



THE PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER

NEWS FOR THE ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS IN INDIANA JUNE, 2014

MOST EXCELLENT COMPANION JAMES B. COLEMAN INSTALLED AS GRAND HIGH PRIEST



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.**



Most Excellent Companion James B. Coleman was installed as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, on Saturday, April 5th, 2014; during the 169th Grand Convocation in West Lafayette, Indiana.

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!

So... You Want To Be A Grand Officer

Marty Evens, REGK (Reprinted from a Previous Edition)

Perhaps in your service to the Masonic Fraternity you have contemplated the notion that you would like to serve in a larger capacity to your fellow men. Serving in a statewide Grand Officer Line would fulfill that service.

Do you realize all that is required for such a commitment? An honest assessment of the requirements will help to prepare you for this life changing activity. Here are some decisions that must be addressed if you pursue this service.

First, have you considered and discussed with your family the financial resources that will be necessary in order to serve in an acceptable manner for the duration of time of service?

Second, have you explained to your family the number of nights and days you will be away from the home life they have been accustomed to? Have you explained the number of family activities that you will miss in order to meet your duties as an Officer? Will they be supportive and understand that you will not always be able to assist them with extra-curricular activities? Does your Spouse understand and agree to be involved with the Grand Line family in the group activities scheduled during your years of service?

Third, are you fully committed to travel, support and contribute to the programs undertaken to promote the works of the organization you serve?

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WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

Excellent Companion Matthew Backus

One of my favorite sources for Masonic Education comes in the form of “musings” of a MEPGHP of Arkansas, Steven Tiner. I receive these emails from him with loads of various topics, pictures and more. If you are wanting to receive these emails, please look him up and or send me an email to: matthew.backus@gmail.com and I can assist you in that.

ME Companion Tiner recently sent an email with a quote from our very own PGM of Masons of Indiana, Dwight L. Smith. **“The mere fact that men do not comprehend its purpose does not mean that Freemasonry had no purpose, nor that its purpose is outmoded – it only means that the stones (members) are not being well-hewn and squared in the quarries (lodges) where they were raised.”**

How does this resonate with you? At one point in time, I was of the opinion that Freemasonry was solely for the purpose of initiation and fraternal brotherhood. While I believe that those two aspects are some of the most important, there are many others: leadership, personal development, expounding on the studies of the liberal arts and sciences, group presentations, overcoming fear and other mundane obstacles, cooking, cleaning, planning and many more are some of the duties that at one point or another, a Freemason must experience – especially the further he becomes involved.

What about in the Chapter? Do you feel likewise? Have you given much thought to your purpose in the Craft? How about In the Chapter? Some Masons are content with attending a meeting and perhaps even taking part but are not interested in the deeper symbolism of the Fraternity...are they wrong? At one point I thought so. Allow me to at least share my viewpoint on this. If we are to take all good men and make them better through the teachings of the Craft, then we are doing our jobs as Freemasons. Yet, does the ability to memorize something make you better? Does simply walking through a ceremony or ritualistic act better you? I am not of that opinion. I would argue that in many respects they are meaningless rites to those not prepared. If a man is ill-prepared for Blue Lodge, regardless of his progression through the Degree work, how prepared are you for “further light in Masonry”? Is it the Brother’s fault? Is it the Lodge’s fault? You could argue that it might be both! To a point it is, but ultimately a man comes to an organization and can find information out there should he look. Yet Freemasonry is experiential in nature, as is all esoteric, initiatic societies. You can read all that you want, but until you experience it, you cannot obtain the full picture.

This is where the Lodge must be examined as well. Is the Lodge prepared to receive the man? Are they taking the time to properly instruct him and prepare him for what is to come? Does he understand the steps he is about to take upon entering a Lodge (or a Chapter)? Sadly, preliminary instruction often falls by the wayside because the Lodge fails to give them in time, or rushes to give it on the night of the Degree etc.

How then do we prepare? A period of reflection on “what come you here to do” should be considered. There should be a discussion of the books and preliminary instruction book provided by the Grand Lodge to assure at minimum that some propriety has been given to this singular, special decision that this man is about to embark on. So again, what about the Chapter?

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IN THE QUARRY...

Broken Column: Most Excellent Companion Don Friend, PGHP in 1975-76, Entered the Celestial Lodge Above on Palm Sunday, April 13th, 2014. Please keep Leann and her family in your prayers.

Keep in Your Prayers: Most Excellent Companion Bill Meyers, PGHP in 1986-87, has moved to the Northern Lakes Retirement Community, 516 North Williams Street in Angola, Indiana. He is doing great!

("Grand Officer" Continued From Page 1)

Are you prepared for the criticism you may receive for the positions you feel strongly about? Can you present and negotiate a workable solution and support the program regardless of your support for the final decision? This must be considered when making the choice to serve in this capacity. You will not always be right in your outlook nor will you always be wrong however, somewhere in the middle the answer will lie and the wisest knoweth not where.

Can you endure the numerous and critical comments you will encounter during your time in the line and listen and consider all points of view when formulating your decisions? Can you prevent the criticism from hardening your heart and mind of the relationship you have with those who may disagree with you from time to time and accept that disagreement does not cause adversity between one another?

So much is to be considered on the choice to enter upon the responsibility of joining a Grand Line. Keep in mind that your life and circle of acquaintances will expand beyond your imagination. The adage "you get out of it what you put into it" is ever so true. Friendships that will last a lifetime will be established while with your best efforts to do what you believe is in the best interest of the organization, might possibly bring opposition and defiance. How you resolve and conduct yourself will determine how effective your leadership will be.

Regardless of why you decide to become involved in a Grand Line, make the most of the experience by dedicating yourself to be engaged; be authentic, be sincere and honorable and the reflection of your years of service will demonstrate a meaningful experience.

Be honest in your assessment as to why you are embarking on this endeavor. If it is merely to garnish accolades to adorn the walls of your home or fill a scrapbook to be admired in days to come, then for goodness sake abort before you waste your time and money and harm the organization you are focusing your attention on. For only by committing yourself to wholeheartedly serving the members of the fraternity without hope of fee or reward will you fulfill the objective which service in a grand line affords you. Purity of heart and actions must be the most important factors for your decision to stand for election as a Grand Officer. Choose wisely, and so shall be your reward.

RECEPTION

FOR

***MOST EXCELLENT COMPANION JAMES B. COLEMAN
GRAND HIGH PRIEST OF THE GRAND CHAPTER
OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF THE STATE OF INDIANA***

Saturday, August 23rd

Ft. Wayne Masonic Temple, 216 E. Washington Blvd., Ft. Wayne

RSVP to: Hank LaHurreau ... 260.248.4970 ... hanknbev@centurylink.net

("Purpose" Continued from Page 2)

Let's say, in a perfect world, a Brother was properly instructed, took the time to work through his proficiency assignments, attended Degree work to obtain a better idea of the importance of what he experienced, reflected on the explanatory lectures of the Degrees, understands the significance of symbolic death and rebirth, acknowledges the importance of the charges given him by the Worshipful Master, strives to live by his obligations and genuinely transforms into what Freemasonry sets out to do...by taking a good man and making him better. How does one prepare for "further light"?

The Chapter Degrees teach many moral and philosophical lessons. They teach that a man should find strength in virtue, be humble, strive for perfection, and realize the relationship between the destruction of the first Temple and the rebuilding and dedication of the second Temple. These are not "advanced" lessons; these are the just some of the examples that becoming a Royal Arch Mason can educate you on.

Perhaps the answer is that we should have some preliminary instruction to becoming a York Rite Mason, or in particular, a Royal Arch Mason? Maybe before starting the journey through the Chapter, the Officers would elect to have a roundtable discussion so that you can give the candidate(s) a brief synopsis of what they will experience? Through experience, I have tried this and know that it makes a difference. Maybe you might also want to come back to that roundtable discussion after the Royal Arch Degree? This will give you a chance to all explore the intricacies of the work and give the candidate some additional insights. This concept has created stronger meaning for some of the candidates of Hammond York Rite and I believe that it would work well for your Chapter too.

Some other thoughts to consider is It might be wise for Chapters to incorporate some additional education to their meetings, to host a speaker (local or not) that can relate the deeper symbolisms found in the Capitular Degrees and most importantly, to scour books and programs designed to propel you forward in your own knowledge so that you too can deepen your appreciation of the Craft as a whole – and know that when you confer a Degree on a candidate, you are confident and cognizant of what you are doing; your intention will create a vastly different experience for the Brother you are hoping to exalt to Companion of the Royal Arch.

In a conversation with MEC Dave Wood, we discussed the importance of education as a preparatory step for all that we do in Freemasonry. If we are educated on the fact that our actions are in the hopes of changing the life of a man, we might be willing to put forth additional efforts toward the work we confer. If we are educating the man taking a Masonic journey, he will find more resonance with it and you might find that it creates a stronger feeling within him...the stronger the feeling, the better the retention. If we are educated Freemasons, we have the ability to be numbered amongst those well hewn and squared in the quarries in which we were raised.

In giving the optional lecture of On Yonder Book, I add a little tidbit after I finish the conferring of it...that is: 'Always remember, one night you knelt where Hiram knelt and took an obligation. Never Forget, you laid as Hiram laid and were raised a Master Mason.' From who you once were, you are no longer. You were once a profane man who chose initiation. You became an initiated man and experienced a symbolic death and rebirth into a new life. In this new role, you have new responsibilities and your actions will speak volumes; so be observant!

**!! DISPENSATION FOR GREEN COUNTY CHAPTER, U.D.,
TO OPERATE !!**

***JOIN US ON SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH AS THE GREEN COUNTY CHAPTER, U.D.,
BEGINS ITS JOURNEY TO BECOMING A NEW AND FULL ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER IN
THE STATE OF INDIANA!!***

**LINTON LODGE NO. 560, F. & A.M.
69 SOUTH MAIN STREET, LINTON, INDIANA**

LUNCHEON AT NOON ... DISPENSATION PRESENTATION AT 1:00 PM

**MOST EXCELLENT MASTER
DEGREE**

Tuesday, June 10th
6 PM Dinner ... 7 PM Degree
Middletown No. 143
959 N. Beachwood Avenue, Middletown

ROYAL ARCH DEGREE

Saturday, July 19th
10 AM Degree ... Noon Lunch
Clinton No. 82
201 S. Main Street, Frankfort

***MARK MASTER DEGREE
OPEN DOOR***

Thursday, June 12th ... 7 PM
Vincennes No. 7
501 Broadway, Vincennes
For more information contact:
EC Keith Spurgeon ... Keithspu@aol.com