

MIZPAH BULLETIN

February 2019





Mizpah Lodge #302
A.F. & A.M.
Omaha, Nebraska

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 Mizpah Lodge #302

Instituted November 12th, 1918
Chartered June 4th, 1919

Stated communication on the first
Wednesday of every month

Mizpah Benediction

“May the Lord watch between me and
thee when we are absent one from an-
other”

-Genesis 31:29-

May the Lord Watch
MIZPAH
302
Between Me and Thee

From the East

Brethren and their families,

It has been a month since I was installed as Master. I would like to thank everyone who came to the installation and our Fellowship committee for organizing the refreshments. If you attended the January business meeting you saw the changes the officers wanted to implement. Again, let me know if you have concerns or like the changes. The officers wanted to involve the committees in the business meeting and allow to know who was on the different committees by having them talk during the meeting.

Annual Communication is in Kearney February 1-2. If you are available, you can attend the business sessions without registering on Friday and Saturday morning. Last month we read the legislation being voted on this year and discussed it among those in attendance. There is a Valentine dinner being organized by the Fellowship committee on February 13, more information will be provided at the monthly meeting.

If you know a man that would be a good fit for masonry, invite them to our monthly dinner and introduce them to the lodge. We do not have any petitions this year and last year we raised few new Master Masons. If you have not been to lodge lately, please come down and see the new officers. If you don't remember the passwords just ask our Deacons and they can assist you.

We will also work on proficiency, so we can continue our tradition of being proficient in opening, closing and the degrees.

This year is our centennial year and we will be having a rededication ceremony June 2 with a formal dinner following. Please save the date and more information will be coming.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Jeffrey Coleman
Worshipful Master



THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS by Albert Mackey

Tuesday, February 5

Committee Meeting 6:30pm

Wednesday, February 6

Potluck Dinner 6:30pm

Business Meeting 7:00pm

Wednesday, February 13

Valentine's Dinner 6:00pm

Wednesday, February 20

Practice 6:30pm

Current officers required.

Wednesday, February 27

Practice 6:30pm

Current officers required.

Tuesday, March 5

Committee Meeting 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 6

Potluck Dinner 6:30pm

Business Meeting 7:00pm

(Mackey's introduction is reproduced in full, but his actual 25 landmarks have been summarized to fit within the Trestle board)

In ancient times, it was the custom to mark the boundaries of lands by means of stone pillars, the removal of which, by malicious persons, would be the occasion of much confusion, men having no other guide than these pillars by which to distinguish the limits of their property. To remove them, therefore, was considered a heinous crime. "Thou shalt not," says the Jewish law, "remove thy neighbor's Landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance." Hence those peculiar marks of distinction by which we are separated from the profane world, and by which we are enabled to designate our inheritance as the Sons of Light, are called the Landmarks of the Order.

The Universal Language and the Universal Laws of Freemasonry are Landmarks, but not so are the local ceremonies, laws, and usages, which vary in different countries. To attempt to alter or remove these sacred Landmarks, by which we examine and prove a brother's claims to share in our privileges, is one of the most heinous offenses that a Freemason can commit.

In the decision of the question what are and what are not the Landmarks of Freemasonry, there has been much diversity of opinion among writers. Doctor Oliver says (Dictionary of Symbolic Masonry) that "some restrict them to the O. B. signs, tokens, and words. Others include the ceremonies of initiation, passing, and raising; and the form, dimensions, and support; the ground, situation, and covering; the ornaments, furniture, and jewels of a Lodge, or their characteristic symbols. Some think that the Order has no Landmarks beyond its peculiar secrets." But all of these are loose and unsatisfactory definitions, excluding things that are essential, and admitting others that are unessential.

Perhaps the safest method is to restrict them to those ancient, and therefore universal, customs of the Order, which either gradually grew into operation as rules of action, or, if at once enacted by any competent authority, were enacted at a period so remote, that no account of their origin is to be found in the records of history. Both the enactors and the time of the enactment have passed away from the record, and the Landmarks are therefore "of higher antiquity than memory or history can reach." The first requisite, therefore, of a custom or rule of action to constitute it a Landmark, is, that it must have existed from "time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary." Its antiquity is its essential element.

Were it possible for all the Masonic authorities at the present day to unite in a Universal Congress, and with the most perfect unanimity to adopt any new regulation, although such regulation would, so long as it remained un-repealed, be obligatory on the whole Craft, yet it would not be a Landmark. It would have the character of universality, it is true, but it would be wanting in that of antiquity. Another peculiarity of these Landmarks of Freemasonry is that they are un-repealable. As the Congress to which we have just alluded would not have the power to enact a Landmark, so neither would it have the prerogative of abolishing one. The Landmarks of the Order, like the laws of the Medes and the Persians, can suffer no change. What they were centuries ago, they still remains and must so continue in force until Freemasonry itself shall cease to exist.

2019 Officers

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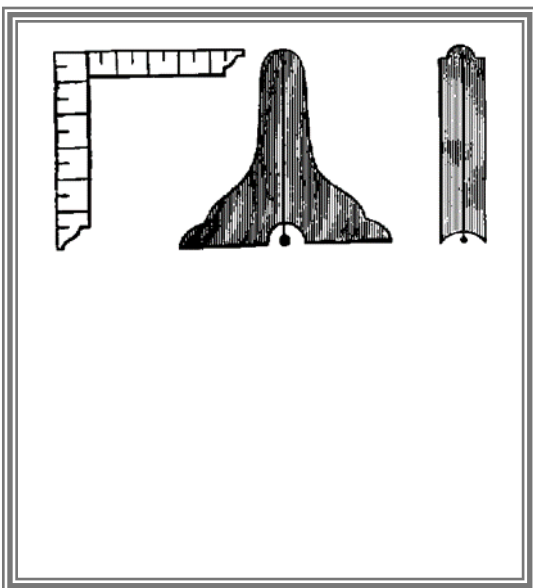
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W Tyler Goodman Tyler
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Until the year 1858, no attempt had been made by any Masonic writer to distinctly enumerate the Landmarks of Freemasonry, and to give to them a comprehensible form. In October of that year, the author of this work published in the American Quarterly Renew of Freemasonry (volume ii, page 230) an article on "The Foundations of Masonic Law," which contained a distinct enumeration of the Landmarks which was the first time that such a list had been presented to the Fraternity. This enumeration was subsequently incorporated by the author in his Text Book of Masonic Jurisprudence. It has since been very generally adopted by the Fraternity and republished by many writers on Masonic law; sometimes without any acknowledgment. According to this recapitulation, the result of much labor and research, the Landmarks are twenty-five, and are as follows:

1. The Modes of recognition.
2. The division of Symbolic Masonry into three degrees.
3. The legend of the third degree.
4. The government of the fraternity by a presiding officer called a Grand Master, who is elected from the body of the craft.
5. The prerogative of the Grand Master to preside over every assembly of the craft, wheresoever and whensoever held.
6. The prerogative of the Grand Master to grant dispensations for conferring degrees at irregular times.
7. The prerogative of the Grand Master to grant dispensation for opening and holding lodges.
8. The prerogative of the Grand Master to make Masons on sight.
9. The necessity of Masons to congregate in lodges.
10. The government of every lodge by a Master and two Wardens.
11. The necessity that every lodge, when duly congregated, should be tyled.
12. The right of every Mason to be represented in all general meetings of the craft and to instruct his representatives.
13. The right of every Mason to appeal from the decision of his brethren in lodge convened, to the Grand Lodge or General Assembly of Masons.
14. The right of every Mason to visit and sit in every regular lodge.
15. That no visitor, not known to some brother present as a Mason, can enter a lodge without undergoing an examination.
16. That no lodge can interfere in the business or labor of another lodge.
17. That every Freemason is amenable to the laws and regulations of the Masonic Jurisdiction in which he resides.
18. That every candidate for initiation must be a man, free born and of lawful age.
19. That every Mason must believe in the existence of God as the Grand Architect of the Universe.
20. That every Mason must believe in a resurrection to a future life.
21. That a book of the law of God must constitute an indispensable part of the furniture of every lodge.
22. That all men, in the sight of God, are equal and meet in the lodge on one common level.
23. That Freemasonry is a secret society in possession of secrets that cannot be divulged.
24. That Freemasonry consists of a speculative science founded on an operative art.
25. That the landmarks of Masonry can never be changed. These constitute the landmarks, or as they have sometimes been called, "the body of Masonry," in which it is not in the power of man or a body of men to make the least innovation.

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From the Secretary's Table

Our 2019 dues were payable on 1 January. Please pay your 2019 dues as soon as possible.

Mizpah Lodge will be offering electronic payment of your 2019 dues via PayPal. To pay with a major credit card, go the Mizpah Lodge web site (omahamasons.com). Click on the "2019 Dues" tab for instructions and a link to PayPal. There is a fee for PayPal credit card payment which is added to the dues amount. The total amount, with fee, is \$108.44.

To pay via your personal PayPal account, log into your PayPal account. Send your payment of \$105.00 to the lodge email address "mizpah302sec@cox.net".

If a member has difficulty paying the full dues assessment at one time, arrangements can be made to make partial payments as along as

the full amount is paid before the end of April. Please contact one of the other Lodge Officers to make arrangements.

Fraternally,
Ben Zaayer
Secretary