



Vegas
Lodge
#32

February 2023
Trestleboard

Dispensation: June 15, 1907
Chartered: June 9, 1908

(702) 382-1174

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www.vegas32.org

632 E. Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89104-1564

FROM THE EAST

After three difficult years, especially this last tumultuous year of 2022, we find ourselves with a reset and a new beginning.

Having finally gotten our insurance issues worked out, we were finally able to access the Lodge building and we kicked off the year with a well-attended Stated Meeting on Friday, January 6th, 2023. Note: Our Junior Warden Niko, with assist from Paul Gudmundsson, put on a fine meal, up to the Lodge's traditional standards!

I would like to make special mention of those members who stepped up at the last moment to fill officer positions without any chance to rehearse or learn the ritual.

Once Lodge was opened, we had a Q&A session so those members of Vegas 32 who wished to voice their concerns could do so. Many matters were discussed, many topics covered, and all questions were answered, hopefully to the full satisfaction of those attending. The good wishes received from the members was most gratifying.

I'm confident there are still a lot of members of Vegas 32—who weren't

able to attend last Friday—who likely still have questions since there has been little communication since the Lodge Charter was arrested.

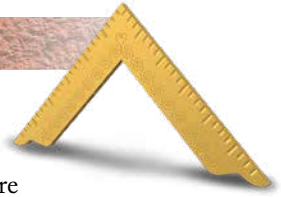
Should any member wish to reach out, I'm available to discuss your concerns.

Our Officer corps is working very well together, and I believe we have a good grasp on all the aspects of running the Lodge effectively. As we announced at Friday's Stated Meeting, there will be an independent auditor conducting a forensic audit soon. This audit was requested by the Lodge's accounting firm sometime in Q4 of 2022, HRC, when they were unable to successfully reconcile the Lodge accounts. As a result, the Grand Master ordered that Vegas 32 comply with the detailed audit. Once it is complete, the ensuing report will be made available to the Lodge members for their examination.

God bless,

Peter

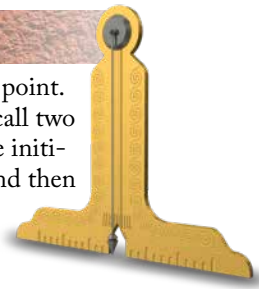
Master



FROM THE WEST

As I wrote last month, the reputation of Vegas 32 will take time to rebuild. On January 7th, I attended the Shrine installation. It was a fantastic evening with wonderful fellowship, but as you might expect, the recent changes at Vegas 32 were a common topic of discussion. A good friend and brother Mason observed that Vegas 32 has had a history of admitting thieves. He suggested we were failing to properly investigate candidates. I

couldn't argue that point. I can personally recall two occasions where we initiated a candidate, and then a few months later, we discovered they had tricked multiple brothers into giving them cash relief. That is not unique to Vegas 32, of course. I suspect most Lodges have made similar mistakes. Freemasons, like all good men, are often too trusting.



However, the greatest damage to Vegas 32's reputation has not come from false candidates. It was caused by men who had served as Lodge officers for years. They did a lot more than bluff their way past an investigating committee. Were these master con artists, fooling us year after year as they progressed through the chairs? Maybe, but I don't think so. I think they were good brothers, most of them, at least initially. I think they began as true Masons, but over time they arrived at some very dangerous and incorrect beliefs.

They began to believe that they were the only person who could be trusted to make the right decisions for the Lodge—the only person fit to fill that chair or to hold that office—and most of all, the only member who truly cared about the Lodge and its best interests. They began to see themselves as the elite, the lone protectors of the craft. They might never say it, even to themselves, but they believed they were better than their brother Masons.

Each past master photo in our lobby represents “seven or more” officers, all of whom were strong lovers of the fraternity that dedicated their time to advancing the Lodge. In time, each of them were replaced by newer, less experienced brothers. Pause and think about that for a moment. There have been many hundreds of officers over the course of our 115 year history. Are these men generous for volunteering their time? Absolutely! Are they elite? No. If you calculate the percentage of our membership who have held an office during their Masonic career, I suspect it would be a clear majority. That isn't elite. That's normal. That's Freemasonry.

Visit any Masonic Lodge and you'll hear them praise and thank their officers. It is deserved and natural, because (when done properly) Lodge officers are servants of the Lodge and all its members. Officers are given accolades and special

introductions in acknowledgment of their willingness to freely donate their time and efforts for the benefit of the Lodge. Unfortunately, a few individuals, ensnared by the false beliefs described above, convinced themselves that they were entitled to “reimbursements” for their service.

When I was young, I was taught that a man does not ask to be paid for something he volunteered to give of his own free will. I know most of you were taught to believe the same. None of us have an objection to the membership voting to provide a salary to the secretary and treasurer. It is the will of the brothers. Likewise, a motion to reimburse a brother who spent his own money to purchase something the Lodge needed is completely appropriate and acceptable. The brothers are informed and allowed to vote. These are cardinal rights of Lodge membership. When you cease to respect the rights of the membership, you stop being a mason and become a thief.

I promise I will not write about negative matters every single month, but right now it is impossible to ignore. Anger and sadness are normal and appropriate emotions to have in response to these events and it is important to recognize that we are all experiencing similar emotions. At the same time, I encourage you to remember that the overwhelming majority of our membership genuinely and truly believes in brotherly love. They want Vegas 32 to be a warm and welcoming Lodge, led not by a few “elites,” but once again under the control and authority of its membership. Our rights as members will be respected, and together we will govern this Lodge according to our shared Masonic ideals.

Faternally,

Dan

Senior Warden

FROM THE SOUTH

Brethren, it was great to be back in Lodge and I thank all that showed up at the Stated Meeting. Big Thanks to our WM Peter on the very amazing move of opening discussions at the meeting and of course RESTORING our Wednesday Breakfast!

I'm also a big believer that free discussion is an essential part in improving a healthy society—regardless of whether we are talking about an individual, a group of people or a whole society!

Unlike our SW Dan, who promises to make his next messages more mellow—and I support him in that—I am starting to see that in order to fulfill my duties as Junior Warden, I cannot promise the same. As a matter of fact, most everywhere, justice is illustrated with scale and sword. I am aware that some will see me as holding the scales of justice in favor of others, but I want to assure you, all my actions will be to synchronize our Lodge with the Grand Design of the GAOTU as explained through our Ritual and Obligations.

First, I wish to address the importance of “Peaceful Transfer of Power.” Failing to understand the wisdom of this—in my humble opinion—is at the core of most of the troubles we experienced during the 2022 Saga!

Power is transferable and it is an essential element for a healthy society. Anyone who stands against it is in violation of the Grand Design of the universe and does not understand what Freemasonry is about.

Imagine a society where power is not transferable and only those who select themselves are the ones in power... a world with only SUPREME LEADERS where others have no choice? Would anyone like to live in a world like that? The story of David and Goliath has taught us how this works for thousands of years now, which is why our Brothers before us determined the healthiest way to govern a Lodge would be

to divide the power between multiple stations with a different Brother every year. Not knowing, following, or accepting this established practice, or even going so far as to oppose it, has resulted in causing massive Damage to our Lodge.

All the officers appointed by the Grand Master are obligated to fix this. Therefore, I feel my attempt to throw some light on this subject is justified!

The Solution is simple, yet complicated: I strongly believe that *the less we deviate from the established masonic doctrine, the less trouble we will experience!*

Furthermore, at our Friday meeting, I observed that a few Brothers refused to share bread with the majority of those who were dining. I would encourage them to let me know if there was anything wrong with the meal so we can all improve together.

I would also like to ask each one of them: What is more glorious and noble, to share bread with your brother, or avoid it?

Furthermore, the objections regarding the illustrious Harry Christopher.

Brethren, if this Brother demitted by his wish, why does he want to be at the Lodge? Everyone could see that it required a great deal of effort on his part to be at Lodge. Therefore, if his will to be in Lodge is so strong, then who in the world would think this brother would want to demit from Masony?

To wrap up all, I will say a short prayer:

May the gloomy shadows of Ambition, Envy, Faction and Jealousy never pass the doors of our Lodge. May Faith, Hope, Charity and Toleration always inspire the souls of those who look hither-ward. Amen!

Fraternally,

Niko
Junior Warden



FROM THE SECRETARY

From the looks of it, the new year is off to a wonderful start. January's Stated Meeting—although long—went rather well, I think. It was wonderful to see everyone again, including many faces which we haven't seen in a long time. As for me, it was heartwarming to see all of you!

As you will see in the Due Notice section on the next page, the Lodge is considering a motion to forgive the 2023 dues for the membership. While that motion goes through the proper process, the deadline for this year's dues has been postponed until March to give all of you some breathing room until the vote can be held and the final decision is made. I will be sending out the dues cards for the Lifetime Members as soon as I get new envelopes printed (we ran out of them). I hope to have those Lifetime cards in the mail by the time you read this. And, once we hold the vote on the dues forgiveness, I'll either be mailing out the rest of the dues cards... or

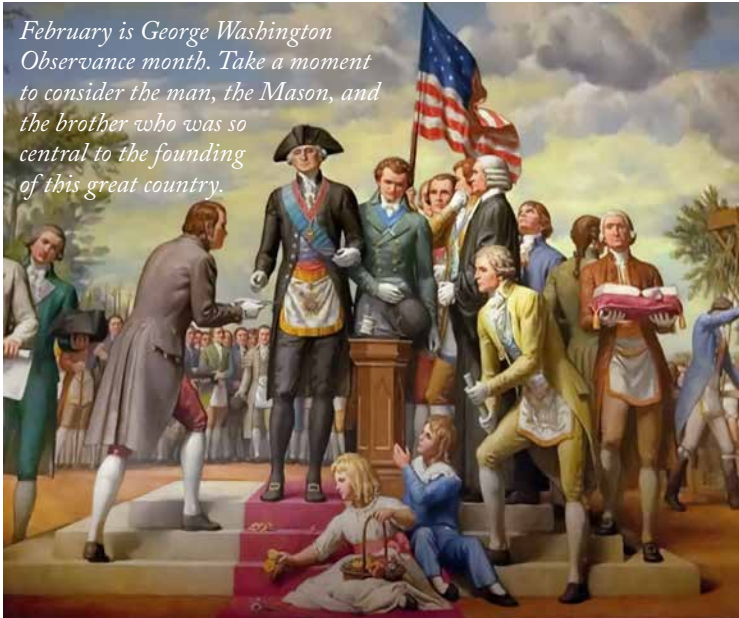
pestering all of you for your dues payments. Only time will tell which it will be.

Please know that Chris, our brother Treasurer, and I are both working hard to get the office under control. We're making progress with each passing day, but we're still figuring out where everything is, so please be patient with us. I can assure you that all the Vegas 32 officers appointed by the Grand Master are working very hard to get the Lodge under control, from the meetings to the building to the finances and everything in between, we're all doing our best to make Vegas 32 a place the brothers will be proud to call home again—a place to relax and enjoy friendship and fellowship.



Fraternally,
Bill
Secretary

*February is George Washington
Observance month. Take a moment
to consider the man, the Mason, and
the brother who was so
central to the founding
of this great country.*



TRESTLEBOARD FOR FEBRUARY 2023

LODGE EVENTS

Unless otherwise specified, Dinner will be held before all Lodge meetings at 6:30PM.

FEBRUARY

- 3rd – Friday – Stated Meeting**
Meeting – 7:30PM
- 10th – Friday – No Meeting**
- 12th – Sunday – Superbowl Party**
Pre Game – 2:30PM
Game Start – 3:30PM
- 17th – Friday – Education**
George Washington
Observance – 7:30PM
- 24th – Friday – Family Dinner**
Dinner – 6:30PM

MARCH

- 3rd – Friday – Stated Meeting**
Meeting – 7:30PM
- 10th – Friday – TBD**
Meeting – 7:30PM
- 17th – Friday – TBD**
Meeting – 7:30PM
- 24th – Friday – Family Dinner**
Masonic Youth Appreciation
Dinner – 6:30PM

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

If you don't see your birthday listed, that means the Lodge database records are incomplete. Please notify the Lodge Secretary.

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| 2 nd Larry W. Hall, PM,
Robert (Billy) W. Toney, Jr. | 13 th Russell F. Japczyk |
| 3 rd Gary D. Boozer | 15 th Clark D. Lee, Ronald E. Ellis |
| 4 th Sean Fitzgerald McGuire | 18 th Phillip B. Michaelson, PM,
Radisa Stanic |
| 7 th Leon Peters | 19 th John R. Innes |
| 8 th Bruno Moya | 22 nd Jerry B Morrison |
| 10 th Daniel S. Crowe, PM | 24 th Travis Harding |
| 11 th Felipe De Jesus Rojo-Diaz,
Trevor R. Waite | 28 th Bill Cary, PM |

DUE NOTICE

A motion was made at the last Stated Meeting (January) to forgive the annual dues payment for 2023 for the members of Vegas 32.

Being that this motion will result in a financial expense exceeding \$5000⁰⁰, the membership is being given Due Notice that a vote will be held at the next Stated Meeting, held on February

3rd, 2023, to determine if this motion should pass.

If you wish to vote on this matter, please attend the next Stated Meeting.

Fraternally,
Bill Cary
Secretary

VEGAS LODGE #32 OFFICERS FOR 2023

MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF NEVADA, F. & A. M.

Kevin P. McCans

Most Worshipful Grand Master

Master	Peter Murdoch, PM.	702 858-8171
Senior Warden	Dan Crowe, PM	702 927-1968
Junior Warden	Nikola Ostoik	603 290-7138
Treasurer.	Christopher West.	702 600-8659
Secretary.	Bill Cary, PM.	702 465-0226

Trustees [vegas32trustees@gmail.com]:

3 Yr. Trustee	Rick Tanner, PM	702 370-4952
2 Yr. Trustee	Thomas Hillery, PM	
1 Yr. Trustee	Leon (Pete) Peters	702 876-2846

Trestleboard Editor	Bill Cary, PM.	702 465-0226
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Due to the timing of the Grand Master's edict, the new Worshipful Master is still determining which brothers are willing to serve for the coming year. Once those decisions are made, we will include the rest of the officers in the list above.



VEGAS LODGE No. 32, F. & A. M.
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Las Vegas, Nevada 89104
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