

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons
of Michigan

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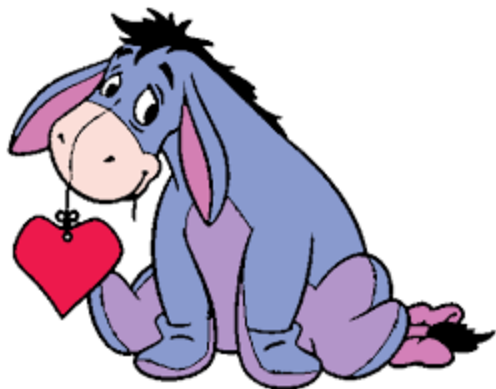
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Guess How Many Days Are Celebrated In February?

There are 2 Federal holidays which are on the same day. George Washington's Birthday and President's Day are both celebrated on February 20th this year. There are also some usual ones where the bank and post office may be closed depending where you live. Like Lincoln's Birthday on February 12th. Valentine's Day on February 14th it is on a Tuesday this year so get your sweetie something the weekend before!!! Marti Gras is celebrated on Tuesday, February the 28th and it is also Fat Tuesday.

There is a Seven Degree Day being held in Flint Masonic Lodge and hosted by Washington Chapter No.15. Remember the date is February 4th, 2017! Registration starts at 8:00 am and starts at 9:00 am. Please make sure to bring your candidates and all the necessities they will need. Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm and the cost is \$10.00.



Fraternally Yours,
Jane Todd, Editor of Triple Tau



Howard W. Duke
Grand High Priest

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I came across an article regarding Masonic Protocol recently with some interesting information which should be of interest to all Masons. This year Lady Carole and I have touched on the subject of proper protocol and etiquette within the Grand line, so I would like to share some of what I have found with you in this article.

Protocol is a formal code of etiquette that has been long honored and practiced within our Fraternity. Protocol encompasses standards for conducting business within our Lodges, Chapters, Councils and Commandries and for maintaining a level of dignity and decorum that serves to promote harmony and respect within our Fraternity.

Rules of protocol represent standards for officer and member attire within our meetings, how we dress, the wearing of our aprons and jewels, how officers and members are addressed during meetings, and how the presiding officer is recognized when Masons enter and leave the meeting.

Masonry is a conservative fraternity and Masons should dress appropriately according to the organization's high standards, traditions, values and practices.

In this article, I would like to address three items of protocol and etiquette.

Proper attire for a Mason attending a Lodge or other Masonic meetings should be a business suit or sport jacket and slacks with a white or colored dress shirt and conservative necktie. This type of dress code, of course, may not necessarily apply to Commandery. I have observed members attending meetings wearing jeans, sweats and even shorts along with "T" shirts and sneakers. This is totally unacceptable dress for Masonic meetings. The fraternity deserves better than that.

When addressing the presiding officer during a meeting, while at labor, a Mason should always stand, give the proper sign and be recognized by the presiding officer before speaking. Comments to other officers or members should be directed through the presiding officer and not directly to the other officer or member. There should be no sideline conversations while a meeting or degree work is in progress. This is considered rude and disrespectful.

When attending various functions, such as dinners or award presentations, where introductions are being made, when you and/or your Lady are introduced, stand and be recognized. This is proper protocol. There have been many times that I have observed people introduced and they stay seated and wave their hand in the air instead of standing and being recognized. This shows a lack of respect, not only for yourself but for the fraternity as well.

These are only three items of protocol and etiquette which we should all strive to observe. Proper protocol and etiquette have always been a part of our fraternity and should be strictly observed at all times both at Masonic functions and in public. It reflects on who we are and we should be proud of that. "Take pride in your appearance and mind your manners." Remember those words?

Fraternally,

Howard W. Duke

Grand High Priest



R.E.C. Richard Hitch

Grand King

Lady Connie

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Does your Chapter know where it is headed, or what it would like to accomplish? Can new interested Brothers tell what your goal(s) or intent is when they research your Chapter or define the specific vision in your Chapter?

To better help a Chapter define its specific vision, as well as any unique mission or preferred role it would or will accomplish, it is highly recommended that a Mission and Vision statement be developed and adopted by the membership. A statement of these objectives not only helps to focus the activities of the Chapter, but can assist interested Brothers in their selection of a Chapter by identifying similarly preferred interests. Together, they establish the long-term direction that guides the actions and processes of the Chapter's business and labors.

To distinguish between the two, a vision statement expresses a Chapter's optimal goal(s) and reason for existence, while a mission statement provides an overview of the Chapter's plans to realize that vision by identifying special areas of expertise (historical, education, community service, ritual proficiency, etc.); specific target audience or area and values and objectives of the Chapter. Lastly, when developing a mission statement, consider how a Companion would express this in a few words, concise, and meaningfully relate the Chapter values, goals and vision to an interested Master Mason.

The Chapter's Mission Statement should explain how the overall Chapter's strategy supports the broad vision. What special Masonic purpose or Capitular benefit(s) that the Chapter pursues differently from any other Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

The mission of the Chapter is to attract and inspire influential members of the community to work toward building a better individual and a better world society through the practical contemporary application of the democratic, spiritual, ethical, charitable, and philosophical tenets of Freemasonry.

The Chapter's Vision Statement should explain what the values or beliefs that inspire and legitimize the Companions in pursuit of its ultimate goal(s), and what the Chapter expects to accomplish as a result of its efforts.

To contribute to the greater understanding and awareness of the history, philosophy, and symbolism of Royal Arch Masonry; the Chapter will be known for its profound knowledge of ancient and arcane mysteries, and proficiency in demonstrating such knowledge through dramatic Degree performance and educational discourse.

Most Chapters currently have a Mission and Vision Statement, or use the Grand Chapter's printed statements, and some do not have either. If you have current statements, are they specific to your unique Chapter and its needs, or is it time to redo them? If you do not have any statements, it may be the perfect time to create some. Remember most of today's new Master Masons are of an era where they will go online to see what a Chapter is about, before they ask anyone. It is important that they see and understand what your Chapter is all about and how they will benefit from it. They must know that you, as a Chapter, have the same values and beliefs that they do.

Fraternally,
R.E.C. Rich Hitch, Grand King



R.E.C. Mike Roberts

Grand Scribe

Lady Becca

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The future of Royal Arch Masonry relies on its membership and the retention of that membership. I believe that communication, education, and visibility are the best tools we have to achieve these goals.

Communication needs to begin at our local chapters; each High Priest and secretary should use a form of regular communication, such as, email, a phone list, a form of social media, or a newsletter for example, to ensure as many members of his Chapter are informed of events. The High Priest should also take time to contact his assigned District Deputy Instructor and assigned Grand Officer. He should make it a point to have the Triple Tau read at the stated meetings to share the information from Grand Chapter. These simple steps will go a long way in keeping your Chapter informed, which will help keep your members educated and engaged.

Education should be ongoing. By regular attendance in our Chapter meetings, taking part in our schools and inspections, a companion is sure to pick up knowledge he did not previously have. I have attended several meetings and schools in the last few months and the attendance by our companions has been dismal at best. Each Chapter needs to offer education as part of its monthly meeting, with the use of an Education Officer. If you need any help in the area of education please contact your Grand Officer or District Deputy Instructor and they will put you in touch with someone who can help.

Being visible can be accomplished in several ways. We should strive to attend our local Chapters on a regular basis. By doing this we will be better informed of activities, events, and ritual. We should make it a point to be active within our Blue lodges. This is where we pull our prospective new members. Talk to the Master about doing a red coat degree, Enhance the Secret program, or offer a lodge appreciation night as one of your Chapter functions.

Thank you for your time. I have started an email list to help communicate activities in the York Rite Bodies. Please email me any events coming up and I will forward the information. If you wish to be added, please send me your email address. mickey52223@sbcglobal.net

Fraternally,

R.E.C. Mike Roberts, Grand Scribe





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Secretary's Scribbles

What Happened to January???

Here we are at the end of January, seems as though I just finished the dishes from New Years. It is true the older you get the steeper the slopes become, and time goes by much faster. Grand Chapter just finished the Education Seminar in Alma Pathways Doig Conference Center. Congratulations go out to Mike and Becca Roberts for a fine job of organizing this event. All of the presentations were well done and the information presented was diverse and timely. Great job Mike, Jim Hodge and John Landis for making the day informative and pleasant.

The General Grand Chapter Bronze Award was presented to EC Elliot Walters. Following the dinner and presentations the Royal Arch Degree was conferred on the class honoring EC Herbert Wyngard. I am sorry that I cannot report on DeMolay Winterfest this year. Due to scheduling conflict I had to be somewhere else and I haven't gotten with REC Brent Helm who represented Grand Chapter this year.

So on to February. I hope that this reaches you before the 4th of February as there is a seven-degree day being hosted by Washington Chapter No. 15 at the Flint Masonic Temple. Registration to begin at 8:00 AM with degrees starting at 9:00 AM. The next event in February is the George Washington celebration dinner hosted by Caro Chapter 96. The Date this year is the 18th. They have been doing this for almost 100 years. Contact Kevin Wightman, Secretary of Caro Chapter. The same day before the dinner Grand Chapter has the winter meeting at the Caro Temple. Grand officers will be in attendance, all D.D.I.'s should be in attendance for this meeting. There is always good information presented at this meeting and you can get any and all questions asked and answered here. The next event in February is another seven-degree day to be held in Michigan Center and hosted by Jackson Chapter No. 3. This event will be held February 25th, with registration at 8:00 AM.

March as of this writing has only one event. This being the East-Central Regional Conference to be held on March 10th in Lexington, Kentucky at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 1801 Newtown Pike 40511. There is a flyer and registration form on the Grand Chapter web site.

The Michigan winter this year only makes me wonder, just what spring will hold in store for us. For me it only stands to reason that the weather would turn warm. I bought a new ice fishing suit to try my luck at ice fishing again. It has not been years since I last ice fished, it has been decades. So if you are looking for someone to blame for this warm weather, I would be the one. Should you ever want it to rain call me and I will wash my car, it never fails. With that, think warm thoughts the Ground Hog will stick his head out of his den and we will then know just how long winter will last.

Fraternally,

R.E.C. Donald L. Galway, P.G.H.P., K.Y.G.C.H. and O.P.C.
Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter
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The Fourth Veil

Companions: In my search for more Light in Masonry, I am writing on the subject of the Fourth Veil. They are Dan, Reuben, Ephraim, and Judah.

The First Veil is Blue. It represents Dan. Dan’s quality is Friendship. In the greater Light of Masonry Dan will provide justice, like a snake that bites the heel of a horse so that the rider tumbles.

The Second Veil color is purple, its character is Union. Reuben was the first born son of Jacob. Reuben had strength and excelled in honor and power.

The Third Veil color is scarlet. It denotes the fervency and zeal that should excite every Royal Arch Mason. Ephraim was the son of Joseph who was born in Egypt. He was not the first born but Judah or (Israel) blessed Ephraim and he became great. Ephraim’s decedents will become a group of nations.

The Fourth Veil is white. It displays an eagle. Judah was praised by his brothers. His hand was on the neck of his enemies. Information is found in our ritual and from the great Book of Light in Genesis Chapter 48 and 49.

Fraternally,

R.E.C. Eldin H. Miller, Grand Royal Arch Captain



Thinking Outside The Box

We are often told to think outside of the box – to look at things with a different perspective. When I was coming home from the Tri-State Degree conferrals last year, I noticed a church with bounce houses on either side of the front entrance. I don’t know if they were a common fixture, or if they were there for a special occasion like a church picnic. What I do know is that my Granddaughter never met a bounce house she didn’t like. Churches often talk about attracting families with young children. Is that one more thing that the children of that church will look forward to every week? Does your Chapter have its own “bounce houses” that its members can look forward to?

Fraternally,

Brent A. Helm
 Grand Master Of The 1st Veil



Seven Degree Day

At the Flint Masonic Temple
 Hosted by Washington Chapter No. 15
 PROGRAM
 February 4th, 2017

- 7:30 AM-Registration
- 7:30 AM -Openings
- 8:00 AM -Mark Master Mason Degree – Durand Chapter #139
- 9:00 AM -Past Master Degree – Washington #15
- 10:00 AM-Most Excellent Master Degree – Central Battalion
- 11:00 AM -Royal Arch Degree – Grand Chapter Officers
- 1:30 PM -Lunch
- 2:00 PM -Reception of Grand Chapter & Grand Council
- 3:00 PM -Royal Master Degree – Mt Clemens Council #8
- 4:00 PM -Select Master Degree – Durand Council #38
- 5:00 PM -Super Excellent Master Degree – Grand Council Officers and Circle of Friendship.



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America Needs Us Now

Nobody plays politics like the Masons. We vie, make phone calls, build factions, gain consensus, make motions, celebrate victories and rue defeats, and sometime it is all about whether the door is painted red or blue. We have all gone home wondering how our amazing idea that “no one in their right mind” could possibly disagree with, got voted down? We learn, and we come back; we make more phone calls, build better consensuses and find more points of agreement. We come back and either get our motions passed or we still lose the vote. This happens even at the Grand Lodge level, and there are many who remember sessions that adjourned after midnight. It happens. We move on. At the beginning and end of the day, we meet on the level.

We go on working together, despite the reality that we would have remained at “a perpetual distance” without the bond of brotherhood that unites us. Freemasonry is bigger than each of us and at the end of the day we love it more than we love our positions on which color the door is painted. I respect Brothers and Companions whose political views run from bright-red Communist to far-right folks looking for the apocalypse. I love them because they are my Companions and Brothers. We work for the good of our organizations and the Craft, we do excellent ritual, and we aspire to uprightness. We continue on the basis of what we work for, not the slights we experience along the way.

When I read *House Undivided: The Story of Freemasonry & the Civil War* by Allen E. Roberts, I was struck by the voice of the several Freemasonic bodies, both Northerners and Southern, which counseled for reason, and a due measure in dealing with the impending conflagration that was the Civil War. They asserted their brotherly togetherness and the commonality of higher purpose in their letters to each other. After the war, they were on the front lines of healing this country, and reached out across the Mason-Dixon Line to put the nightmare of war behind them, and they reached out to their counterparts with open arms to reestablish a more brotherly view. They focused on going forward together, they didn't focus on the past. They sought reasons to come together, rather than stay apart.

In the fallout of a heated and contentious election season our country is hurting. People remain divided over the past rather than focusing on what unites us going forward. We can be a voice of reason and calm as we interact with our families and friends. We can point them to aspects of our life that matter more, like how we meet, how we act, and how we part. We, as Cryptic Masons, should look for living examples of our Circle of Friendship and remember that each moment of our lives presents opportunities to form a circle of friendship with our actions.

Beyond all the political views and positions we belong to something greater. Freemasonry is more valuable to us than our positions, we should set an example to those who are not members of our fraternity to remember that beyond any politics, we are part of something bigger than ourselves; we are Americans.

Fraternally,

David Seyferth, M. I. Grand Master



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

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Well here we are in February and 2017 has begun, our Inspection season is over and all in all I think that it went well. Lady Merry Jo and I attended 7 Christmas Observances this past Christmas season and we want to thank the Commanderies for the hospitality extended to us. Several events are coming in the months to come.

The East Central Department Conference of the Grand Encampment will be held in Lexington Kentucky the second Saturday in March, the dais officers and the Grand Recorder are required by law to be in attendance and any Sir Knight may also attend, during the conference the Grand Encampment will again be hosting the Leadership training which involves 4 sessions each held during the Department conference, information should have been sent out by our Department Commander Sir Knight Loren A. Winn.

Plans are well under way for our trip to Washington DC to attend the Easter Sunrise Service at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria and later that morning we will be placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery. Contact your Grand Officers for more information regarding the trip. Lastly February is Valentine Day so remember to take your Lady out to dinner and show her just how much you appreciate the love and concern she shows to you.

Fraternally,
S.K. Donald L. Trumbull R. E. Grand Commander

A MESSAGE FOR THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

Ah' February. Although Cold wind blows across the winter landscape, our hearts are warmed by the thought of Valentine's Day. Reminding us of our significant others; our Ladies, for whom we love and cherish as our partners through life. They are truly special as they love us through thick or thin, comforting us when we are down, and celebrate with us during our times of triumph.

As we read in Ephesians 5:25-28, we are charged by Apostle Paul when he says, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; But that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself." As we treat every day as a gift from God, so should we look upon our Ladies.

Think about spending just a little more time listening, a little more time helping, and a whole lot more time loving. As I've heard it said, wake up every morning asking yourself, what can I do to make her life just that little bit better? A life together is golden; Never take it for granted.
I and Lady Vera wish all the Sir Knights a Happy Valentine's Day!

Fraternally,
S.K. Edward James, Grand Prelate