



THE PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER

NEWS FOR THE ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS IN INDIANA DECEMBER, 2015

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM GRAND CHAPLAIN ... JOHN MATHIS



**THE MISSION OF INDIANA
ROYAL ARCH MASONRY IS:**

**TO FULFILL THE PROMISE OF KING
SOLOMON THAT FUTURE AGES
WOULD FIND OUT THE RIGHT.**

**TO PRESERVE THE COMPLETE
TRADITION OF THE CRAFT.**

**TO FURTHER THE INTIMATE
CONNECTION BETWEEN THE BLUE
LODGE AND THE ROYAL ARCH.**

**TO SPREAD MASONIC
ENLIGHTENMENT AND
FELLOWSHIP AMONG ALL
BRETHREN.**

Indiana Royal Arch Masonry promotes these Essential Standards as keys to a complete understanding of the Masonic tradition and the perfection of the Royal Arch system.

- Extraordinary Masonic education and enlightenment of our craft in sublime and practical ways.
- Fellowship at its finest; in the chapters and in furthering our intimate connection with the Blue Lodge.
- Exceptional ritual development and delivery... always!... Thus preserving the time honored Masonic traditions of "the royal art."
- Effectiveness and value in Royal Arch organizational processes, communications and finances.
- Continuous advancement of our charitable endeavors.

These Standards are the measuring sticks of our Mission's progress!

Greetings Companions All from the Grand Chaplin of Royal Arch Mason in the State of Indiana. Some people think Christmas is only for Kids or it's about the presents we receive during the holidays. When we were all Kids we were taught that Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Kids usually think about all of the presents Santa Claus will bring them for being good Boys and Girls. As Kids the myth of Santa Claus lives on through store advertisements of the latest and greatest toys and all of the TV shows about Santa's great sleigh ride on Christmas Eve pulled by his Reindeer. As we grew up we learned about this myth that came every December 25th.

Now that we've grown older the meaning of Christmas has changed. We still recognize it as the birth date of Jesus Christ and although, we all like to receive presents we have learned the lesson that it is better to give than to receive. Through time the list of things we want has changed and is probably somewhat smaller from when we were younger.

With this article (and as a Christian) I want to convey a thought for Companions to think about. Not everyone celebrates Christmas as a joyful time of year. Some people (even Companions & Brother Masons) struggle through the Christmas Season and have very little.

During this Holiday Season I would like to urge all Companions to think about this. I would also ask that you read a Chapter in the Bible. Matthew Chapter 1: 18-25 which tells about the birth of Jesus Christ. Specifically read Matthew Chapter 1:21 which says "And she shall bring forth a Son and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their Sins. You see, when Jesus was born everyone was given the greatest gift ever. The opportunity of salvation with everlasting life.

As we go into the Holiday Season I would ask each of you to look about you daily lives and especially within our Fraternity. Look for somebody, or a charity you might be able to help by giving a little extra to those in need.

1 Corinthians chapter 13:13 says "And now abideth Faith, Hope, Charity, these three; but the greatest of these is Charity.

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**WISHING YOU A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS ...
A BLESSED HANUKKAH ...
AND A PROSPEROUS NEW
YEAR!!**

**FROM
MOST EXCELLENT COMPANION MARTY EVENS, GHP
AND YOUR GRAND OFFICERS**



GRAND CHAPTER HOLIDAY PARTY

Nearly 70 Companions and their ladies gathered for the annual Grand Chapter Holiday Party at the Putnam Inn in Greencastle, on November 15th.



IN THE QUARRY...

Hail Companions! If you know of any Companion that is ill, has Entered the Celestial Lodge Above, has achieved some success or honor; or if there are special events or degree work planned by your Chapter ... please forward the details to the Editor of the Principal Sojourner at dwood52281@aol.com. Event pictures are also great; so please send them as well. We publish the Principal Sojourner every other month and will do our best to get the news out to you all!

- **It is with great sadness that we inform you that Excellent Companion and Sir Knight Larry Kaminski passed to his eternal reward on Monday, November 30th. Companion Larry was an outstanding and well respected Mason; not only in Indiana but also throughout the rest of the United States. He was a member of Hammond Chapter No. 117 and the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Indiana. Our deepest sympathies to his family. He will be missed.**
- **A big “Thank You” to all of the Companions who have sent pictures and articles to the Principal Sojourner! They are very much appreciated and we hope that you will continue to send them.**

OUTSIDE THE TABERNACLE



The third annual Indiana – Illinois All Degree Day was held in LaPorte on Saturday, October 24th.

17 candidates witnessed the four Degrees of the Royal Arch conferred by Companions from Illinois and Indiana. It was a great day of ritual, food and fellowship.

A big THANK YOU to EX. Companions Joe Villarreal, Jim Dove and the Companions of LaPorte No. 15 for being our hosts!





MEGHP Marty Evens presents a brand new Red Coat and Pin to MW Grand Master William Reiners.



Eleven new Companions were Exalted in Evansville on October 10th, during the Grand Master's One Day Class; honoring Most Worshipful Brother William Reiners, Grand Master of Masons in Indiana. The candidates also witnessed the Cryptic Degrees and the Commandery Orders. An OUTSTANDING day for Freemasonry!

The Grand York Rite bodies also presented two 50 Year Awards of Gold to Companion Robert Bogan and Companion Robert Sheets.

GREENE COUNTY NO. 169 - CHARTER PRESENTATION - AUGUST 8TH, 2015



DISTRICT G TABLE CHAPTER



!! NOTICE !!

If any Chapter or Companion is desirous of presenting legislation or changes to the Constitution and General Regulations at the next Grand Session; you should probably begin to work on it at this time. The rule is that all proposed legislation must be in proper form and the hands of the Grand Secretary sixty (60) days prior to the Grand Session. A good target date for this would be on or before February 1st, 2016. If you have questions about your proposed legislation, please call 574.286.5686

CHAPTER ALL DEGREE DAY SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2016

**7:30 AM REGISTRATION • 8:00 AM MARK MASTER DEGREE • 9:00
AM PAST MASTER DEGREE • 9:30 AM MOST EXCELLENT MASTER
DEGREE
10:15 AM ROYAL ARCH DEGREE**

**PRATHER CHAPTER No. 157
CALVIN W. PRATHER LODGE No. 717
7502 E. 56TH STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46226-1309**

AN ESSAY ON THE PAST MASTER DEGREE

Let us turn our attention to the Fifth Degree of Masonry, The Past Master Degree. We will start by asking the question: can you tell me how many Freemasons are currently members of Indiana lodges? (about 55,000 is correct) now of that 55,000, what percentage of them would you guess have actually been inducted into the Oriental Chair and served as Master of their Lodge? (5%? ... 10%?) If that is the case, why would anyone else find witnessing the Past Master's Degree valuable?

In your careers, have you ever had to display leadership? A wise Mason once said that "Freemasonry begins when the ritual has ended." The lodge room offers us a great environment to display the qualities and functions of leadership and teamwork, without too much threat or fear; whether you are the Master, an officer or just an everyday brother. It's "practice" of a sort. Should the principles we learn in Freemasonry guide us in our actions in everyday life with our families, our coworkers, in our community work? The answer is absolutely!

In your daily lives, do you make decisions based on what is right or wrong? Have you ever had to exercise the function of justice when mediating between coworkers or correcting your children? Do you speak plainly and truthfully when you communicate with others? Have you ever stood up for a colleague in a tough situation, or motivated them to better performance without using fear or intimidation? Can you effectively counsel your fellow workers in the art of toleration and kindness? Do you exercise your authority over others with moderation and decorum?

The exemplar for this degree is one whom you have met before, in the Master Mason Degree. Can you guess who? No, it's not Hiram Abif. No, it's not the two kings. And it's not the ruffians. Those Masons are all dead! It had to be someone who could continue the work of the craft. It was the reluctant third craftsman, Levi; the one who was hesitant to return to the Temple empty handed..., the one who discovered the grave ... the one who was instrumental in capturing the ruffians. Levi displayed the traits of leadership ... it is a fact ... the reluctant ones usually make the best leaders. And that is why Levi is shown as the successor of Solomon as the leader of the craft.

Let's take a look at some of the leadership traits found in both King Solomon and Levi.

Vision ... King David, Solomon's father originally had the vision of a great spiritual building in Jerusalem, but could not act on it, because of God's restrictions ... David had shed blood. But Solomon could and did act ... his vision not only inspired the people of Israel, it also inspired the craft! It must have been some vision ... an extraordinary picture that Solomon was able to communicate ... extraordinarily ... for over 150,000 craftsmen labored for over seven years ... "encouraged and buoyed up by the promise" of that vision ... even after the promise was lost.

Positive attitude ... Solomon must have had a positive attitude for what he was doing ... or else the naysayers and boobirds would have overcome him and we would not be here today! And Levi had within him that same attitude.

Follow through ... there is no doubt that Solomon saw the temple and the advancement of the craft through to the end. Even when Hiram Abif was tragically lost ... Solomon persevered!

Planning ... think of the plans ... painstakingly laid out on the master workman's trestle board. The attention to detail ... the vision of Solomon! ... all drawn out on the trestle board!

Decisive ... King Solomon knew how to not only make decisions but to ACT on them. Levi had developed that quality as well; as we see in the Third Degree of Ancient Craft Masonry.

Organization ... if, in fact, 153,300 Masters, Fellow Craft and Apprentices worked on this magnificent structure; think of how well they must have been organized. Our ritual tells us the Solomon had so arranged and organized his work force ... that no confusion or discord was suffered to permeate the building site during construction. And we know from the Mark Master Degree that Solomon had a simple, but highly effective quality control system in place.

Delegation ... Solomon appears to have been similar to many leaders today: Have a plan ... find the absolute best people to execute that plan ... and then get out of the way and let those best get the job done! It would be hard to believe that Solomon was a micro-manager!

Wisdom ... King Solomon had wisdom beyond his years ... he had asked god for wisdom as a mere “child.” He, rather than asking God for wealth, power and honor; only asked for wisdom to govern his people. And God gave it to him ... along with the riches and honor. Wisdom comes from knowledge, experience and discernment of what is right. For most of his life, Solomon’s wisdom helped him, as the scriptures point out.

Relationship builder ... Solomon capitalized on the relationships of his father ... and greatly expanded them. Even his relationship with Hiram, King of Tyre, grew and matured.

Plan B ... the Substitute ... Solomon, in his wisdom, knew that events change plans ... and he was flexible enough to have a “Plan B” for the Craft; knowing that “future ages would find out the right.” The succession plan ... Solomon was a wise enough judge of character to see that Levi possessed all the attributes of leadership that would see the Craft live on for centuries!

Courage ... The Past Master’s Degree is about everyday leadership and “who can best work and best agree.” It provides many simple lessons of how to be a leader inside the Lodge and Chapter ... but more importantly ... outside the Lodge and Chapter as well. Our ritual and tradition provides many practical applications of how to live and lead outside the Lodge room!

And, most of all, it advances your spiritual quest by encouraging you to first master yourself. If you can master yourself and then your work, then you find that with time, patience and perseverance you can become an outstanding leader ... a master of your craft ... as a Mason ... and as a man.

