



## 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

Article by M.: W.: Brother Kenneth A. Clay, Jr.

### A Season of Change

Brethren, Happy New Year! I wish you and your family peace, joy and prosperity in 2020.

The year 2019 was a great one for Freemasonry in New Hampshire. Lodges throughout our Grand Jurisdiction made good men Masons. Lodges spent rewarding hours aiding and assisting our Masonic Widows. You made great strides in raising awareness of our Fraternity in your communities by marching in parades, hosting public breakfasts, serving hot chocolate at local events, stocking food items for the needy, and recognizing our veterans and first responders. Well done!



Now we “turn the page” to 2020, and by doing so, we enter a season of change. The early part of the year is typically when Blue Lodges hold their Annual Election of Officers and conduct Installation of Officers. With this change in leadership comes new opportunities to improve your Lodge experience.

As Masonic leaders, consider these potential opportunities:

- **Have you developed your plan for the year?** The best time to plan is prior to your Installation. Your plan should include:
  - *Your theme or message for your term*
  - *Dates and locations for significant Lodge milestones (i.e. Cornerstone Ceremony, Lodge Rededication, Annual Meeting)*
  - *Dates and subjects for Masonic Programs during Stated meetings (remember to liaison with your DDGEO who's a great resource for Masonic programs).*

*Continued on page 2*





*Grand Master's Message continued*

- **Consider trying something new.** For example, several Districts have started holding “Dine Around” functions where they pick a date and location for a meal at a local restaurant and use it as an effective and informal gathering of like-minded men and women.
- **Celebrate and assist your Masonic Veterans and Special Ladies.**
- **Be visible in your Community.** Programs to paint fences, help at homeless shelters, rake leaves for the elderly and serve meals at youth organizations. Participating in these activities not only displays the high moral character of our Brethren but is rewarding to the participants and recipients.
- **Brand your Lodge building.** Let your neighbors know about the great Masons that meet in your community. As you heard at our November 2019 Semi-Annual Communication, marketing material for the “Not Just A Man, A Mason” program is available at <https://www.notjustaman.org/>.
- **Support our youth.** Consider opening a DeMolay Chapter or Rainbow Assembly in your Lodge building. If you already host a Masonic youth organization, attend their meetings and functions. DeMolay and Rainbow are organizations for young men and women that teach similar moral lessons to those found in Freemasonry. Dedicate your time to our youth and our future will be richly rewarded.

As Blue Lodge members, consider these potential opportunities:

- **Travel!** I’ve said it before, and I’ll say it again. The Masonic experience you receive within the four walls of your Lodge is inspirational. But to more fully experience the Journey of a Lifetime, travel to other Lodges and Masonic events. Broaden your world by seeing how others conduct their Masonry.
- **Get involved!** Being a member of our Fraternity is an honor. Being an active member is a fulfilling and enriching experience. Ask your Worshipful Master if you want to join or start a committee. Offer to assist in performing Degree ritual. Suggest providing Masonic education through a program. Help to serve meals during Lodge collations. Offer to clean up and refresh your Lodge Masonic Library. Countless opportunities await; just ask!
- **Start an “evening of Masonic discussion”.** Several Lodges throughout our Grand Jurisdiction have endeavored to hold informal sessions in Lodge buildings or members homes where they discuss Freemasonry, its teachings and its deeper meanings in a relaxed setting.

Brethren, here’s your call-to-action: embrace change. Change, when implemented for the greater good, can be a positive thing. But do so with forethought and within bounds of our Grand Constitution.

Now is a season of change – embrace it!



“The Four Seasons” by Bro. Alphonse Mucha  
Printed Posters, 1896



## ARE YOU A TRAVELING MAN?

Article by By W.: Bro. John Bartoszak, Humane Lodge No. 21, Rochester

I have learned a lot from traveling throughout the jurisdiction and beyond. I have found that there are differences between jurisdictions, districts, and even subtle differences from Lodge to Lodge. Those differences define who we are and should never be relegated to history. Maintain your Lodge traditions, provided they do not conflict with Grand Lodge. Take as an example, in Humane Lodge 21 we not only use a Chamber of Reflection but celebrate it. An antiquated aspect of Freemasonry, Humane reinstated it, and have found it to add a new level of sublimity to the Entered Apprentice degree. It's different, while not changing or conflicting with Degree ritual, and gives the new initiate a unique perspective when they begin their Masonic journey.

Another benefit of traveling is the feeling of belonging. No matter what Lodge I travel to, I am accepted as a friend and honored guest. I can vividly remember walking into Mt. Lebanon Lodge in Laconia, unknown to anybody, and being greeted as a lifelong friend. It was like I was a member of their Lodge. "Grab a plate and have a seat, Brother." One of my homes away from home, Winnepesaukee Lodge No. 75 in Alton, is a great place to visit. They always have a program during the Stated Communication and a great meal. Federal Lodge No. 5 in Dover is another interesting place to visit. Their programs are generally more conversation than presentation. Sometimes starting as a book report and turning into a debate on the meaning of symbols in the Lodge.

If you have been a Mason for 30 or 40 years you can probably open a Lodge without thinking about it. You've seen the opening hundreds of times. As a newer Mason, if you don't travel, you can see the opening ten times a year. You can double that if you travel once a month. Go to one Lodge a week and you'll see the opening forty or more times a year. After a few years you won't have to study to open a Lodge, you will already know how to. Sure, you'll probably want to study anyway, but you will have heard and seen it so many times that it will flow in your memory. You can then own the ritual, and not be robotic in the delivery. You'll be able to make it interesting and fresh for your membership.

You never know when you will run into a Brother. I was in Sloppy Joe's in Key West, enjoying an adult beverage when a gentleman asked me if I was a "Traveling Man". I said "Sure, I just drove down from NH". He pointed at his ring and asked again "No, are you a Traveling Man?". The light bulb lit up bright and we had an hour-long masonic conversation in Key West.

Travel; you won't regret it.

Yes, I am a Traveling man.

*"Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all of one's lifetime."*

*—Bro. Mark Twain*





## CAUSE IT TO BE READ IN YOUR LODGE

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

When a Brother is installed as Master, he's handed a copy of the Constitution and advised to "cause it to be read in your Lodge, that none may pretend ignorance of the excellent precepts it enjoins". How often are Masters fulfilling this responsibility? The stipulation addresses the Constitution, but that directive includes the entire Grand Lodge Government binder. With that in mind, from time to time I'm going to provide a section or two from our "Constitution, Manual, Rules and Regulations" in our newsletter.

This month's submission is the first two articles of the Grand Lodge Manual:

### Article I PURPOSE

This Manual enables the officers of our Constituent Lodges to quickly find the answers to many of the questions besetting them as to the "how," "when," "who," "where," and "why" of their particular offices in the Lodge. Most of our officers are very sincere in their desire to serve the Craft to the very best of their abilities, but to do so they need the opinions and suggestions of those who have preceded them and who, out of their experience and their research, are

qualified in some degree to make suggestions for the proper conduct and leadership of Masonic affairs.

We would make one point very clear at the outset: the suggestions made in this MANUAL are in no sense wholly original with the Committee compiling them; we have attempted not only to use the best ideas from our own experience and knowledge of Masonry but have used, with permission, many of the experiences of other jurisdictions which we feel have merit for use in New Hampshire; furthermore, we would make this additional comment: the ideas and the suggestions contained in this MANUAL, being the best information available in our opinion, are not intended to be arbitrarily accepted but to be wisely adapted to the needs of our Lodges by their officers. If this MANUAL serves to make your task as an officer of a Masonic Lodge easier or if it gives you an expanded and improved concept of how your task should be performed, then this MANUAL will have been worthwhile. But it can never accomplish this purpose unless it is faithfully and thoroughly studied and restudied until its ideas and its suggestions are fully understood and tested in your own Lodge.



*Horace Chase Lodge No. 72 Installation*



*Maj. Gen. John Sullivan Lodge No. 2 Installation*



## ALCHEMY AND ESOTERICA

Article by R.:W.:Bro. David Akridge, DDGEO District 5



All of us came to Masonry to make ourselves better men with Brethren who are all seeking to do the same, by experiencing good ritual, having Masonic discussion, enjoying the fellowship of each other both in and out of the Lodge.

I doubt that anyone would disagree with me that all seek to move from that rough ashlar to that perfect ashlar that is displayed in each of our Lodges. We do so at our own speed and in our own way, using the road map or toolbox that each of us is provided in our three degrees.

We would all agree that ours is the greatest Fraternity in the world. Would it surprise you that the total number of Masons in the United States is approximately one million? While I tend not to get hung up on numbers as I firmly believe quality over quantity, I think we can all agree that this

number against a population of some 300 million plus, puts us in a very small percentage. About .3%. A select group united by a common ritual that has endured over the passage of time.

I also note that among our Craft, those who like Masonic Discussion and engage in presentation tend to use lofty words to demonstrate great knowledge. If I wanted to use a scholarly word to describe that, I could say they are “erudite Masonic speakers”, meaning “having or showing great knowledge or learning”.

You might ask yourself where this article is leading. It is quite simple. I have often observed that when we hear words like alchemy and esoteric, eyes glaze over and we tend to shut down. It is kind of like what happens when I hear a full reading of the minutes and a detailed litany of paying the bills.

### Alchemy

*al-che-my* - /alk mē/  
noun.

*The process of taking something ordinary and turning it into something extraordinary, sometimes in a way that cannot be explained. An example of using alchemy is a person who takes a pile of scrap metal and turns it into beautiful art.*

### Esoterica

*/es-uh-ter-i-kuh/*  
plural noun

*Things understood by or meant for a select few; recondite matters or items.*

You get the message. As I have shared above you are one among a million that is a Freemason against the population of this country. You are here seeking Light and a life altering improvement in who you are. One could say that you an esoteric seeking and alchemical transformation in your Masonic Journey. Or inserting the definition of these two words in the same sentence, it could be re-stated YOU have an understanding, or are diligently seeking, the universal truths contained in Freemasonry and that this process takes you from being an ordinary man to an extraordinary man. I hope the next time you hear the words esoteric or alchemy, you will instead smile and reflect on this amazing journey of transformation that you are one of the select few. Enjoy the journey!





## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CANDLELIGHT STROLL AT THE WILLIAM PITT TAVERN

Article by R.:W.:Bro. David S. Collins, Deputy Grand Master &  
Volunteer Coordinator for the William Pitt Tavern

In December, Portsmouth's Strawberry Banke celebrated the 40th Anniversary of their premier event – The Candlelight Stroll. This event started in 1979 to showcase 350 years of seasonal and holiday traditions. Thousands of tickets are sold each year and as usual this past holiday season sold out quickly. William Pitt Tavern was open for all six nights of the stroll and over thirty dedicated Brethren volunteered to host this Open House.

The Candlelight Stroll gives the Pitt Tavern Lodge one of many opportunities to open its doors and expose the public to what Freemasonry is in New Hampshire and around the world. We hosted hundreds upon hundreds of guests for the six nights of the stroll. The questions from the public are always thought-provoking and run a broad spectrum.

Several men coming through the Lodge room always end up asking “How do I join Freemasonry?” Petitions to Blue Lodges are never given out but we answer any questions they have, direct those men to the NH Grand Lodge website for more information and provide them the locations of local Lodges to seek further information.

We have Brethren (some from outside of NH) who volunteer their time each year to greet guests during the six nights of the stroll and other times we are open. However, we are always in need of more assistance to spread the task of hosting as we only have a small group of dedicated volunteers covering most of the times. If you have not previously helped at the Tavern, please consider this in 2020. I promise you your time will be well spent, and you can support the Best Masonic Open House in the State of New Hampshire!

## NEW ENGLAND BROTHERHOOD NIGHT

Sat, March 14, 2020 | 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Hartog Auditorium | Ashlar Village, 74 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

The 2020 New England Brotherhood Night will be hosted by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Connecticut at Hartog Auditorium, on the Masonicare campus in Wallingford, Connecticut.

The event will begin at 1 PM with tours of our Masonicare facilities. There will then be a Social Hour featuring hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar at 3 PM, followed by a buffet dinner at 4 PM. Event includes a guest speaker provided by the Grand Lodge of Vermont.

A Masons only event, the Brotherhood Night dinner

is open to all Masons from the New England Grand Lodges. Suggested attire is a business suit.

You may purchase tickets online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-england-brotherhood-night-dinner-tickets-87242906883>. Please purchase your tickets no later than March 1, 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact the Grand Lodge of Connecticut office at (203) 679-5903, or email Erika Cortezano-Garcia at [grandLodge@ctfreemasons.net](mailto:grandLodge@ctfreemasons.net). Please reference the “Brotherhood Dinner” in the subject line.



## WHAT IS GENERAL COURT LODGE?

Article by R.:W.:Bro. Paul C. Smith, Grand Education Officer  
& Founding Master & Secretary, General Court Lodge No. 1784

General Court Lodge is a New Hampshire Lodge that is unique among Masonic Lodges in the United States.

First, what is the General Court? In 1784 when New Hampshire adopted its current constitution, the title of the legislative branch was styled the “General Court,” consisting of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The history of the General Court however goes back to the 1680s when we had a provincial legislature.

Due to the nature of our legislature, it being essentially a volunteer body, its membership has included many men of distinction over the last few hundred years. When such men are present, it is likely you will find Freemasons among their ranks. This is no less true in New Hampshire’s General Court.

In 2006, Masons who served in both the House, Senate and the staff gathered for dinner to discuss the formation of a special (Affinity) Lodge where they could meet during the busy legislative session. The term “Affinity Lodge” is not widely used in the United States. Masons with a similar occupation have formed Affinity Lodges: i.e., a firefighter’s or policemen’s Lodge. In the UK there is even a Lodge for members of Parliament! So too was the impetus for the forming of General Court Lodge.

The Lodge would meet from January through June of each year (during the legislative session), be a special Lodge (meaning we could not make Masons), and serve as a true Lodge of fellowship for Masons who were members of the House, Senate, or staff of the General Court. We were granted an initial five-year charter at

the semi-annual communication of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire in November 2006 and our officers were installed in December.

At the concluding meeting in June 2007 of the first year, we held the annual meeting in Representatives Hall in the State House: the oldest continually used legislative chamber in the United States. Most Worshipful Brother Robert Hatfield was received along with many Grand Lodge officers and visitors from as far away as Florida. There were over 80 Masons present for the event.

In 2009, General Court Lodge held a Table Lodge at the Concord Temple which attracted over 60 Masons, including members of General Court Lodge and former Congressman Charles Bass.

2011 saw our fifth year as a Lodge and with it the petitioning of a permanent charter. Our June meeting saw the Lodge meeting in the State Senate chamber at the State House, with the reception of Most Worshipful Brother Paul Leary and many other visiting Brethren. In November 2011, our permanent charter was granted by vote of the Brethren assembled in Grand Lodge.

As the years have passed, some Lodges around the country have met in legislative chambers, but it is still believed ours is the only one to have met in both chambers. We are still the only legislative Lodge in the United States and are proud of that heritage.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ENTERED APPRENTICE WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 7, 9:00am – 2:00pm

*Portsmouth Masonic Temple, 351 Middle Street, Portsmouth*

### GRAND MASTER'S TOWN HALL MEETINGS

*This is an opportunity to not only hear the Grand Master and members of the Grand Line share some updates about what is going on in your Grand Jurisdiction, but more importantly to have your voice heard. This event is a unique opportunity to ask the questions of your Grand Master in a casual environment. Join us!*

All Town Hall Meetings begin at 7pm

*Light refreshments provided by the Host Lodge at 6:30pm*

#### District 1 – Monday, March 2

Gideon Lodge No. 84, Kingston Masonic Temple,  
8 Church St. Kingston

#### District 2 – Thursday, March 5

Jewell Lodge No. 94, Pembroke Masonic Temple,  
148 Main St. Pembroke

#### District 3 – Monday, March 9

Benevolent Lodge No. 7, Milford Masonic Temple,  
30 Mont Vernon St. Milford

#### District 4 – Thursday, March 12

Hiram Lodge No. 9, Claremont Masonic Temple,  
40 Maple Ave. Claremont

#### District 7 – Monday, March 16

Union Lodge No. 79, Bristol Masonic Temple,  
61 Pleasant St. Bristol

#### District 6 – Thursday, March 19

Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 32, Laconia Masonic Temple,  
63 Court St. Laconia

#### District 5 – Monday, March 23

Winnipisaukee Lodge No. 75, Alton Masonic Temple,  
Rte. 28 S. 40 Suncook Valley Rd. Alton

#### District 8 – Thursday, March 26

North Star Lodge No. 8, Lancaster Masonic Temple,  
Town Bldg. 25 Main St. Lancaster

## CONGRATS TO ALL THE NEWLY INSTALLED OFFICERS

Here are a few photos from some of the many installations occurring this winter.



Tucker Lodge No. 99



St. Marks Lodge No. 44



Pulpit Rock Lodge No. 103



Saint James Lodge No. 102



Star in the East Lodge No. 59



Humane Lodge No. 21



Ancient York Lodge No. 89



St. Andrew's Lodge No. 56