



## GRAND LINE OFFICERS

Kenneth A. Clay, Jr.  
*Grand Master*

David S. Collins  
*Deputy Grand Master*

Daniel R. Hotchkiss  
*Senior Grand Warden*

Scott R. Borthwick  
*Junior Grand Warden*

James H. Lawrence III  
*Grand Treasurer*

John F. Gordon  
*Deputy Grand Treasurer*

Mark E. Langis  
*Grand Secretary*

Thomas S. Lowe  
*Deputy Grand Secretary*

Larry A. Sprague  
*Senior Grand Deacon*

Troy A. Patoine  
*Junior Grand Deacon*

Robert C. Lethbridge  
*Grand Chaplain*

Brian J. Smith  
*Grand Chaplain*

Thomas A. Ladd  
*Grand Chaplain*

Michael R. Steward  
*Grand Chaplain*

Michael T. Salisbury  
*Grand Lecturer*

Dennis A. Tuttle  
*Deputy Grand Lecturer*

Roderick M. MacDonald  
*Grand Historian*

Karl R. Olson  
*Grand Historian*

Paul C. Smith  
*Grand Education Officer*

Malcolm A. Wooff  
*Deputy Grand Education Officer*

## FROM THE GRAND EAST

My Brethren,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Grand Master's Newsletter. This is the first of what is planned to be regular communications to the members of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New Hampshire. I trust that you will find this newsletter to be informative and useful.

I am honored and humbled to have been Installed as the 117th Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Hampshire. I commit to you that I will do my very best to uphold the highest of standards set forth by my predecessors. Freemasonry deserves no less.

In this first issue of the newsletter, I wish to share my vision of Freemasonry. But first, let's lay the groundwork. I think it's fair to say that my personality first started to broaden when I joined the International Order of DeMolay for Boys as a teen in the mid-1970s. It was then that I learned to interact socially, to memorize and recite ritual, to speak publicly, to organize and run meetings and to develop a vision and plan. The lessons I learned in my youth I have carried through to my adult life.

Brethren, Freemasonry in New Hampshire stands at the threshold of some-

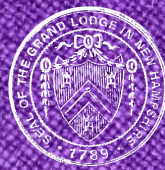


thing truly special. Why and how so? Throughout my Masonic travels I have learned that there are good Masons who want to become better Masons. I've learned that there are good men in this state who want to become Masons. Our state, cities, towns and communities need more Masons, and with them, our moral teachings. And lastly, Masonry needs more good Masons. So, the demand is clear. But why do we stand at the threshold of something special?

I believe that Freemasonry provides an opportunity to realize your life's purpose. It can help to clarify the deeper meanings of life. Masonry offers Brotherly love. Our ritual is rich and meaningful. Masonry opens avenues to life-long friendships. It gets you engaged in community activities and a spirit of

*Continued on page 2*





*Grand Master's Message continued*

“giving back”. All told, your Masonic journey stands the potential to help you truly understand why you were placed on this earth.

You may ask, “How can I get to this enlightenment?” Through my DeMolay upbringing and its extension into my adult life, I offer the following path. This roadmap is charted through a series of 4 pillars: (1) Retention, (2) Ritualistic Excellence, (3) Masonic Education, and (4) Communication.

The first pillar is **RETENTION**. Today our Grand Jurisdiction is comprised of nearly 5,000 Masons. Some young, some not so young. Some live locally and others span the globe. Some attend Masonic events, others don't. If we are to grow and prosper, we must offer “experiences”, not meetings. These experiences should be informative, enjoyable and valuable. In the coming months, we'll be sharing examples of successful techniques that you can employ in your Blue Lodges.

The second pillar is **RITUALISTIC EXCELLENCE**. Brethren, I realize that some are better at learning and reciting ritual than others. There's no debate here. What I do expect however is a drive for continuous improvement. Throughout the Masonic year, Grand Lodge will be offering a series of programs to lend a helping hand as you strive to improve yourself in Masonry.

The third pillar is **MASONIC EDUCATION**. Brethren, there is a wealth of information available for those who wish to learn more. These span the realm of introductory literature, to the esoteric, to the histo-

ry of Freemasonry. Grand Lodge has a team of education experts armed with toolkits of dynamic scope and depth to address your personal Masonic educational needs.

The fourth pillar is **COMMUNICATION**. If we are to lead, to follow, to grow and to inform, then we must excel at communication. Whisper good counsel in a brother's ear. Ensure everyone is on the same page. Have a vision and a plan and share it. To communicate clearly and concisely is the simplest form of Brotherly Love.

Brethren, the theme of my term is, “Be here because you want to be, not because you have to be.” Our time together is precious, so we should constantly strive to ensure that our personal Masonic journey is filled with enrichment and joy.

I look forward to continuing to share my thoughts in coming issues of this newsletter. I also look

forward to seeing you throughout the coming year as I travel this great state, visiting Lodges, participating in Unity, affiliate and concordant body events and embracing all things Masonry. Together, let's enjoy the ride!

Fraternally,

Kenneth A. Clay  
Grand Master



*Blackham, Apron Men, p. 213. Rylands, op. cit., pp. 177-8, v. his plate No. 26, dated c. 1766*



## FROM THE GRAND WEST

by R.:W.: Bro. Dan Hotchkiss

Brethren,

First and foremost, THANK YOU for the honor you have bestowed upon me by electing me as your Senior Grand Warden. I look forward to continuing to serve our Grand Lodge and each of you, as well as our newly installed Grand Master, M.: W.: Brother Kenneth A. Clay, Jr.

Our ritual teaches that the West is a station whereby wages are paid, but just as important, we emphasize the principle of harmony.

Harmony is, by definition “agreement or accord.” In relation to music harmony is “the simultaneous combination of tones, especially when blended into chords, pleasing to the ear.” Each of these definitions are espoused in the teachings of our ritual. Music, one of the seven liberal arts and sciences we are charged to study, is a science which allows us to more fully appreciate the wonder and beauty of tones and chords. When those tones and chords blend into a harmony, the music produced provides us with an oasis to sooth and calm our spirit.

The first definition of harmony, that of agreement and accord, is one we are charged to practice not only within the Lodge but outside the Lodge. It is the final sentence we hear from the Master in our closing charge, “Finally Brethren, be ye all of one mind, live in peace and may the God of love and peace delight to dwell with and bless you.” We are charged to practice harmony in our daily lives, in all that we do. By exercising the art of harmony, we can better serve mankind and make the world a place of peace and one of joy in which to operate.

I wish each of you a life of harmony and thereby a life in tune with the talents wherewith the Supreme Architect of the Universe has blessed you to please Him and your fellow creatures.

In Brotherly Love and Friendship,

Daniel R. Hotchkiss  
Senior Grand Warden

*“That one things we have to teach, that one thing we Masons have as the key to our secret, the end-all and the be-all of Freemasonry is, you are my brother and I am yours.”*

– Conrad Hahn

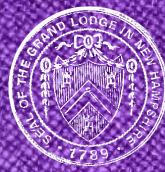
## GRAND TREASURER’S MESSAGE

by R.:W.: Bro. James Lawrence

The financial markets have experienced significant growth in 2019 fully recovering from last year’s volatile market performance. As a result, our investments continue to perform well within reasonable guidelines. Current market conditions are unprecedented; as the market has continued perform well for almost a decade. It would be unwise to assume that the market can continue its current level of sustained growth indefinitely. In order to lessen the blow of any downturns, our assets are invested in a well-diversified portfolio in accordance with a disciplined strategic Investment Policy. This investment strategy along with prudent controls on spending and well planned per capita increases have resulted in real sustained growth to our endowment accounts to date, and will be our continued goal for the long term. It has been years since we have proposed an increase in the per capita. Our endowment has continued to grow despite many factors working against us. Inflation combined with a decade that saw a decline in membership in the thousands has created extreme financial pressures. Thankfully through the diligence of our Grand Line Officers’ frugal budgeting combined with creative fiscal policy and sound investment strategies, our endowment assets now stand larger than ever in our history.

*To view complete article, [click here](#)*





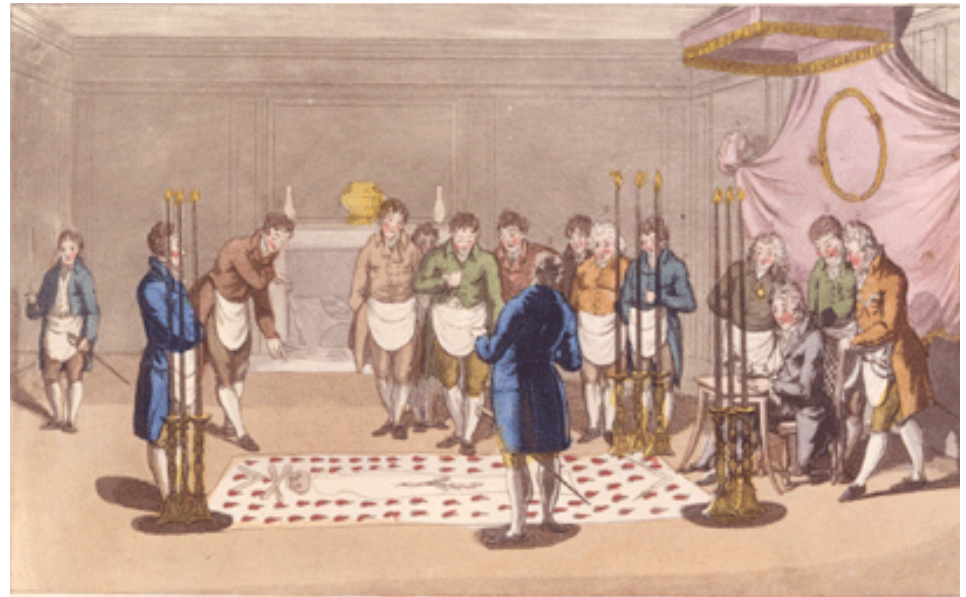
## THE IMPORTANCE OF A CULTURE OF RITUAL EXCELLENCE

by R. W. Brother Michael T. Salisbury, Grand Lecturer

Masonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. That sounds kind of complicated at first, but think about it. In essence, it states that Masonry is a code of ethics or standards based upon the principles of friendship and moral virtue, Brotherly love for our fellow man, relief of the distressed, truth, and charity.

These standards are presented to the newly made Mason through a series of degrees found in our Ritual. They are explained by giving examples or making comparisons based upon architecture, certain objects, and the working tools of a stonemason to symbolically represent these principles or ideals. For example, the square is the working tool we use to represent the principle of giving someone a square or honest deal. Every Mason takes a solemn oath and obligation, wherein we promise that we will devote serious effort to living our daily lives according to these standards.

All of this is presented to the initiate through our ritual



ceremonies. Looked at in this light, the ritual is in effect the “Instruction Manual” for becoming a Mason. The whole system of Masonry revolves around the ritual in one form or another. A Lodge cannot transact business of any kind, not even the most mundane business like paying the bills, without being properly opened and closed in due and full form as laid out in the ritual.

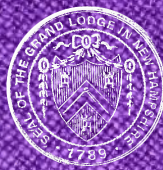
### Where To Start

It starts first at the top with the Worshipful Master, but also at the beginning, with the candidate. The first pieces of ritual every Brother must learn are his lessons. If we really want to get serious about our Culture of Excellence, why not start with the proficiency

tests of our new-made Brethren? No candidate should be advanced to his next degree until he is truly proficient in the lessons of the degree he is laboring in.

Making a man a Mason is serious business. We put far too much emphasis on moving our candidates to the next degree within that minimum 28-day window. It’s not about how quickly you can make a man a dues-paying member, rather it’s about the type of Mason you have forged at the end of the process. There is no reason or excuse to rush a Brother through his degrees and short-change him in this experience.

*To view complete article, [click here](#)*



## W.: WALTER SWORD RECOGNIZED FOR HIS SERVICE TO NH HOUSE

Article by R.: W.: Brother Paul C. Smith, Grand Education Officer

In late April, a presentation was made to the Honorable Walter P. Sword at the Upham Walker House in Concord, NH. The plaque, which contained a Marine non-commissioned officer dress sword, was presented to Brother Sword for his twenty years of service to the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

Appointed as a Doorkeeper in 1999, he served in that capacity until he was elected to the office of Sergeant-at-Arms in December, 2008; being subsequently reelected in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018. He resigned from the office in January 2019.

Brother Sword has been a very active Mason and served as Worshipful Master of Jewell



*Worshipful Brother Walter Sword*

Lodge No. 94 in Suncook; served the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire as Grand Sword Bearer; and has been presented with the Major General John Sullivan Distinguished Service Award

in Bronze. A founding member of General Court Lodge, he has been its Chaplain since the lodge was chartered in 2007. An active member of the appendant bodies he has been very active in the York Rite especially, and currently serves as Grand Chaplain in both the Grand Royal Arch Chapter and Grand Council of Cryptic Masons.

He was presented the General Grand Chapter Distinguished Service Award in Bronze in May for his continued involvement and support of Freemasonry. Walter's retirement ceremony was aired on WMUR and he was truly tickled pink. Congratulations Worshipful Brother Sword!

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WILLIAM PITT TAVERN

By R.: W.: Brother Roderick M. MacDonald and R.: W.: Brother Karl R. Olson

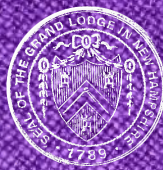
In the late Colonial Period, Portsmouth was a major east coast seaport and, as the capital of colonial New Hampshire, the hub of activity for the Colony of New Hampshire. Among the more significant institutions in colonial Portsmouth was St John's Lodge No. 1, which had been constituted

from the Grand Master of Masons in England in 1736. The town also boasted a number of Taverns that served as the community's "social centers". In 1766 a local merchant and member of St. John's Lodge John Stavers built a new tavern called the Earl of Halifax Tavern and through the encouragement

of his fellow Freemasons, included a room on the third floor large enough to accommodate the regular meetings of the Lodge.

*To view complete article, [click here](#)*





## FROM YOUR NEW GRAND SECRETARY

Article by R.:W.: Brother Mark E. Langis, Grand Secretary

To those who put my name on the ballots back in November, I thank you very much. I said it then and permit me to repeat myself, I will serve you and our Grand Lodge to the best of my ability. I came into this position with my eyes wide open. The duties and responsibilities are significantly more in-depth and demanding than on the Lodge level. I have many years as Secretary of Benevolent Lodge No. 7 and many other Masonic experiences under my belt. Those experiences have provided me with the confidence that I will live up to my commitment. There will be growing pains, but with patience and the usual Masonic Brotherly care and understanding, all will work out well!

I spent the last thirty years working for a small lumber company in Amherst. It was a good job, but it was time for a change. Had I not been a Lodge Secretary, I'm sure I would not have had any interest in this position. At the Semi-Annual in 2017, R.: W.: Brother Lowe announced that 2018-19 would be his last year as our Grand Secretary. Several brethren asked if I was going to offer myself as a candidate. I thought long and hard about it. After discussing with

my wife and a few others, I spoke up in July, was interviewed by the Grand Line in October and elected in November 2018. I had to wait until installed on May 18, 2019 to be official. I did spend time in the office and traveling with R.: W.: Lowe over the last few months in an effort to learn a few things prior to stepping up.

As for the transition into my new position, R.: W.: Lowe accepted the position as Deputy Grand Secretary to assist me in the finer points of the office. I am grateful that with eight years under his belt, he's going to be right beside and guiding me for the near future. With Lisa Hollis' two years and my wife Roberta with fourteen years in the office, we are in very good hands to keep things working smoothly and efficiently.

Another person has stepped up to offer his assistance. I first met him while still in DeMolay. I got to know him a little bit better during the Grand Lodge Bicentennial Celebration. Then he became Grand Secretary just prior to me becoming Lodge Secretary in Benevolent.

*To view complete article, [click here](#)*

## LOI SCHEDULE

All Dates are Saturdays

### Afternoon Schedule:

11:30 AM	Book Sales Open
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Grand Lodge Opening
3:30 PM	Grand Lodge Closing

### Evening Schedule:

5:30 PM	Book Sales Open
6:00 PM	Dinner
7:00 PM	Grand Lodge Opening
9:30 PM	Grand Lodge Closing

### September 7

**District 5 (Afternoon)**, Rochester Masonic Temple

**District 1 (Evening)**, Portsmouth Masonic Temple

### September 14

**District 2 (Afternoon)** Nashua Masonic Temple

**District 3 (Evening)** Milford Masonic Temple

### September 21

**Districts 7 (Afternoon)** North Woodstock Masonic Temple

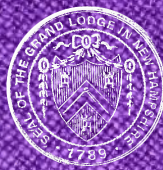
**District 6 (Evening)**, Holderness Masonic Temple September 28

### September 28

**District 8 (Afternoon)**, Gorham-Sabatis Lodge No. 73

**District 4 (Evening)**, Penacook Masonic Temple (Horace Chase)

*For more information including officer attendance requirements, dress code and more, please [click here](#)*



## IMPORTANT DATES

### NEW HAMPSHIRE GRAND ASSEMBLY

**July 5th - 7th Nashua Courtyard Marriott**

*Annual Communication of the New Hampshire Rainbow Girls, and Installation of Grand Officers. Please contact your local Rainbow Girl Assembly representatives more information*



### SHRINE PARADE & 65<sup>TH</sup> MAPLE SUGAR BOWL

**August 3rd, Castleton, Vermont**

*Saturday August 3, 2019 at 3pm the Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl Gala parade will commence on Main Street in Castleton, VT as the band and cheerleaders will bring the players into Spartan Stadium to prepare for the 5:30 kick-off.*

### NH OES GRAND CHAPTER,

**August 16 - 17, Nashua Courtyard Marriott**

*Annual meeting of the Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star and the installation of Grand Officers*

### FRATERNAL LODGE NO. 71

**Cornerstone Laying for Bicentennial of  
First Congregational Church  
September 8th**

*Fraternal Lodge No. 71 will be hosting a Cornerstone Laying for Bicentennial of First Congregational Church of Farmington. Collation to follow All Grand Lodge Officers are asked to dress in tuxedo, for all other Brothers, Tuxedo or Dark Suit is requested. For more information call WM Norman Greeley at 603-534-1118 or email him at [greenorm1963@gmail.com](mailto:greenorm1963@gmail.com)*

### NEW HAMPSHIRE MASONIC FAMILY UNITY PARTY

**Sunday, September 15, 2019. 1-5pm**

**Wellington State Park, Bristol, NH**

*Families and friends are invited to attend the NH Masonic Unity Party to celebrate the Fraternal bonds of our Orders. Enjoy a traditional style cookout with all of the fixings along with games, beach and boating access, and nature trails!*

*Cost is \$5 per person (children 11 and younger are free).*

### M/S MOUNT WASHINGTON SPECIAL LADIES BRUNCH CRUISE

**Sunday, September 15, 2019 at 10 am**

*Hosted by Chocorua Lodge No. 83.*

*For more information contact Nate Fuller, event Coordinato at [naterfuller@gmail.com](mailto:naterfuller@gmail.com) - 603-236-1652.*



*First Congregational Church of Farmington*