

MIZPAH BULLETIN

November 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 31:49-

May the Lord Watch
MIZPAH
302
Between Me and Thee

From the West

Brethren,

The year is approaching its end and this month you will be electing officers for next year. The officers have spent the most of this year planning the future of the lodge and have focused on several areas. We started this year making changes in our business meeting format and including a longer and more diverse education program. We also started to work on projects to improve the building and hopefully we get the brick repaired. It has been a long process and I want to thank brother Tom Gibbs and Steve Barchus for their work on obtaining estimates and arranging financing.

The CCOC committee focused on local projects such as school PTO and the little league baseball. The planning they have put forward will show this year was just a stepping stone of their potential to improve Mizpah lodge and the experience of Masonry.

We did have some learning curves and struggled at times, but it built character and drove us to be better which is one item that is commonly mentioned Masonry does.

As I mentioned at the beginning of the year I had other obligations starting in May as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandry of Nebraska. I want to thank the officers for stepping up and keeping the lodge moving forward. This has prevented me for attending some of our social functions. The Halloween party sounded fun and hopefully the kids enjoyed themselves. Our fellowship committee works hard on our activities and the next time you see them say thank you.

We have one candidate working on his Entered Apprentice work and hopefully we can schedule his Fellowcraft this year, but we will see how long it takes for him to learn the new work.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Jeffrey Coleman
Worshipful Master



The Man In The Arena by Ryan LeGrande

Wednesday November 6

Potluck Dinner 6:30pm

Business Meeting 7:00pm

Elections

Education:

Topic: The Man In The Arena -
Ryan LeGrande

Wednesday November 13

Officers Meeting

All members welcome

6:30 PM

Wednesday November 20

Grand Lodge Leadership Seminar

Waterloo Lodge #102

20295 Hopper St

Saturday November 23

Lodge Cleanup

10 AM

Wednesday November 27

TBD

Wednesday December 4

Potluck Dinner 6:30pm

Business Meeting 7:00pm

Education:

Topic: Cabletows - Ben Zaayer

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." – The Man in the Arena; Theodore Roosevelt

This month for our Education section, I wanted to do something a little different. As always, I hope you will all take something away from this piece and see where the Education Committee would like to go moving forward.

As we move towards the end of this year, and to a new one, I have begun to notice a theme around our conversations and education pieces. We, as a lodge, have begun the process of looking into what it really means to be a Mason. TJ did a wonderful job last month of discussing the human need for interaction and fellowship. Ben will be discussing similar themes in December. What I wanted to focus on, especially this month where we vote on new leadership, is our role in the lodge as leaders and participants.

Many of you have likely heard the quote I started with, or some variation thereof. As a Social Studies major, this quote was something that was discussed and attributed to manliness. TR was likely using this to describe antiquated ideas of what "being a man" is all about. Many scholars and those studying his presidency have attributed this quote to warriors, fighters, and Teddy's own Rough Riders. Old fashioned and stereotypical tough guys who didn't take it from anyone. In modern times, I feel, this quote can still be attributed to what it means to "be a man" or more importantly what it means to be a "better man", as we promise new and prospective candidates when they are asking about Masonry.

As many of you know, we've not had many candidates this year. While this has given us the opportunity to focus on other needs the lodge has, we continue to discuss what we can do to improve our numbers. TJ's suggestion of reaching out to past members and offering fellowship and relationships is definitely a huge part of what we need to do, but we also need to make the experience at lodge something of value and something new and current members continue to seek.

I want to focus on two key points when it comes to how we approach new and 'lost' members of our great fraternity and lodge:

1. There are no mistakes in life if you are out there trying every day. Victory and failure are inseparable. If you first have victory you still must learn from failure. You will stumble, but you will learn and grow. Victory will come again.

One of the hardest tasks we have as new Masons is to learn and memorize ritual for the three degrees. We have discussed extensively the value and virtues of long form versus short form and, now that we know long form is our present and future, we need to look at how we bring value to those lectures and degrees. TR said in his speech "the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena...who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming."

2019 Officers

- W Jeffrey Coleman (Brenda) Worshipful Master
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Omaha, NE 68144 Cell (402) 290-7243
- Thomas Gibbs Senior Warden
55269 Fallow Rd
Pacific Junction IA 51561 Cell (402) 680-6678
- Jeremiah Jones (Kimberly) Junior Warden
2804 Jackson St.
Bellevue NE 68005 Cell (402) 507-7190
- W Adam Lowder (Mollie) Treasurer
10925 Weber St.
Omaha NE 68142 Cell (402) 850-6001
- W Ben Zaayer (Stacy) Secretary
5604 N. 162nd St. Res (402) 933-4668
Omaha NE 68116 Cell (402) 880-3028
- W Michael Tomaszewicz (Annette) Chaplain
1404 P St.
Tekamah NE 68061 Cell (402) 838-9977
- Dalton Kock (Bri) Senior Deacon
6757 S. 90th St
Lincoln NE 68526 Cell (402) 719-0942
- James Schmidt (Elizabeth) Junior Deacon
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Omaha NE 68124 Cell (402) 916-0262
- T.J Brumfield (Sarah) Senior Steward
1210 S. 25th Ave
Omaha NE 68105 Cell (402) 880-7823
- Charles Davis Junior Steward
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Omaha NE 68127 Cell (402) 980-5394
- W Tyler Goodman (Tracey) Tyler
8702 S. 17th St.
Bellevue NE 68147 Res (402) 292-2801

We know that degree work is about proficiency, and those of you who've learned the lectures and ritual (and can recite it well) are aware that you have erred and continue to have shortcomings when it comes to your recitation. The reality is, life is full of great achievements and failures. Many of us have made personal and professional mistakes, with various levels of consequence attached to those. All of us have become better people because of those mistakes. You learn from them; you store it away in your brain for future use so that you're prepared for it next time.

I'm constantly in awe of how proficient and adept our lecturers are when it comes to degree work. We have strong men who not only know the words, and can regurgitate them during a lecture, but have meaning and understanding behind those words. I'm also amazed by how humble those that do the degree work are to accept help. This comes, not from being the critic, but from being the man in the arena. Those that know the ritual know that they've stumbled before, and will likely do so again, this allows them to be open to help from others so they can succeed and move forward.

But what does memorizing some lines for proficiency really do for the new candidate or Mason? What do they take away from those lectures moving forward?

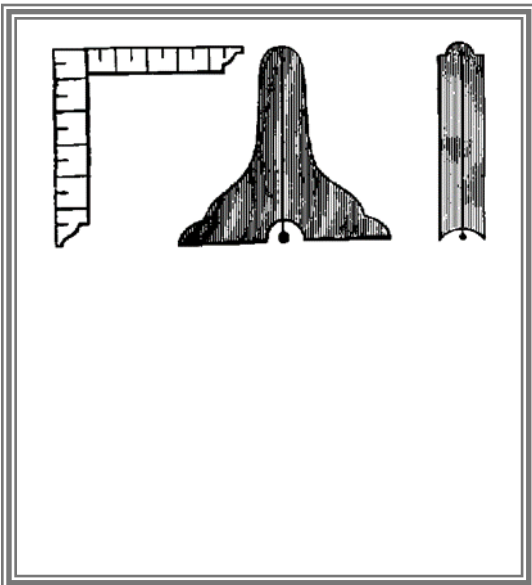
That leads me to my second thought:

2. If you begin with failure, you will no longer fear it. You will have earned your victory and you will remember your failures. Your humbleness will keep you from becoming the critic.

Our new candidates are tasked with the obligation and struggle of learning the long form proficiency of the three degrees. This not only allows them time to learn the words but also some meaning behind them. The new candidates are going to stumble over words and, most likely, won't have everything 100% memorized. Isn't that the point of learning these words? If they begin with failure of some kind, they will no longer fear it. Doesn't it mean more to the candidate that took a lesson or information away from the lecture and ritual rather than having the words down to rote memorization? Now that we have more time between degrees, it seems an opportune time to start focusing on the betterment of our Brothers in this lodge.

We also need to look at our current members and think about our role in guiding those new or 'lost' members. We have a strong group of men that come to business meetings regularly. We have men here who are excited by and love studying the rituals and esoteric nature of our craft. Rather than being critics, rather than point out where elected members are struggling, rather than talking about where someone else could do better. Let's strive to do better individually. Be the man in the arena, as Roosevelt suggested, strive to lead a committee or take ownership of a task the lodge presents. Let's make our lodge a place men want to be, not just for social interaction and chicken once a month, but for the betterment of themselves through mentoring, civic duty, community outreach, or other areas that draw your attention.

The Education Committee, for example, is going to determine curriculum for 2020. This will be a plan to follow so that education pieces are not haphazard and have a flow to them. Focusing on one broad topic, such as the Entered Apprentice Degree, will allow us a focus and vision throughout the year. Making education topics accessible and allowing them to connect to our intended audience, you, our fellow brothers. I urge everyone here to think about ways we all can move away from being a critic, and step in to be the Man in the Arena moving forward.



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From the Secretary's Table

Brethren,

It is dues season again! How exciting is that? Everyone should have received a dues notice by now. If you have not, please email me so I can get one out the door to you. Dues for 2020 are payable no later than 1 January 2020. You can send a check, pay by PayPal or drop off cash to me in person. However you choose to pay your 2020 dues, we appreciate them on time as these funds go towards maintaining our operations.

If you have any questions, please call, email, or text and I will be happy to help.

Thanks!

Fraternally,
Ben Zaayer
Secretary