TRESTLE BOARD

From the: East | West | South | Editor

2026 Officers

Master: Frank Donald

Senior Warden:
David Morgan
Junior Warden:
Ryan Sparks

Treasurer:
John Durham (Acting)
Secretary:
Marc Geyer PM

Senior Deacon:
Michael Hilton
Junior Deacon:
Chris Nye
Senior Steward:
Matt Donald
Junior Steward:
Arnie Omitt

Marshal:
Bill Nacopoulos
Chaplain:
John Herman
Tyler:
Keith Williams
Musician:
Suresh Muthumani PM



Oriental Lodge #20

726 N Center Street
PO Box 123
Mesa, AZ 85211-0123

Calendar: https://oriental20.com/lodge-calendar/

Web: https://oriental20.com/

Email: secretary@oriental20.com



Friend to Friend meets every Tuesday after 6pm dinner. Br Bob Sylvester and MW Jim May are regular guides for the group.

Trustees

Terms expiring 2029
Frank Donald
Danny Jones

Terms expiring 2028
Jason Clark
Chris Nye

Terms expiring 2027
Michael Hilton
Ron Neal



SW David Morgan, WM Frank Donald and SD Michael Hilton honoring Br John Durham for many years of service as Lodge Treasurer.

From the East: Follow-Through Makes a Brotherhood
by WM Frank Donald

I've been meaning to say this out loud at dinner for a while now, but the Trestle Board seemed like the better way to make sure it reaches everyone it's meant for, members and Seekers alike.

I want to talk about something for a few minutes here, and it's not really a lesson, it's more of a confession, and maybe a small ask.

You've probably noticed we do a pretty good job welcoming new faces around here. Somebody shows up to a fellowship dinner not knowing a soul, and it doesn't take long before one of us walks over, sticks out a hand, and gets him settled in. I've watched it happen more times than I can count, and it's one of the things I'm genuinely proud of about our Lodge. That first night, we show up.

Here's my confession, though — and I'll own my part in it too. That same guy comes back for his second dinner, and his third, and somewhere around dinner four or five, I think we start treating him like furniture. Not on purpose. He's just not "the new guy" anymore, so he stops getting the attention he got that first night. And



WM Frank and new Master Mason Larry Farnsworth on September 8th.

that's exactly the stretch, months three, four, five, where it matters most, because that's when a man stops being a stranger and starts being someone we actually know, if we keep at it.

If you're a Brother reading this, I'd ask you to remember something during that stretch: none of us walked in here perfect, and none of us walked in here finished. Some of the finest Brothers I've known had things in their past they weren't proud of, a rough patch, a mistake, a chapter of their life they'd just as soon not print on a name tag. What mattered wasn't the chapter. It was what a man was doing about it, and whether somebody stuck around long enough, and paid enough attention, to notice him doing it. Every one of us has been given that kind of patience by a Brother somewhere along the way. I think it's worth remembering we owe the same thing going forward.

So, here's my ask, plain and simple: if you greeted a Seeker warmly on his first night, greet him just as warmly on his tenth. Learn his name if you haven't. Ask him what he does, what he's into, how his family's doing, and actually remember the answer the next time you see him. Look for where he seems to be headed, not just where he's been. That's not a big lift. It's five minutes, over and over, for six months.

And if you're a Seeker reading this, right now, this is for you too. Don't treat those six months like a waiting room you're just sitting in until you can finally petition. Use them. Come to the dinners and actually sit at the table of people you don't know. Ask questions and let us ask you some. Show up to a when there's work to be done, pick up a broom, help load a truck, because that tells us something about you that conversation alone never will. And don't be afraid to let us see the real version of you, not the polished one. The men who end up trusted around here are usually the ones who let themselves be known, not the ones who managed their image the whole way through.

I guess what I'm really saying is this: the vote we eventually take on a man isn't supposed to be a vote on a stranger. It's supposed to be a vote on a friend — a man you've come to know well enough that you'd genuinely like to call him Brother. We do our part well on night one. I'm asking us, myself included, to do it





At left:Brs Doylan Forney & Danny Jones arrive at Masonic Picnic on October 10th.
At Right: Br Jason and Travina Clark at Goat & Ram Fellowship nite October 13th.

just as well on night twenty. And I'm asking every Seeker reading this to make easier us by showing up and letting us see who you're becoming.

That's really all this fraternity has ever asked of any of us, not to be perfect, just to keep showing up for each other, and to keep looking for the good in the man across the table. I think if we all do a little better, we'll be just fine.

From the West: The Lodge Room Environment Sets the Tone for the Lodge

by WM Elect David Morgan

Brethren: As we move into the end of the year, I wanted to talk about a project that I worked on earlier this year that has borne fruit and is close to my heart. I am talking about the new artwork in the Lodge. I personally find artwork to be very inspiring, and the most impressive Lodges I have had the pleasure of walking into have always been highly decorated with art. Art speaks to the imagination, it inspires us, and it causes reflection.

I was very sad looking at our blank walls, after visiting such amazing Lodges as Downtown #2. Our Lodge has been at this location for several decades now, and the bare walls were something of a pet peeve of mine. When entering our Lodge for the first time, I'd like visitors, especially Seekers, to be impressed and inspired with what they see.

So at the beginning of the year, I, along with Brother Jake Walker, started looking into what we would need to do to get some art on the walls. Bro Jake had worked with Artisan HD before and made an excellent recommendation. I'll say I have been very impressed with their product, both the art itself and the service they provided. We will be using them again, when we move into Phase 2 of our art project.



At Left: Most Worshipful George Rusk pitching in to help clean-up on October 24th.

At Right: Danny Jones, Junior and Jason Clark come to the rescue with our flag pole. No more flag hang-ups / twist-ups with the square and compass at the pole's top. Danny using the cherry picker removed the square and compass so it won't foul the flag. I guess our symbols are elsewhere where they don't can't tie things up.



But perhaps the thing that inspired me most, was my brethren at Oriental 20. Asking the Lodge for several thousand dollars of art felt like a big ask, and then Brother Marc Geyer had the idea of asking if maybe the members of our Lodge would donate the money to get their name next to the art. I was apprehensive at first, but soon learned my fears were unfounded. You Brothers came out in a big way, and I am so happy to see your names forever immortalized next to the artwork you donated. You have helped make my vision a reality, and I could not be more proud of you all.

In fact, it was such a rousing success, that I decided we would see about doing a second Phase of art donations to see if we could get even more impressive pieces displayed at our Lodge and have some more Brothers names up there. If you have not had the chance to see it yet, I encourage everyone to come stop by Oriental 20 and see the new displays. I hope you will be inspired as I am with the changes we have made to the Lodge.

David Morgan, Worshipful Master Elect

Below: Oriental 20 has a great turn-out on an official visit to Chandler Thunderbird #15 on October 27th..



From the South: What is Your Favorite Bible Translation *by* Senior Warden Elect Ryan Sparks PhD

Dear brothers: Every time we open lodge, the volume of sacred law that sits on the altar is the King James version (KJV). I love and appreciate the poetic nature of the Bible as much as anyone, and I hope what follows is taken as candid honesty rather than complaint. I mean no harm and perhaps I am alone in saying this, but I find KJV so hard to read. Perhaps it is my own hooked-on-phonics reading level, but I am half convinced that those who proclaim to have read it cover-to-cover either did so under duress or struggle with insomnia. To me KJV is best spoken by our brother chaplain rather than read quietly to myself.

I recently discovered that there are other translations that basically spoon feed the content to me, and reading those I have found quite enjoyable. My favorite as of lately is the "New Living Translation" (NLT), apparently first published in 1996, which puts the larger concepts into my preferred native 2nd millennium slang. Now that I can read it, I've found there are even still clearly pieces of the bible that seem disjoint and are different than you would expect. One part that stood out to me is at the end of Job (some say this is the oldest book in the bible), where Job is strangely, immediately, and miraculously re-invested with everything he had lost through the book. Odd, I say!

None of this is to say the KJV is the wrong Bible. It is the one on our altar for good reason, and some of its lines really are better than anything written since. But I had let the difficulty of the language stand between me and the book, and a different translation took that wall down.

Why bring this up in a trestle board? Well, the VSL is our trestle board. We take our obligations on it, and portions of it are instantly recognizable in our degrees. It is one thing to hear those words from the chaplain, it is another to be able to read them yourself. Along the way I have also noticed that our ritual does not use every line of the passages it draws from, even in the KJV. Very odd, I say!

What do you think? Are there other translations I should look at? Let me know in lodge if you have a favorite and I'll have to check it out. Fraternally,

Ryan Sparks, Senior Warden Elect

Below: On October 20th Fellowship nite, brothers listen to program and enjoy an evening out of Lodge.



Note from the Editor. ***By*** **Tim Lindquist PM**

This September-October 2026 issue of the Oriental 20 Trestle Board is being released in the middle of November. Talk about slow to hatch. Thanks as always to the article contributors WB Frank, and Br's David and Ryan. And of course to Br Ron Neal and Br Jake Walker who take pictures for us. Thanks all.

Since this issue is being released after our November Stated Meeting and Elections, here are our 2027 Officers:

Master Elect: David Morgan,
Senior Warden Elect: Ryan Sparks
Junior Warden Elect: Michael Hilton
Treasurer Elect: Larry Farnsworth
Secretary Elect: Jay DeArrastia
Appointed Officers:
Senior Deacon: Chris Nye;
Junior Deacon: Arnie Omitt;
Senior Steward: Bill Nacopoulos;
Junior Steward: Don Dunne;
Marshal: Danny Jones;
Chaplain: Adam Chaitin;
Tyler: Jason Clark;
Musician: Suresh Muthumani PM

Installation of officers is open to the public and is scheduled for December 13, noon to 4pm at Lodge. The next Trestle Board issue will be released in late December or early January. Contributions to the next issue are encouraged, most especially from pedestal officers, but also from any member with short articles relevant to all our members. Please send your contributions to **Tim.Lindquist@asu.edu** as pdf or Word document. Please find the links on the first page of each issue to our website, calendar, and secretary email. You can either click or copy and paste into your browser. Just like all of us, the Oriental Trestle Board is a work in progress, and I welcome contributions and suggestions.



Above: As mentioned in WM Elect David's article, Lodge is now richly appointed with wall decorations. The Tracing Board, above, was once the primary way to illustrate the points of a Masonic lecture.