



Hunter's Paradise Lodge #85



FEBRUARY 2023

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Message from Worshipful Master - Gary Dates

Brethren,
Hello everyone, we have made it to February! January was a very busy month to say the least, everything from a zoom meeting to a lodge of instruction.

This month we started with an officers meeting on February 6th via zoom. JFebruary 13th will be a second degree practice with Earl in the East. The second degree will be March 20th.

February 20th will be a night of education WB Bob Beffel will be going through our funeral duties, and your spouses are encouraged to attend.

We will round out the month with our stated meeting February 27th with the meal beforehand headed up by Earl, please RSVP him.

Starting now I am asking everyone to pick up after themselves. It isn't my job isn't going to cut

it anymore, If you bring it in take it out. No more food in the lodge room keep it in the break area. Bottled water and resealable water jugs are okay.

Please put your cell phones on silent. It has been brought to my attention that video games are being played in lodge, no more, if you are bored and need to do so please do so in the break area respect your lodge.

Please remember if you are an officer, you need to find your replacement if you are going to be gone. We are going to use sign an up sheet for degrees. Sign up genius. We have too many no shows without any communication.

Help keep our lodge strong.

Gary Dates
Worshipful Master

Our Mailing Address
Hunters Paradise Lodge No. 85
P.O. Box 1545
Mesa, AZ 85211-1545

Upcoming Planned Activities

- Feb. 2 - Officer Mtg (Zoom) - 6:30 pm
- Feb. 9 - Practice night - 6:30 pm
- Feb. 16 - Masonic Funeral Tng 6:30 pm
- Feb. 25 - Lodge Stated Mtg - 7:00 pm

- Mar. 6 - Officer Mtg (Zoom) - 6:30 pm
- Mar. 13 - Practice night - 6:30 pm
- Mar. 20 - 2nd Degree night - 6:30 pm
- Mar. 27 - Lodge Stated Mtg - 7:00 pm

(The Master will update via email)

The 2023 Monthly Meeting Plan

- 1st Monday - Officers meeting (ZOOM)
- 2nd Monday - Ritual practice meeting
- 3rd Monday - Degree special meeting, if no degree, then the Master will advise as to the activity to be done.
- 4th Monday - Stated meeting
- 5th Monday - If it exists - NO meetings



**From the Secretary's Desk...
By William Enloe, PM**

Hello Hunter's Paradise,

February is here, which brings us one month closer to Spring. Here in Arizona the winter months do not stay around long enough, so Spring and Summer are quickly in front of us before we know it.

So, how should we prepare for Spring? I feel as a Lodge we should use it for the clearing of our tables to prepare for the future working months of the year. Presently, our cycle is to get new members then initiate, pass, and raise them so they can be fully functioning members for future officers.

Often, we neglect to see their path and often forget what it was like to being a member looking at our fraternity with fresh eyes. It makes sense to me that if we reflect on the process to becoming a member and reaching the several degrees, we might look inward into seeing how things can be improved. It may be that our process is rigid, but perhaps we can take some time to look at how we educate our new members and perhaps build a brighter and better Mason for the future.

Last year, I had the privilege of educating the prospects and mentored their process into joining our Lodge. It seemed that I often repeated the same information to our prospects because I felt there was little I could pass on until they reached a specific degree. I tried to make an agenda of

their education but found that agenda could be covered in one session.

So, what could we do to improve that session? Perhaps if we standardize the material we prepare for the candidates it could be a good start. We must ensure that we pass on the knowledge we have gained to the next generation or we will lose that part of us that makes our organization special.

This doesn't mean that we need to bore our new members/candidates with years of stories about the good ole days. However, it might mean that we express to them why these days were so special. The camaraderie, fellowship, protection, and love for one another is far greater than the number of pancakes we served in 19 (enter your last two digits here).

So, be there and speak to these new guys and show them why our organization is special. If you do this small kindness, you will be the legacy that they discuss when they are expressing to their mentees why we are so special.

Bill Enloe PM
Secretary HP85



**Hunter's Paradise #85
Lodge Officers**

----- Elected -----

Worshipful Master

Gary F. Dates, Jr.
520-568-6959

Senior Warden
TBD

Junior Warden
Earl Gould
716-800-7658

Treasurer
Leo R. Balthazor
602-740-5635

Secretary
Bill Enloe, PM
480-861-2440

----- Appointed -----

Senior Deacon
Braden Gaines

Junior Deacon
Chris Liristis

Senior Steward
Brian Conner

Junior Steward
Phillip Lopez

Marshal
David Ruff

Tyler
David Lowery, PM

Chaplain
Austin Nisbet

----- Trustees -----

Mark Brown PM

Jim Thomas

Gerry Massey, PM

-Trial Commissioners-

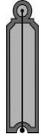
Scott Garzuzi

Leo Balthazor

James Lippert

Jim Thomas

Ken Neusch



The Plumb Line Junior Warden, Earl Gould

Brothers:

I was recently asked why we have dinners at our stated meetings, and I thought what a great question. We all may have different ideas as to why, some of those ideas are practical (i.e. Brothers are coming straight from work, and they don't have time to eat.) for me as your JW I see it a bit different.

I will not lie, it takes some time out of my day to order the food, pick it up, get to lodge on time and have it ready when members start to arrive. Having said that, I truly enjoy it. If we look in the bible we see where food, drink and song were highlights in celebrating. Why do we do it at stated meetings?

Well, I like to think it is a time we celebrate seeing each other, once a month at a stated meeting, we get to visit with each other, catch up on what is new and make new friends. The sharing of food has long been a welcoming sign of friendship and sharing. Throughout the holy writings we see where travelers are invited into someone's home to share a meal, thus making them one of the family. We invite people to share a meal when we want to get to know someone better, it's a way of sharing our culture

and because when we break bread together, we are all one. We experience others culture through food, expand our understanding of people and where they come from all by sharing and communicating while braking bread together.

This is why I believe we have dinners at stated meetings. It's a time to share, a time to communicate and a time to understand. We may not be able to make every dinner, but when we can, we get much more than a meal. We get friendship, conversation, stories, laughter, and memories. I encourage all brothers to come to a stated meeting and share a meal and conversation.

For the February stated meeting we will be having Fried Chicken, Potato Salad, Chef Salad, Dinner rolls, desert. To make this a special Valentines event, the WM would like to invite all brothers to bring their significant others and join us for dinner, we will have a special valentines surprise for your special guest. Please RSVP to JW Earl Gould by Thursday, February 23rd at earl.gould.15613@gmail.com or text 716-800-7658.

Earl P. Gould
Junior Warden
Hunters Paradise #85

TAKE MY HAND; FOLLOW ME

A poem from Corky's Masonic Poems, a website

When I was a young man, a long time ago,
The secrets of Masonry I wanted to know.
Of a Mason I asked what those secrets might be.
He replied, "First, we talk, then we will see."

A petition he granted and ordered it filled
To be read at a meeting and a judgment be willed.
Then questions I answered about God and home;
Of habits and friends; a wife or alone.

In time I was summoned - a date to appear
Before an assembly of men gathered near.
I entered the building and looked up the stair;
Does pleasure or pain await me up there?

A hazing by paddle, taunting by joke?
My petition accepted or maybe revoked?

Introductions and handshakes welcomed me there
And lessons symbolic, an aid to prepare

For a journey in darkness, a predestined plight
To a Holy of Holies, the source of all light.
How well I remember what I heard someone say,
To enter God's Kingdom there is but one way;

Be ye naked and blind, penniless and poor;
These you must suffer 'fore entering that door.
The journey ahead is not yours to know,
But trust in your God wherever you go.

Then assurance from the darkness whispered tenderly,
"My Friend, be not afraid;
TAKE MY HAND; FOLLOW ME."



Why Did I become a Mason? Lodge Marshal – David Ruff

Originally from Columbus, Ohio, and have been back in the Valley of the Sun for 8 years now. For most of my adult life I have been active in the RUFF Foundation, an organization founded by my father in Ashley, Ohio that operates a camp called "Recreation Unlimited" and is the largest provider in the state of Ohio serving over 4000 individuals a year with disabilities in the area of sports, recreation and education.

I was brought up that you need to pay it forward, my father a quadriplegic at birth had no quit in him and a driving passion to serve others, Mother was a special ed and elementary teacher for over 40 years.

The Shriner's hospital in Cleveland provided my father his first prosthetic leg - Grandfather was a mason in the Cleveland Lodge. I was ex-

posed to DeMolay in my teenage years and for one reason or another didn't follow through, to many ball games to play, I suppose.

Since relocating to Arizona my wife Deonna of 30 years and I have had quite a bit of exposure to the El Zaribah Shrine Temple and Lodge - Father-in-law (Don Lough) a Mason and Shriner for many years, mother-in-law (Judy Lough) a very active member of LOS.

Why did I want to join? For what the organization has given back to my family! That being a deep desire to pay it forward and to be a better man through Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Charity.

Brother David Ruff



Have you visited the GrandView Website? By Brother Jon Weber

If you have not done this yet, please go to the following link:

https://az.grandview.systems/membership_registration

To log into your dashboard for the Grand Lodge of Arizona. Click on "My Profile" and go through each drop down and make sure your

information is correct, if not, please update it. Also it would be very helpful if you could also upload a "Public Profile Pic" and a "Masonic Profile Pic". The pictures can be the same if you wish. Sometimes brothers recognize your face but can't remember your name.

Thank you!.

