor to the above address. Permission to reprint articles from "The Bulletin" is granted to all recognized Masonic publications with credit to the author and/or this publication.

**2025 Regional Schools**

Friday, March 21, 2025, Signet Lodge No. 264  
2002 N US Highway 71, Carroll .....5:30 P.M.  
Saturday, March 22, 2025 Pomegranate Lodge No.  
408, 201 1/2 Main Street, Alta .....9:00 A.M.  
Thursday, April 17, 2025, Bower Lodge No. 464,  
Hwy 17 S, Eagle Grove .....5:30 P.M.  
Friday, April 18, 2025, Mount Olive Lodge No. 79,  
527 Marshall St, Boone .....9:00 A.M.  
Monday, April 28, 2025, Preston Lodge No. 218,  
402 W 2nd St, Prairie City .....5:30 P.M.  
Friday, May 16, 2025, Gnemeth Lodge No. 577,  
218 1/2 5th St, West Des Moines .....9:00 A.M.  
Thursday, June 19, 2025, Clinton Lodge No. 15  
52 1/2 E Briggs Ave, Fairfield .....5:30 P.M.  
Friday, July 18, 2025, Waterloo Lodge No. 105  
607 Bishop Ave, Waterloo .....9:00 A.M.  
Saturday, August 23, 2025, Adel Lodge No. 80  
411 S 12th St, Adel .....9:00 A.M.  
Monday, September 1, 2025, Ottumwa Lodge No. 16,  
611 E Pennsylvania Ave, Ottumwa .....9:00 A.M.  
Thursday, September 18, 2025, Grand Lodge School,  
901 4th St, Sioux City .....8:00 A.M.

**2025 Neighborhood Area Meetings**

Wednesday, March 5, 2025,.....Faith Lodge No. 179  
121 1/2 S Filmore St, Mount Ayr .....7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, March 5, 2025,.....Olive Branch Lodge No. 21  
102 1/2 E Main St, Agency .....7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025,.....Panora Lodge No. 121  
110 E Market, Panora.....7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, March 19, 2025,.....Gnemeth Lodge No. 577  
218 1/2 5th St, West Des Moines .....7:00 P.M.  
Tuesday March 25, 2025,.....Cobia Lodge No. 631  
130 S 6th St, Council Bluffs .....7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, March 26, 2025,.....Camanche Lodge No. 60  
220 9th Avenue, Camanche .....7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, April 16, 2025,.....Nevada Lodge No. 99  
1001 1/2 6th St, Nevada .....7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, April 16, 2025,.....Tyrell Lodge No. 116  
203 3rd St SE, Waverly.....7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, April 23, 2025,.....Hope Lodge No. 175  
11th St & 8th Ave, Belle Plaine.....7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, April 23, 2025,.....Evening Shade Lodge No. 312  
103 E 4h St, Spencer .....7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, April 30, 2025,.....Nekoda Lodge No. 597  
700 5th St, Lohrville.....7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, April 30, 2025,.....Morningside Lodge No. 615  
4110 Morningside Ave, Sioux City.....7:00 P.M.



A Special Thank you to the  
Grand York Rite Bodies of Iowa  
for Sponsoring the March 2025  
Bulletin!

## Grand Master's Message In the Trenches

Where are you at right now in your Masonic journey? Are you alone on the front lines taking bullets? Have you been forgot about and left behind out in the dark? Maybe you are sitting on the sidelines hoping that no one calls up your number to "Get in the Game"?

How about we rally together "In the Trenches"? That is where the working, the toiling, the sweating, the bleeding, the healing, the laughing, the crying, and the camaraderie are at. Together we can accomplish much more, especially if we are heading in the same direction.

Your Grand Lodge Officers, Committeemen, and myself this year have thoroughly enjoyed traveling the state and meeting with the different lodges and brothers and getting to know you. You have selected us to serve you this year and we gladly accept that task by laboring in the trenches with you every day instead of leading from a distance.

With all of your combined efforts in a fairly streamlined direction we have accomplished much so far this year. The labors of the trenches. Our Founders Campaign sponsored by Iowa Masonic Charities is approaching \$250,000 or \$500,000 with the match, and we are just starting the Trailer Raffle. We have had several Cross Committee Communications that have yielded excellent ideas and ways to improve our efficiency as a Grand Lodge. Lodges are displaying their yard signs with QR codes linking to [bea Freemason.org](http://bea Freemason.org). Poker chips are going out to people with the same QR codes. And we have kicked off our social media advertising to market ourselves to prospective men in our state. Thank you all who have helped with these efforts and supporting these endeavors. Yet we have only begun.

I would also like to thank a couple of trench workers. Bill Northup, director for Iowa Masonic Charities has led a tireless effort in the Founders Circle fundraising campaign. The results of our fundraising is evidence of his devotion to this fraternity. Wade Sheeler, Chairman of the Committee on Division and Reference has been involved with just about every event, degree and meeting that I have attended and has stepped in on meetings that I could not attend in my place. Besides his duties to our fraternity, he is super active in his civic duties as well. I think he has figured out how to pack 30 hours of work into 24 hours a day! We are in good hands for next year indeed!

So I ask you all my brethren to continue to pick up your working tools and unite with us on this TEAM and labor with us "In the Trenches" of Iowa Freemasonry to move us forward and into the future!

Fraternally and Sincerely,



A.J. Brown  
Grand Master of Masons in Iowa



## A Tribute to Darrell G. Fremont

By Craig L. Davis



We welcome you to a world where passion and purpose unite, where every moment is an opportunity to unleash your inner champion. "Get in the Game, Live the Ritual" is not just a motto; it's a way of life. It's a call to action, a reminder that Iowa Masonry is a grand arena waiting for you to step onto its stage.

So, whether you're pursuing a championship title, a lifelong passion, or a personal goal, remember: "Get in the Game, Live the Ritual." It's a way of life that transforms ordinary individuals into extraordinary Masons, and it's your invitation to join the ranks of those who refuse to be spectators and instead choose to live a Masonic life to the fullest.

This is the theme that your Grand Lodge officers spread across Iowa this Grand Lodge year. Our travels were wide and far. Everywhere we visited we were met with great courtesy and hospitality. We were also encouraged and buoyed up by the enthusiasm of the many lodges that invited us, and all the experiences of fellowship and brotherhood is something we appreciate and will cherish for the rest of our Masonic journeys. It is these words from our Grand Master Darrell G. Fremont at the 180th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Iowa in Cedar Rapids that resonate throughout our fraternity as we remember a great leader and brother.

Brother Fremont was born in Waterloo on September 25, 1952 and graduated from Cedar Falls High School. He received his Associates of Arts at Hawkeye Community College and his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Northern Iowa. Brother Darrell and his lady Ann were married on December 31, 1999 in Key Largo, Florida. They have two daughters, Allison Dyer, Keira Hippe and two sons, Bryce Fremont and Kyle Schultz. Brother Darrell spent most of his life working in Information Technology and was employed by the Grand Lodge of Iowa. Darrell was a member of the Lutheran Church of Hope - Grimes Campus and is the past Association Manager of the Iowa State USBC Bowling Association. He was inducted into the Iowa State USBC Bowling Association Hall of Fame in 2009.

Darrell has worn the Purple of the Fraternity as Senior Grand Steward in 2010-2011, Deputy Grand Master in 2015-2016, Deputy Grand Secretary 2017-2021, Senior Grand Warden 2021-2022, and served on the Technology Committee from 2016-2020, Lodge Service Committee 2016-2017, Executive Director 2017- 2021. He served as Worshipful Master of Star Lodge No. 115 in Madrid, 2008, 2009 and Operative Lodge No. 308 in Polk City in 2012 and was a member of Operative Lodge No. 308 in Polk City, Mount Hermon Lodge No. 263 in Cedar Rapids and Legacy Lodge No. 678 in Des Moines.

He joined the Des Moines Scottish Rite in 2010 and was an active participant in the degrees, and received K.C.C.H. in 2021. He was a member of the Des Moines York Rite, Corinthian Chapter No. 14, Alpha Council No. 1, Temple Commandery No. 4. He was a member of Iowa Research Lodge No. 2, Des Moines High Twelve, El Kahir Shrine, Za-Ga-Zig Shrine and South Central M.I.-D.L. Club. He was a member of the York Rite Sovereign Iowa College No. 37, Red Cross of Constantine St. Bartholomew Conclave, Royal Order of Scotland, life member of Black Hawk Chapter, Order of DeMolay in Cedar Falls and received his Legion of Honor in 2016. At the 2024 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, Darrell was invested with His Honorary Member of the International Supreme Council Order of DeMolay. He held District Lecturer's Certificate No. 3162.

Rest in Peace, my Brother, Rest in Peace.

## Trestleboards and Tracing Boards By Wade E. Sheeler, P.S.G.W.



Most of us have heard the term “trestleboard” used in Masonic lectures, but the term “tracing board” is a term that modern day Masons often do not hear used, though if you hear the third section lectures, you are experiencing teachings from the tracing board. The terms have been used interchangeably through the years, but they do have two separate meanings.

In the third section lecture of the Entered Apprentice degree, we are told that the “trestleboard” is one of the three movable jewels of the lodge “along with the rough and perfect ashlar”. The trestleboard is not only one of the first “jewels” that a Mason is exposed to, but also one of the oldest. Albert Mackey in his *Masonry Dissected*, writes of Samuel Pritchard who in 1730 described the “Trasel-board” as one of the immovable jewels of a Masonic lodge. (Modern English lodges still consider the trestleboard to be an immovable jewel, while American lodges consider it to be movable).

Mackey described the trestleboard as “a board upon which the Master inscribes the designs by which the Craft are directed in their labors.” The word is a compound with the first section being “trestle” which means the supporting framework upon which the board is supported. In carpentry, trestles (or sawhorses) are used to support boards to be worked on and thus a natural and easy way to display plans. The word “trestle” comes from an old Scottish word, “trest” which means a supporting framework. In today’s world, we might term these plans as being comparable to a blueprint.

For the ancient operative Mason, the Trestleboard was extremely important. Mackey described its use as follows: “It was on such an important implement (the Trestleboard) that the genius of the ancient Masters worked out those problems of architecture that reflected an unfading luster of their skill.” These ancient builders often pondered by a midnight lamp upon their Trestle-board, working out designs with exquisite tastes and artful knowledge. Eventually the design reflected the wisdom, strength, and beauty of the Master’s art.

The operative Mason followed the plans on the Trestle-board or book of plans of the Master Architect. You might remember from the third degree about no plans being on the Trestle-board of Grand Master Hiram, thus the craft did not to what to do. These ancient operative Masons hewed and squared their materials, raised the walls, constructed the arches and by strength and durability, combined with grace and beauty, were bestowed upon the edifice which was being constructed.

In Speculative Masonry, the architectural plans by which each builder should erect his spiritual edifice are those laid down by the Supreme Architect of the Universe, and the Trestle-board has become a symbol of that divine plan of natural and moral law. For the Christian those plans are contained in the Bible, for the Jew in the writings of the Old Testament, for the Muslim in the Koran. Freemasonry does not interfere with a man’s interpretation of his religious faith, but if one has no beliefs, then categorically it may be said that he has no spiritual Trestle-board on which the designs of his Creator may be inscribed for his use. The Volume of Sacred Law may be considered as the Trestleboard of God.

The Speculative Mason is responsible for following those guidelines as laid down on the Trestle-board because if he does not faithfully use his skills and follows the designs laid down by the Master Architect, the resulting edifice will not reflect the glory and beauty of its creator.

The trestleboard that Grand Master Hiram used was probably made of wood and was covered with wax. Each day he would draw his Master architect’s measurements and symbols in wax in order to provide the craftsmen with the work that was to be accomplished. At the end of the day, he would simply scrape off the plans and



prepare the board for the next day's work.

In later years, when the lodge was held in secret outdoors, The Tiler would draw an oblong depiction into the dirt that represented the lodge. The working tools in the degree to be worked were drawn in the image. As lodges moved indoors into private rooms above taverns, the designs were often drawn with chalk on the floor. The Tiler would usually draw the boundary lines and the Master of would draw the symbolic details. Examples of the detail were a depiction of Jacob's ladder, a beehive, an hourglass, etc. Oftentimes the new brother was required to erase the drawing with a mop as a practical demonstration of his obligation to secrecy. As late as 1811 in England, the Tilers' equipment often included a mop.

From 1733, we find mention of floor cloths, one for each degree on which designs were permanently painted. At first, these floor cloths were met with hostility as it increased the risk of disclosure. These ancient floor cloths later transitioned to boards and then to charts that were hung from the wall. The "Magic Lantern" also came into being, which used glass slides to illustrate those symbols which had originally been painted onto the floor cloth. Today, we transferred the images from the glass slides to Power Point slides.

Brother Harry Carr in his work, Freemason at Work, makes an interesting comment about "squaring" the lodge. Carr states that the practice arose unintentionally in the early 1700s, as the lodge or "Tracing Board" was drawn on the floor usually with a border. In the small rooms of the taverns that lodges met in, there probably was not much space for traversing the lodge. If the 'drawing' or 'floor cloth' was to be protected, a certain amount of squaring was required on the outside borders so as not to damage the image. This practice quite likely led to our current practice of "squaring the corners" in our floorwork.

### Quilts of Valor Presentation



L-R WM, Marshall Wiese, Alan Tedrow, Steve Duffee, Scott Hull, Nick Padgett, Brian Ahrens, members of OES.

Several members of Mirza Rhodes No. 303 were invited to arrive early for our stated meeting, unaware that the entire lodge had been summoned for a surprise. The Order of the Eastern Star (OES) was present to make a heartfelt presentation of Quilts of Valor to several veterans of Mirza Rhodes Lodge.

Brother Alan Tedrow, along with other members from the OES, proudly presented the Quilts of Valor to the following brothers in recognition of their service to our country and their fellow Americans: Brother Brian Ahrens, Brother Steve Duffee, Brother Scott Hull, and Brother Nick Padgett.

This moving ceremony was a testament to the dedication and sacrifice these brothers made in service to our nation.



# IOWA YORK RITE

FURTHER LIGHT IN MASONRY



**\*Why does the Master wear a hat in Lodge?**

**\*Why are there three burning tapers placed in a triangular position around the alter?**

**\*What is a Royal Arch?**

**\*What is the True Word that was lost and how was it found again?**

**\*What does it mean to be a modern-day Christian Knight?**

Find the answer to these questions and more in the York Rite of Freemasonry.

Contact any York Rite Brother, Scan the QR Code, or Email

[iowagrandyrsecrec@gmail.com](mailto:iowagrandyrsecrec@gmail.com)

## Past Master Night at Newton Lodge No. 59



Newton Lodge No. 59 held its annual Past Master's Night on November 14. Grand Master A.J. Brown and the Grand Lodge Officers were invited for a Reception and Third Degree for Brother Ryan Cook and raised him to the Sublime degree of a Master Mason.

Following social time, the Masons moved to the lodge room where Worshipful Master Jason Anderson opened lodge. Past Masters conferred the First Section with Wade Sheeler in the East and Brother Carl J. Vander Kamp as Senior Deacon. Worshipful Master Jason Anderson introduced the Past Masters and thanked them for their service to the lodge and to the Fraternity. The Masons then moved to the dining room for a dinner that was prepared and served by members of Newton Chapter No.100, O.E.S.

The Masons returned to the lodge room where the Grand and Past Grand Lodge Officers were received and introduced with Brothers Wade Sheeler and Nic Jones as Committeemen. Grand Master Brown was received and introduced with Wade Sheeler and Nic Jones as Committeemen.

Grand Master A.J. Brown was in the East for the Second Section. Deputy Grand Master Keith R. Voss gave the Charge. Grand Master Brown presented his lapel pin and other items to Brother Cook. Senior Grand Deacon Curtis A. Klyn presented Brother Cook with a 3X5X7 Box. Brother Cook thanked everyone for being part of his Third Degree.

Deputy Grand Master Keith R. Voss in the East to close Newton Lodge No. 59.

### David Livermore of Valley Lodge No. 232 received his Masonic Instructor Certificate

David M. Livermore of Valley Lodge No. 232 received his Masonic Instructor Certificate from his mentor James E. Cline Jr. on December 17th, 2024. David is a member of the Grand Lodge, Lodge Service Committee. He has served as Worshipful Master of Valley Lodge No. 232 in Missouri Valley in 1990, 1997, and 2023. Congratulations David!



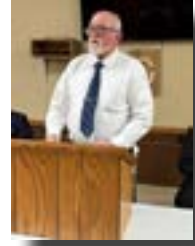
### Cobia Lodge No. 631 Joins Winterfest Event in Council Bluffs By Fred Gach, Past Master



On November 22, 2024, Council Bluffs kicked off the holiday season with the annual Winterfest Park Lighting of Baylis Park. As the lights came on, Cobia Lodge opened its doors as a warming center. The public was treated to free hot coco, cider and cookies. The Omaha Tangier Shrine Chanters provided Santa Claus and music for the evening. The Eastern Star ladies and Job's Daughters, Bethel 1 brought in the cookies. Our Brothers from Bluff City were on hand to help serve. The event was podcast live by Todd Struder Productions. It was a great public relations event for Masonry.



## Full Moon Lodge No. 561 Rededication Ceremony



Full Moon Lodge No. 561 invited the Grand Lodge of Iowa to Melbourne to rededicate their lodge in due and ancient form on November 16, 2024. Grand Master A.J. Brown and the Grand Lodge Officers conducted the ceremony.

Worshipful Master Michael White gave the invitation to Grand Master Brown to rededicate the Lodge. Grand Master Brown and the Grand Lodge Officers conducted the Temple Rededication Ceremony in due and ancient form. Junior Grand Deacon Skylar R. Watson gave the tribute to public education "School Book Lecture". Senior Grand Deacon Curtis A. Klyn gave the Flag Tribute.

Grand Musician John M. Klaus gave an oration on the history of Full Moon Lodges. James F. White was the Orator and gave the following History of the Lodge. Prior to 1899 Masons of the Melbourne area traveled to surrounding Lodges, Eden Lodge at Rhodes, Terrestrial Lodge at State Center and Unit Lodge at Baxter. The Masons of Melbourne decided to form their own Lodge. 19 Charter Members including WB Aves, Great Grand Father of Mike and Dave Aves, Robert Lanning Great Grand Father of Jeff Lanning petitioned the Grand Lodge to form a new Lodge in Melbourne. Dispensation was given August 8th, 1899. Members decided to celebrate their first regular meeting by inviting surrounding Lodges to attend. It was called a Masonic Jubilee by the weekly newspaper, The Melbourne Record and published that "NOT A BRICK WAS LAID LAST MONDAY BUT THERE WERE OVER 100 MASONS IN TOWN". Masonry grew in Melbourne; In 1920 a picture of all 90 + Masons and their names were placed and framed. This treasured picture of many of our ancestors and Founders of Melbourne is viewed in the Lodge Hall. In 1981 Eden Lodge of Rhodes Consolidated with Melbourne. In 1985 The Lodge Hall was moved to the Melbourne Rec, Center because of deterioration of former Lodge Building. In 2005 Terrestrial Lodge of State Center Consolidated with Melbourne.

## Brother Wiley Main Raised at Faith Lodge No.179



Faith Lodge No. 179 invited the Grand Lodge Officers to Mount Ayr for a Reception and Third - Degree honoring Brother Wiley Main on November 26, 2024.

Faith Lodge was opened by Jack Cook. Past Grand Master Kenneth A. Hurmence assumed the East and conferred the First Section of the Third Degree, Brother Warren Angus served as Senior Deacon.

Everyone enjoyed a soup supper. Grand Master A.J. Brown was conducted to the East and received Grand honors. Grand Secretary Craig Davis introduced Grand and Past Grand Lodge Officers. Grand Master Brown had the Senior Deacon conduct Floyd E. Brown to the East, where he and Senior Grand Warden Donald A. Drennan presented him with a "Grand Dad Apron." Grand Master Brown was in the East for the Second Section and Deputy Grand Secretary Kelly H. Bruce was Senior Deacon. The Charge was given by Craig Davis. Allan L. Tedrow presented Wiley with a 3X5X7 Masonic Box that he had made. Grand Master Brown presented Brother Wiley with his Pin.

Brother Wiley thanked the Grand Lodge Officers and everyone for traveling long distances to be there and be part of his degree.

The Grand Lodge Officers closed Faith Lodge with Grand Marshal Mitchell A. Petty in the East.

## Iowa DeMolay Honors Day By Julia Wells, Assistant Librarian



In December, I received the Cross of Honor from Iowa DeMolay. The Cross of Honor is given to an advisor who has served at least three years and has provided meritorious service to the order. Honors like the Cross of Honor and the Legion of Honor are approved by the Supreme Council of DeMolay International. The Supreme Council is the governing body of DeMolay International. I was very touched and grateful to have received this honor. The day I received my Cross of Honor; we also hosted a Priory Initiation with the degree work done by Alabama DeMolay. With Alabama able to come, that also meant that my family was able to come and see the Cross of Honor investiture.

Within DeMolay, there are levels of engagement. The level for older active DeMolays is called the Chivalric Knights of the Holy Order of the Fellow Soldiers of Jacques DeMolay, commonly referred to as Knighthood or Priory. The Priory requirements in Iowa are that the active DeMolay is 16 years or older and has been in DeMolay for six months. The Priory, in layman terms can be defined as a place for the older DeMolays to continue to grow and prepare for the transition to after DeMolay life. The Priory Advisor in Iowa is Shane Harshbarger. The Priory in Iowa is going to focus on growing membership in the state, with the goal of 38 new members in 2025 set by Executive Officer Rob Myers.

Alabama brought 7 advisors and 7 active DeMolays to assist with the degrees. With the help of Alabama, Iowa was able to bring in 3 Iowa DeMolays and 3 adult "Honorary Knights," which included our Grand Master, Most Worshipful AJ Brown. There were 2 active DeMolays from Alabama, and 2 active DeMolays from Illinois who also got the degrees. The Priory is divided into 2 separate degrees, the Investiture and the Ebon Degree. Iowa was not able to invest all the active DeMolays we had hoped at one time because of the ice storm that hit the Midwest that weekend of December. The ice storm also rescheduled the other half of the Cross of Honor ceremony and the Legion of Honor ceremony. It will now be March 1st. In January, those that were invested in December, along with some assistance from Senior DeMolays were able to induct the rest of the active DeMolays that missed the original opportunity into Knighthood in DeMolay. Iowa's Guy of Auvergne Priory is now sitting at 8 members.

### Brother Harvey Giller Raised at Capital Lodge No. 110 in Des Moines



Brothers of Capital Lodge No. 110 in Des Moines gathered together on November 19, 2024 for the purpose of raising Brother Harvey Giller to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.

Brother Bill V. Northup was in the East for the first section and Brother Mark Clark was the Senior Deacon. The second section was performed with the Shrine Past Masters Club from Za-Ga-Zig Shrine in Altoona. Past Grand Master Bryce B. Hildreth was in the East and Former Senior Grand Deacon Michael S. Shannon was the Senior Deacon. Brother Shannon also gave the Charge.

## On the Level By Brother Tom H. Nash

So many parts of our ritual are easily interpreted in different ways by different people. The term "on the level" has a few different allegorical meanings, but it boils down to one thing. Justice.

The allegory behind the level is that it reflects the principle that Freemasons meet on equal footing, as brothers, under the same obligations and with mutual respect. It also represents honesty and straightforwardness. To act "on the level" is to be truthful, sincere, and upright in one's dealings with others, embodying the moral principles espoused by Freemasonry.

Justice requires treating others with respect and fairness, regardless of their status or actions. In Masonry, being "on the level" signifies that all members are equal within the lodge, regardless of their social status, wealth, or position in the outside world.

It is hard to find a better example of the virtue of treating people "on the level" than in the actions of a prominent Mason and United States President, Harry S. Truman.

Truman's personal conduct reflected his belief in fairness. He was known for being straightforward, unpretentious, and respectful toward people from all walks of life. His political actions also reflected his commitment to equality in his desegregation of the Military, his work on civil rights, and fair employment practices. Many of today's laws against discrimination come from the programs laid out by Harry S. Truman because of his belief in treating people "on the level." Some of Truman's actions led to him being ridiculed. His adherence to this virtue cost him dearly as a politician, and he lost favor among some constituents because of his stance, but he held his position and beliefs, even in the face of criticism, because in his mind, it was indeed the right thing to do.

In our lodges we can see people from every walk of life, every social status, religion, and occupation. Some people are good at ritual, while others are content working in the kitchen or helping with the chores around the lodge. It is easy to gather with those who look and act like you do. When you have much in common with someone, conversation is easy. But do people really learn much from being exposed to situations like that? Is there any growth in being a part of a group of like-minded people?

We must remember the reasons men look to our fraternity. They come to us from every walk of life, seeking self-improvement. They are obligated by the same ritual, at the same altar as every other Mason in that lodge. Masons want nothing more than to make their portion of the world a better place for themselves, their family, and friends. In that respect, regardless of what kind of car they drive, aren't all Masons the same? We are all in search of Masonic light. Therefore all Masons deserve to be treated "on the level?" The value of Masonry comes from the diversity of men who call you brother. There is something to be learned from everyone. Seeing how different people tackle different situations presents an opportunity for improvement. The impact on the lodge itself will be felt when brothers act in harmony with each other. Each person brings different skills to the lodge, just like every player brings something to the TEAM. Acting "on the level" allows everyone to contribute according to their strengths and makes the lodge a place where people will want to participate. Just to be around people who genuinely enjoy each other's company is a feeling that is hard to replicate, but we, as Masons, have the chance to experience that feeling every time we meet a brother Mason, because we are able to treat everyone, "on the level."

### Columbus City Lodge No. 107 Hosts 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off



For the last three years, Columbus City Lodge No. 107 has hosted their Chili Cook-Off in the fall. Grand Master A.J. Brown was invited to attend and serve as a Judge this year. A big congratulations goes out to Junior Warden Gaylon Wheeler for his win.



# The Inaugural York Rite Ball

**Step Back in Time to a Medieval Celebration You Won't Want to Miss!**

On **May 10th, 2025**, the **Des Moines York Rite Bodies** are proud to present the **1st Annual York Rite Ball** at the **Scottish Rite Building**, located at **519 Park Street, Des Moines, IA 50309**.

**The Schedule for a Truly Memorable Evening:**

The night will kick off at **5:30 PM** with a social hour. At **6:00 PM**, we'll begin the formal program with an introduction and prayer, setting the stage for a night of tradition and festivity.

**Event Highlights:**

- **Social Hour** – 5:30 PM
- **Introduction & Prayer** – 6:00 PM
- **Gourmet Dinner & Live Sword Duel** – 6:15 PM
- **Medieval Dance Instruction** – 7:15 PM
- **Music and Social Dancing** – 7:45 PM to 9PM



**Special Pricing & Easy Booking:**

Tickets for this historic night of medieval elegance are only **\$40 per person**, offering an incredible value for an unforgettable evening. Purchase your tickets today through **PayPal** (<https://www.paypal.com/nop/payment/VNJYHFEWS2FKG>) or by scanning our **QR code** for fast and easy payment!

For those traveling from out of town, we've partnered with the **Hilton Des Moines Downtown Hotel**, conveniently located right next door at **435 Park St, Des Moines, IA**. Book a room at a special rate of **\$149** for the night by calling **515-645-4029** and mentioning the **York Rite event**. Stay in comfort and convenience, just steps away from all the excitement!

**Attire for a Regal Night:**

To truly embrace the medieval theme, we encourage our **York Rite Brothers** to wear their iconic blazers, with **Chapter Red**, **Council Purple**, and **Commandery Black**. (Please note: no gloves, swords or chapeaus)

For our **Blue Lodge** brethren interested in exploring the York Rite, we welcome you to join us in celebrating this momentous occasion.

**Ladies**, this is your night to shine! Feel free to don your finest **Kirtle Gown** or formal attire. It's the perfect opportunity to dress up, celebrate, and enjoy the enchanting medieval atmosphere alongside your fellow brothers and guests.

**Tickets are Selling Fast – Get Yours Today!**

The **1st Annual York Rite Ball** is shaping up to be a landmark event in Des Moines, and tickets are selling quickly. Don't miss your chance to be part of this historic night.



**Santa and His Biggest Elf Visit Mount Olive**  
**By Brother Cutis A. Klyn**



Mount Olive Lodge No. 79 hosted a pancake breakfast on December 7th for the community of Boone. Families were invited to share some pre-Christmas fun with Santa and his biggest elf. Mount Olive Lodge's Senior Deacon, Payton Pringle, served as the jolly visitor from the North Pole. His biggest elf was Brother Kelly Bruce, the current Senior Steward of Mount Olive Lodge and Deputy Grand Secretary. Visitors walked through our magic forest to take pictures with Santa and his biggest elf. The children enjoyed a present from Santa and his helper, and they also had the opportunity to create and send their Christmas wish list to the North Pole. It is a great opportunity to market Mount Olive in our community. We hold this event as a free will donation. We realize that there are those that could not pay, but they left with a warm

meal and Christmas memory. That is what Christmas is all about. Many of our brothers and their wives helped to make this event a success.

**Mirza Rhodes Lodge No. 303 Hosts Benefit for Pilot Mound Fire Department**  
**By Secretary Kurtis Kruse**

This summer, Mirza Rhodes Lodge No. 303 proudly hosted a benefit event in support of the Pilot Mound Fire Department. The day featured a delicious biscuits and gravy breakfast, along with a growing "Car Show and Shine" showcasing approximately 100 cars.

In a heartwarming moment, WM Marshall Wiese presented a check for approximately \$4,600 to Brother Robin Crouch on behalf of the Lodge.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who attended and generously supported the event. Your contributions will make a meaningful impact on the Pilot Mound Fire Department and the community it serves.

A big thank you to all the Brothers who helped make this event a success, and we look forward to seeing everyone next year for another great gathering!



**Brother Mitchell Patterson Raised at Adel Lodge No. 80**



The Grand Lodge Officers of Iowa were in attendance for a Third Degree for Brother Mitchell Patterson at Adel Lodge No. 80 in Adel Iowa. Past Grand Master Darrell G. Fremont also in attendance. Worshipful Master Skylar Watson opened the Lodge and Past Senior Grand Warden Kim Jones conferred the First Section with Senior Grand Deacon Curt Klyn conducting the Senior Deacon duties. Brother Ken Depue performed the extended trowel lecture. The lodge was then called from labor to refreshment, and everyone retired for a wonderful meal of brisket, ribs and fellowship. Upon resuming labor, Grand Master A. J. Brown was conducted to the East and accorded the Grand Honors. The Grand Master was in the East for the Second Section and Curt Klyn was the Senior Deacon. Past Senior Grand Warden Wade Sheeler gave the Charge followed by the Grand Master presenting Brother Mitchell with his pin. Brother Curt Klyn presented Brother Mitchell with a wood 3X5X7 keepsake box and explained its significance. Brother Skylar Watson presented Brother Mitchell with his apron, lodge pin and bible. Brother Mitchell shared that he was honored by the attendance that showed up for his special night and thanked everyone for attending.

## Brother William Jones Raised at Osceola Lodge No. 77



Osceola Lodge No. 77 invited the Grand Lodge Officers to Osceola on Friday, January 24, 2025 to confer a third degree on Brother William Jones. The evening started with tenderloins prepared by Brother George Williamson. After dinner everyone moved to the Lodge room where Worshipful Master Chris Groom opened the lodge. Senior Grand Steward Michael C. McLain was Worshipful Master in the 1st Section, Past Grand Master William W. Post was Senior Deacon. Past Junior Grand Warden Richard L. Martin gave the Extended Trowel Lecture. Prior to the 2nd Section, Grand Master A.J. Brown was conducted to the East and received. Grand Master Brown then introduced the current Grand Lodge Officers. Past Grand Master Craig L. Davis was in the East for the 2nd Section. Grand Marshal Mitchell A. Petty was the Senior Deacon. Brother Davis also gave the charge. Grand Master Brown presented Brother Jones with his Grand Masters pin. Brother Davis presented Brother Jones with his pin and also with Past Grand Master Darrell G. Fremont pin. Brother Davis explained that Grand Master Brown and Fremont were officers in his Grand Lodge Family. Brother Allan Tedrow presented Brother Jones with a 3x5x7 Box. The lodge presented him with a Lambskin Apron, Holy Bible and a pin. Brother Bill thanked everyone for being there and more especially Brother George Norris who has been his mentor in his Masonic journey. He also thanked his half brother Craig Davis for being there for his degrees and his support. He is very proud that his dad was a Mason and he is now. Congratulations Bill!

Osceola Lodge No. 77 was closed by the Grand Lodge Officers with Grand Tyler James C. Mason in the East.

## Mt. Hermon Lodge No. 263 and Crescent Lodge No. 25 at Freedom Foundation By Brother Tom Grubb

On Thursday January 30th, 2025 members of Mt. Hermon Lodge No. 263 and Crescent Lodge No.25 lodges donated their time to the Freedom Foundation of Cedar Rapids. For those who are unfamiliar with the Freedom Foundation it is a non-profit veteran's organization that provides various services to veterans who are in need. Every Thursday there is a group meal where veterans from various stages of life get together to eat and bond. Volunteers come in and help serve the food. Brother Tom Grubb was raised in 2024 in Mt. Hermon lodge and has been volunteering in the food pantry for the past 8 years. After being recruited and mentored by Brother Curt Burgess he thought getting the Masons involved would be a worthy endeavor. After speaking with then Past Grand Master Darrell Fremont at a stated meeting, his motto of "Get in the game, Live the ritual" resonated and Brother Tom asked the lodge if they would be interested in helping. Without hesitation the brothers of Mt. Hermon said yes. Not only that they asked Crescent Lodge if they wanted to a part as well. It was a great experience the workers at the Foundation were grateful and most importantly so were the veterans.



Those who volunteered from Mt. Hermon were brother and veteran Jeff Jones, brother and veteran Tom Grubb. From Crescent Lodge brother and veteran Rob Klein, Worshipful Master Aaron Ashby, brother and veteran Bob Winter Jr, brother and veteran Ken Wasson Jr., and Secretary and veteran Donnie Craig.



# 2025 Iowa Masonic Charities Capital Campaign

ONLY  
**\$50**  
PER RAFFLE  
TICKET

Join us in raising funds for the restoration and preservation of the Iowa Masonic Library and Museum by purchasing raffle tickets for a chance to win this 29-foot Aurora travel trailer.

## Details

- Purchase a Raffle Ticket for a chance to win a 29' Aurora Travel Trailer.
- Upgraded 15K BTU Roof A/C.
- 200 Watt Solar Panel with Smartphone Control App.
- Extra Large 12V 10-Cubic Ft Refrigerator.
- Upgraded Bluetooth Premium Sound System.



\* The drawing will be conducted on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. (Must not be present to win)  
\*\* For additional details, contact Iowa Masonic Charities at (319) 639-3030 or your local Masonic Lodge at [redacted]  
\*\*\* Winner pays all tax, title, and license fees.  
\*\*\*\* Purchase of Raffle Tickets by credit card is PROHIBITED by law.  
\*\*\*\*\* Iowa law requires that all Raffle Tickets be purchased within the State of Iowa.  
\*\*\*\*\* Iowa Masonic Charities is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. However the IRS does NOT allow the purchase of tickets as a tax-deductible contribution.



# 2025 Iowa Masonic Charities Capital Campaign

ONLY  
**\$50**  
PER RAFFLE  
TICKET

Join us in raising funds for the restoration and preservation of the Iowa Masonic Library and Museum by purchasing raffle tickets for a chance to win this 29-foot Aurora travel trailer.

## Details

- Purchase a Raffle Ticket for a chance to win a 29' Aurora Travel Trailer.
- Upgraded 15K BTU Roof A/C.
- 200 Watt Solar Panel with Smartphone Control App.
- Extra Large 12V 10-Cubic Ft Refrigerator.
- Upgraded Bluetooth Premium Sound System.



\* The drawing will be conducted on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. (Must not be present to win)  
\*\* For additional details, contact Iowa Masonic Charities at (319) 639-3030 or your local Masonic Lodge at [redacted]  
\*\*\* Winner pays all tax, title, and license fees.  
\*\*\*\* Purchase of Raffle Tickets by credit card is PROHIBITED by law.  
\*\*\*\*\* Iowa law requires that all Raffle Tickets be purchased within the State of Iowa.  
\*\*\*\*\* Iowa Masonic Charities is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. However the IRS does NOT allow the purchase of tickets as a tax-deductible contribution.



## Grace Lodge No. 519 Rededication Ceremony Laurens



Grace Lodge No. 519 invited the Grand Lodge of Iowa to Laurens to rededicate their lodge in due and ancient form on November 9, 2024. Grand Master A.J. Brown and the Grand Lodge Officers conducted the ceremony. Worshipful Master John Thoren gave the invitation to Grand Master Brown to rededicate the Lodge. Grand Master Brown and the Grand Lodge Officers conducted the Temple Rededication Ceremony in due and ancient form. Junior Grand Steward Erik L. Brincks gave the tribute to public education "School Book Lecture". Senior Grand Steward Michael C. McLain gave the Flag Tribute.

Ben Meyer was the Orator and gave the following History of the Lodge. We are here celebrating the 100th year of this Lodge Building. However, Grace Lodge itself is actually 133 years old. To understand how this can be we will need to look into the history of Laurens and Grace Lodge.

Masons were among the first settlers in the town of Laurens. As there was no lodge in the City of Laurens these Masons and several interested persons looked to the surrounding area to continue their masonic labor.

The nearest Masonic Lodge to Laurens at the time was Rolfe Lodge and in 1891 several Laurens Masons visited the lodge at Rolfe, Iowa, and exemplified the work to the brethren there. It was not an easy trip from Laurens to Rolfe at that time, the members had to go by train late in the afternoon, stay all night and return home the next day. Upon the recommendation of the Rolfe Lodge a dispensation was granted in December of 1891 and the next year the Grand Lodge of Iowa granted a charter to Laurens on May 1, 1892. The new lodge was known as Grace Lodge No. 519.

The first meetings of the lodge were held in the upper room of the schoolhouse which was not used for school purposes at that time. In the fall of 1892, the school made use of this room and the Lodge moved to a vacant room above the Nichols general store, which several years later became the Laurens hotel at the southwest corner of main and 3rd St. The lodge next moved to the upper story of the Dempsey and stout implement building. The lodge erected a wooden building in 1912. It was heated by a hot air furnace and wired for electricity. The floor of the lodge room was covered with a beautiful green velvet carpet, donated at least in part by the Eastern Star. That building was first used on New Year's Day 1913 for nearly 11 years it was the home of Grace Lodge and its associate bodies of Eastern Star and the White Shrine.

However, at around 9:00pm the evening of the last day of 1923, fire was discovered in the masonic building. Firefighters were handicapped by the fact that the temperature was 14° below 0 and the city water hose froze solid. Nothing could be done to save the building. The people of Laurens could only stand by and watch it burn to the ground. None of the contents were saved.

At the first regular meeting of the lodge after the fire, plans were made to rebuild. A building committee consisting of W.P. Hopkins, J.E. Clanton, C.A. Carlson was appointed by the lodge. They soon presented plans for a permanent brick structure 40 feet by 96 feet standing West and east on the old location. At that time the building, plumbing, heating, lighting, and furniture cost approximately \$25,000 (today that is equivalent to approximately \$470,000).

## Hartford Lodge No. 83 Officers



Left to Right: Steve Blondino, Louis Reverol - JD, Steve Klein - Treasurer, -Kyle Nordyke - SD, David Dick - WM, Theron (Tom) Conrey - Secretary, Jamie Ross - SW, Jessie Davis - JW.



## Holy Smokes? No. Holy Sites!

*(and the best jewel is?..)*

**Holy Land Pilgrimages may resume!** *"In the Footsteps of Jesus"* – for all persons: Masons, others: Nov. 3-13-2025. Paperwork/payment must be completed by 03-31-25. See [kthlp.com](http://kthlp.com) for details.

*"Christian Ministers"*, for Christian ministers approved/supported by state Grand Commanderies: Group A: Feb.9-19- 2026; Group B: Feb. 23- Mar. 5, 2026. See [kthlp.com](http://kthlp.com) for details including application/nomination forms and requirements for ministers. Awaiting commercial airline approvals (beyond EL AL) from govt. of Israel and U.S, State Dept..

Our goal: *'to financially enable Christian ministers through this pilgrimage which can positively affect their preaching, teaching and spirituality.'* from [kthlp.com](http://kthlp.com)

Iowa Sir Knight \$1K donors/Jewel Recipients: Gene Hatfield, PGC, originator of Iowa HLP Jewel (deceased), John Klaus, Jay Coon, Doug Claybaugh, Don Sherry; new in 2024: John Klopenstein, Jons Olsson. Installment payments available. All donations welcomed!

Contact: SK Jons Olsson, Iowa HLP Chair. Text/phone: 319-486-8176/ [jconrad1939@gmail.com](mailto:jconrad1939@gmail.com) , or SK Nathan Renner PGC/Treas., 515-357-3165/ [renner.nate@gmail.com](mailto:renner.nate@gmail.com) .

Best jewel? **Cross and Crown**– Commandery's symbol of Jesus Christ. He died and was resurrected for you.

*(/s/ Jons Olsson PC, Ascalon Commandery #25, Waterloo, and Baldwin Commandery #11, Cedar Falls, Iowa)*



## Brother William Slattery Raised at Marion Lodge No. 6



Grand Master A.J. Brown and the Grand Lodge Officers were invited to a reception and Third Degree for Brother William (Bill) Slattery. Brother Jamie Johnson opened Lodge and conferred the First Section with Brother Steve Nielsen as Senior Deacon. The Brethren then moved to the dining room for a prime rib dinner. Following dinner, the lodge resumed labor and Past Grand Treasurer Rick Bowersox and Brother Mark Cline were committeemen to receive and introduce the Grand, Past Grand Lodge Officers and Grand Master A. J. Brown. The Grand Master was in the East for the Second Section and Senior Grand Warden Donnie Drennan performed the Senior Deacon duties. Brother Bill received the Charge by Grand Chaplin Ted Boomgarden with authority and emotion reminding him of maintaining his character and reputation of the Fraternity. Grand Master Brown presented Brother Bill with his Grand Master's lapel pin and Brother Bill's apron. Senior Grand Deacon Curt Klyn presented Brother Bill with a wood box and explained the significance of it and Brother Tom Bowersox presented him with his Masonic Bible. Brother Bill thanked everyone for attending his special night and his excitement on moving forward with his Masonic Journey. Deputy Grand Master Keith Voss and the Grand Lodge Officers closed Anawatha Lodge No. 46. To round out the evening, Brother Mike Moseley conducted a Masonic education program and more fellowship following the Degree.

## Mirza Rhodes Lodge No. 303 Benefit Dinner for Accura Angel Tree By Secretary Kurtis Kruse

Mirza Rhodes Lodge No. 303 recently held one of their monthly Sunday benefit dinners for the Accura Angel Tree, a local nursing home. Several dedicated Brothers volunteered their time and skills to cook and serve a delicious meal to the many locals who attended in support of the cause. The afternoon was filled with good food, great company, and a strong sense of community spirit, all aimed at helping those in need.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the locals who came out to support the event, as well as to the Brothers who worked hard to make the benefit dinner a success. Your generosity and effort made a positive impact on our community.



L-R:

Robin Crouch, Gary Paulsen, Josh Sorenson, Brian Ahrens, Nick Padgett, WM – Marshall Wiese, and Chad Hansen. Front: Accura Angel Tree representative.



## Brother John Grunwald Raised at Clinton Lodge No. 15



Clinton Lodge No.15 invited Grand Master A.J. Brown and the Grand Lodge Officers to a Reception and Third Degree for Brother John Grunwald and raised him to the Sublime degree of a Master Mason.

Past Master Frances Mosse opened Lodge. Brother Mosse conferred the First Section with Brother Jeremy Erdman as Senior Deacon. The Masons then moved to the dining room for a spaghetti dinner.

Grand Master A.J. Brown was conducted to the East and received the Private Grand Honors. The Grand Master introduced the Grand and Past Grand Lodge Officers.

Grand Master Brown was in the East for the Second Section. Grand Marshal Mitchell A. Petty gave the Charge. Grand Master Brown presented his lapel pin to Brother Grunwald. James C. Mason presented Brother Grunwald with a 3X5X7 Box. The Lodge presented and Lambskin Apron and Bible to Brother Grunwald. Brother Grunwald thanked everyone for being part of his Third Degree, he has wanted to make this journey for quite a while and is happy to finally get started.

Deputy Grand Master Keith R. Voss in the East to close Clinton Lodge No. 15.

## W. Stevens Elliott Receives 75 Year Membership



The Brothers of Marion Lodge No. 6 held a recognition night for Right Worshipful Brother W. Stevens Elliott, Past Grand Chaplain. Brother Elliott is a member of Marion Lodge No. 6, Crescent Lodge No. 25, and Albert Pike Lodge No. 681. He took his degree work at Arcadia Lodge No. 249 in Ames, Iowa and received his third degree on November 23, 1949. Brother Elliott has served his lodges over years as an officer, serving as Worshipful Master of Crescent Lodge No. 25 in 1984. He also served the Grand Lodge in 2005-2006 as Grand Chaplain in Past Grand Master Charles L. Brinkerhoff's family. Brother Elliott is also a District Lecturer and proudly holds Certificate No. 2874.

Past Grand Master Craig L. Davis was invited to present Brother Elliott his 75 Year Certificate. Richard L. Bowersox and several other Brother's made comments. Congratulations Brother Elliott!

## Daniel Carter Beard Award



Worshipful Master Dave Yeager of Preston Lodge No.218 in Prairie City was presented the Daniel Carter Beard Scouting Award on December 3, 2024.

Presenting the award was Brothers Josh Bragg and Matt Hill, CEO of Mid-Iowa Council Boy Scouts of America.



**Nunc Coepi**  
**By Francis Way, Editor of Connecticut Freemason Magazine**  
**Taken from the April 2022 Emmessay Notes**

“Nunc Coepi,” a Latin phrase familiar to fans of retired NFL quarterback Philip Rivers, translates to “Now I Begin.” It comes from a quote by 19th century Catholic priest, Venerable Bruno Lanteri, who said, “If I should fall even a thousand times a day, a thousand times, with peaceful repentance I will say, ‘Nunc coepi’.” It is Rivers’ motto, and a touchstone of his Catholic faith.

As we begin 2022, lodges will have installed, or will shortly be installing, new Worshipful Masters for the upcoming year. Some will be brand new and undoubtedly nervous as they preside over their first Stated Communications in command of the lodge. Some of us (for this author will be assuming the Oriental Chair for the 5th time in 25 years) will be returning to the chair as we help our lodges progress and move forward...in truth there may, or there may not, be some butterflies even for those “veteran” Worshipful Masters.

But regardless of how many times one has assumed the Oriental Chair, nunc coepi is well worth remembering. Now I begin....

Incoming Worshipful Masters are always told to “plan your work and work your plan” but anyone who has served any time at all in the East knows very well a corollary, first put forth by Field Marshall Helmuth Karl Bernhard Graf von Moltke, “no battle plan ever survives first contact with the enemy.”

It may be that no matter how well laid, a Worshipful Master’s plan won’t happen as envisioned (just ask any Master installed in January, 2020). In those instances, all he can do is Nunc Coepi. As the Master goes, so goes the lodge, and being flexible enough to pivot if needed, can be a valuable skill for any Worshipful Master.

The Master’s Achievement Award can provide a Worshipful Master a wealth of program ideas that will help a lodge grow and prosper. If a plan falls apart, there are more than enough ideas in the program to allow a Master to pivot and turn failure into success. Past Masters can also be a resource if things start to go south. Successful Past Masters always have a memory of a successful program or event that may be worth trying again. Just ask them, and they will surely describe, often in great detail, just what worked.

But even if all is going smoothly, and the Stated Communications are fun, informative and educational, each time a Worshipful Master dons the Crown of Solomon and picks up his gavel, it is an opportunity to excel, to grow the lodge, and to inspire the officers and brethren. Even if the Worshipful Master has not fallen a thousand times that day, he might do well to whisper a little prayer, “Nunc coepi,” before he raps his gavel, congregates his lodge, and says, “Brother Senior Warden, proceed to satisfy yourself...”



**SAVE THE DATE!!**  
**25th ANNIVERSARY OF MUTUAL RECOGNITION**  
**CELEBRATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF IOWA**  
**AND THE PRINCE HALL IOWA GRAND LODGE**  
**Saturday, August 2nd**  
**Cedar Rapids, Iowa**  
More Information Coming Soon!







# Grand Master's Rally “In The Trenches”



**MOST WORSHIPFUL  
AJ BROWN**  
GRAND MASTER



**MARCH 8TH, 2025**

10:00 AM

Des Moines Scottish Rite  
519 Park Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

At a time when Iowa Masonry finds itself in the trenches, true leadership emerges from the front lines, where every Mason is called to rise to the challenge.



## “TEAM: Transform Energy Action Market”

### Grand Master’s Annual Golf Outing

Monday, June 23rd, 2025 10:00 am

Please support Grand Master AJ Brown’s 2025 charity project by sponsoring a hole or team.  
**We also accept donations.** All proceeds go to the “Iowa Masonic Library Association Foundation”.

This Golf event will be a scramble. There are openings for (36) 4-person teams. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis. To reserve your spot – advance payment is requested. Please make all checks payable to the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

**When:** Monday, 23 June 2025

**Where:** American Legion Memorial Golf Course  
1301 S 6th St  
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Pre-registration \$360 per team (pre-registration ends April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025). Green fees, carts and meal following the event are included  
Day of the event is \$400 per team

**Meals only for those not golfing but attending is \$15 and includes:**  
Hamburger/hot dog, chips, and a drink

#### Schedule

8:00am – 10:00am Registration

10:30am – Shotgun start

Team contact phone number and email:

---

---

---

Make checks payable to: Grand Lodge of Iowa (“2025 Golf Outing Hole Sponsor” on Memo line).

**All pre-registration forms and payment must be received before April 1st 2025**

Send registration Form and Checks to:

Mitch Petty  
807 SE Trail Ridge Road  
Grimes, IA 50111  
515-271-6770



## “TEAM: Transform Energy Action Market”

Lodge / Grand Family / Individual / Business Sponsor Form

### Grand Master’s Annual Golf Outing

Monday, June 23rd, 2025

(8:00am – 10:00am pre-registration, shotgun start at 10:30 am)

#### American Legion Memorial Golf Course

1301 S 6th St  
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Please support Grand Master AJ Brown’s 2025 charity project by sponsoring a hole or team.  
**We also accept donations.** All proceeds go to the “Iowa Masonic Library Association Foundation”.

**A sign or banner will be placed on the golf course displaying your support!!**

Please Check One:

- \$100.00 Lodge Hole Sponsorship (Includes Sign)       \$100.00 Grand Family Hole Sponsor (Includes Sign)  
 \$100.00 Individual Hole Sponsorship (Includes Sign)       \$300.00 Business Hole Sponsor (Includes Banner)  
 Donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Business Hole Sponsors will be given a hole to set up their business or organization. They can set up a shade tent or other advertisement in addition to their personalized banner that will be placed at the hole. We will use your old sign if you have sponsored before. If you are a new sponsor, send any logos or designs and indicate what you want to appear on the sign (25 characters/spaces per line)

---



---



---

Make checks payable to: Grand Lodge of Iowa (“2025 Golf Outing Hole Sponsor” on Memo line).

**All sponsorship forms and payment must be received before 15 April 2025**

Send Sponsor Form, Sign Logos / Designs and Checks to:

Mike Shannon  
902 NW Orchard Drive  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
[michael.shannon4856@gmail.com](mailto:michael.shannon4856@gmail.com)  
515-868-5367



You Are Cordially Invited to Join the Grand Lodge of Iowa  
With Group Leader Wade Sheeler For The  
**Masons' Adventure / England & Scotland, 2025**



Group Leader, Wade Sheeler  
Submit your application  
with the QR Code below.

\$5295.00 from Minneapolis\*

October 13 - 22, 2025

## YOUR ITINERARY

Tour Code: 226127

On **October 13th**, you will depart the U.S. to begin your Masons United Kingdom adventure, landing in the timeless city of London on October 14th to discover the hidden treasures of this city. Important sites of Freemasonry, fantastic excursions, preserved historical sites, delicious foods and wonderful shopping make this trip exciting and rewarding. Bring these memories home with you on **October 22nd**.

*SPACE ON THE TOUR IS LIMITED, SO DON'T DELAY! PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR **APPLICATION** AND \$500 DEPOSIT TO **EATOURS.COM** TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE ON THIS TOUR! SUBMIT YOUR DEPOSIT BY **NOVEMBER 1, 2024**, TO RECEIVE A FREE EVENING THAMES RIVER CRUISE.*

### London

**October 14 - 18, 2025**

On **October 14th**, you will arrive in England to begin your Masons United Kingdom Adventure as you transfer to the village of Windsor to visit **Windsor Castle\***, one of the most important and famous residences of the Royal Family. From Windsor you will continue on to your hotel for check-in procedures. You will finish your first night in London with **dinner\***. As the center of the glorious British Empire for numerous centuries, London has much to offer visitors in the way of entertainment and adventure. Start on **October 15th** with a **guided city tour\*** offering such sites as Westminster Abbey, Piccadilly Circus, Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar Square. You then uncover history and culture at the **Tower of London**, one of the many iconic and exciting London sites that await you. The highlights of **October 16th** begin with your visit to the **Temple Church\***, known as the Church of the Templar. From Temple Church you will proceed to **United Grand Lodge of England\*** followed by a tour and time to explore the Churchill War Rooms Museum, an incredible place where Sir. Winston Churchill directed the British military during World War II. Time allowing, from the War Rooms Museum, you can plan for an optional visit to nearby Westminster Abbey. This evening you will enjoy a wonderful **Gala dinner\*** at an important masonic venue. **October 17th** takes you on an excursion to the prehistoric monument **Stonehenge\*** followed by an afternoon to the beautiful and charming town of Bath with its historic **Roman Baths\*** and time to visit the **Bath Masonic Hall\***. **October 18th**, you will bid farewell to London as you connect with your flight to Edinburgh.

### Edinburgh - Glasgow

**October 18 - 22, 2025**

**October 18th** takes you to Edinburgh, Scotland, known as the "Prince of Cities". Upon arrival, you will transfer to your hotel for check-in. In the afternoon you will enjoy a **guided city tour\*** including **Edinburgh Castle\***, the historic fortress which dominates the skyline of Edinburgh. Begin **October 19th**, with a visit to the **Grand Lodge of Scotland\*** followed by a visit to the nearby **Canongate Kilwinning Lodge\***. Your afternoon takes you to visit the remarkable 15th-century **Rosslyn Chapel\***, founded on a small hill above Roslin Glen as a Catholic collegiate church. **Dinner\*** this evening is included and planned to be at the Rosslyn Inn. On the morning of **October 20th**, you will depart from Edinburgh and drive to the area of Ayr where you will enjoy a visit to **Kilwinning Lodge** and to **Barr Castle Lodge\*** followed by lunch at the **Brigadoon Restaurant\***. Following lunch, you will enjoy time at the **Robert Burns Museum\*** where you can celebrate Scotland's national poet. From Ayr you will go to Glasgow for your overnight. **October 21st**, your final day in Scotland, begins with a tour of a local **Scotch Distillery\***



**SPECIAL TOUR CONDITIONS:** \*The estimated tour price, if payments are made by cash or check, is \$5295.00 otherwise, if paying by credit card, a 3% credit card service fee (charged by credit card company) will be due for, other than the initial deposit for which there is no credit card service fee, whatever amount is charged to the credit card. **If you wish to use a credit card for your initial deposit, you will be allowed to pay the remaining payments by check and still receive the listed tour price without a 3% surcharge.** Tour price is based on double occupancy and includes point-to-point transportation between cities while in Europe, all breakfasts and 3 evening meals. Additionally, entrance fees and/or transportation marked with an asterisk (\*) as well as city tours or guided tours, are included in the tour price (I.E. Guided tours in London and Edinburgh), Windsor Castle, Churchill War Rooms, Tower of London, Stonehenge, Roman Baths, Edinburgh Castle, Distillery, Rosslyn Chapel, Robert Burns Museum, Barr Castle, Sterling Castle). Additional items may be offered optionally, are subject to availability and are not included in the tour price. *A guaranteed single room may be available for a per person supplemental charge, available upon request.* Included are the estimated applicable governmental international airline ticket taxes, fuel surcharges, security surcharges, and associated fees. If applicable, unforeseen tax increases will be billed on a supplemental invoice. A minimum number of paying participants may be required to operate the tour.

A \$500.00 non-refundable (**for any reason**) application fee / deposit is required to reserve your space on this tour. All tour participants must submit an online application. Please go to "Student/Traveler Sign Up" on the home page at [www.EAtours.com](http://www.EAtours.com). Your tour number is **XXXXX** and must be entered on your online application. A second payment of \$1000.00, for which you will receive an invoice, will be due no later than 30 days from the date that EA Tours receives your initial payment and online application. Final payments are due no later than one hundred ten days (110) days before departure.

Updated tour details (hotels, day by day itinerary, flights, etc.) are scheduled to be released approximately four weeks prior to departure. Please note: **Additional tour conditions apply, that also relate to potential Covid Virus issues and are listed in the Tour Conditions Section on the Online Application.** Applicable items listed above may supersede those listed in the tour conditions section on the online application.

*SPACE ON THE TOUR IS LIMITED, SO DON'T DELAY! PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AND \$500 DEPOSIT TO [EATOURS.COM](http://EATOURS.COM) BY NOVEMBER 1, 2024 TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE ON THIS TOUR!*



Scan me!

Submit your application here.



## Grand Master's One Day Class

**Saturday April 26,  
2025**

**Scottish Rite Center  
519 Park Street  
Des Moines, Iowa**

**Registration Deadline:  
April 1, 2025**

**Registration Fee:  
\$100.00**

**APPLICATION FOR CANDIDATE TO PARTICIPATE IN  
A GRAND MASTER'S ONE DAY CLASS**  
PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

**Section A:** Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mo. Day Year

Name of Candidate \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_, Iowa \_\_\_\_\_  
P.O. Box or Street Address City Zip Code Plus 4

Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_, Iowa.  
Name City

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_, respectfully submit this application to participate in the Grand  
Candidate's Signature

Master's One Day Class to be held at \_\_\_\_\_, Iowa, on \_\_\_\_\_  
Mo. Day Year

**Section B - This section must be completed only if the Candidate has been Initiated or Passed.**  
(If no degrees have been conferred, please skip this Section)

Initiated on \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_, Iowa  
Mo. Day Year Lodge City

Passed on \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_, Iowa  
Mo. Day Year Lodge City

If the previous degrees were conferred by any other lodge than the lodge completing this application, or a lodge that has consolidated with your lodge, please show the date the Brother was elected into your lodge for Advancement and Membership: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mo. Day Year

**Section C - This Section must be completed for all One Day Class Candidates**

Date of Election to Membership \_\_\_\_\_  
Mo. Day Year

All membership fees have been paid in full by the candidate.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

*The Grand Master's One-Day Class fee shall accompany this Application.*

**Section D - Candidate Guide**

Name of Guide (Required): \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

The above information has been verified by the Office of the Grand Secretary:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grand Secretary or Deputy Grand Secretary

(This form must be received in the Office of the Grand Secretary by the posted deadline prior to attending a Grand Master's One-Day Class.)

IOWA MASONIC LIBRARY AND MUSEUM  
 GRAND LODGE OF IOWA, A.F. & A.M.  
 P.O. Box 279  
 Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406-0279  
 Phone: (319) 365-1438 -- Fax: (319) 365-1439

Non-Profit Org. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Cedar Rapids, Iowa Permit No. 55
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

50 - Year Certificates Issued Since The December 2024 "Bulletin"  
 Congratulations to the following Brothers who earned their certificates.

Brothers are shown by Lodge No.

No.	Lodge	Town	Name	No.	Lodge	Town	Name
2		Muscatine	Morgan, Ernest R.	312		Spencer	Larson, Jerry L.
6		Marion	Jiouch, Michael L.	312		Spencer	Waller, Steven M.
10		Keosauqua	Boecker, Marvin D.	329		Spirit Lake	Osborne, Dennis L.
24		West Liberty	Ottaway, Vincent A.	335		Carson	Henry, Richard J.
28		Mount Union	Byczek, Robert T.	335		Carson	Edic, Curtis M.
37		Davendport	Gerischer, Michael K.	340		Tama	Snow, James R.
55		Pella	Kendall, Gary D.	407		Altoona	Mauch, John A.
55		Pella	Vander Heiden, Fred M.	412		Griswold	Tietz, Larry E.
60		Camanche	Woolard, James W.	412		Griswold	Steinbeck, Wayne E.
65		Cedar Falls	Hovick, Ronald L.	454		Woodward	Boyles, Chris O.
69		West Union	Riley, Steven L.	498		Bristow	Vance, Russell D.
72		Elkader	Behrens, Curtis K.	508		Sioux City	Yates, Charles D.
87		Independence	Humes, Gary L.	509		Windsor Heights	Cornelius, Robert M.
103		Sioux City	Avery, Mark A.	519		Laurens	Mather, William C.
103		Sioux City	Avery, Stephan E.	519		Laurens	Ferguson, Craig L.
107		Columbus City	Peters, William D.	519		Laurens	Witt, John D.
125		Dubuque	Call, Daniel J.	522		Creston	Wasteney, Merlin C.
139		Springville	Underwood, Donald D.	538		Renwick	Bastian, Rex A.
167		Wilton	Townsend, Charles S.	561		Melbourne	Fisher, Patrick J.
167		Wilton	Townsend, Franklin N.	562		Whiting	COurtney, Robert J.A.
174		Malcom	Rose, Paul Q.	577		West Des Moines	Proudfit, Jerry D.
174		Malcom	Gillette, Kurt B.	592		Des Moines	Stanford, Dennis L.
175		Belle Plaine	Stok, Michael D.	597		Lohrville	Lightner, Kriss J.
179		Mount Ayr	French, William H.	597		Lohrville	Pell, Harold G.
182		Sigourney	Moore, Walter K.	597		Lohrville	Parker, Arthur D.
182		Sigourney	Dalziel, James K.	624		Cedar Falls	Humenczuk, William M. II
208		Davenport	Lenninger, Terry M.	630		Des Moines	Hinch, Daniel R.
232		Missouri Valley	Jackson, Leo D.	632		Des Moines	Leseney, James L.
249		Ames	Cory, Clarence B.	650		Burlington	Madgefreu, Jerry D.
264		Carroll	Sykes, Dennis R.	662		Sioux City	Kelly, Paul D.
285		Siam	Cooney, Dennis H.	664		Bettendorf	Dykes, Gerald N.
290		Oxford	Phillips, John O.	678		Des Moines	Long, Gregory D.
308		Polk City	Jorgenson, James A.				