

ALBERT PIKE LODGE NO. 303

118th Year—Volume 21 —Issue 2

SPRING GREETINGS FROM THE EAST!

I hope all is well with all the Brethren and their families. Your Lodge has been very busy this last quarter and I must say that I am very happy with all that is happening. Our increase in membership through restorations and new petitions is astonishing to say the least. I'd like to thank all of you working hard to make this all happen and as the Master of your Lodge I am very proud of the accomplishments so far. If you have any desire to get involved with degree work remember that we have study club every Monday night at Pyramid Lodge at 7:00 p.m. Our Senior Warden Stan Howard is always looking for more Brothers interested in participating in this great and glorious work.



Another big thing at Albert Pike was Grand Lodge in March. All of the proposed bylaw changes were voted against with the promise of revising some of them for consideration next year. The addition of background checks to be included with new petitions was probably the other item that received the most attention. Feel free to drop by the office to see what the new petitions look like and to learn more about the background checks. By the time you read this our Teacher of the Year will be concluded on April 27th and thanks again to W.: Sheldon Lawrence and his committee for another great job this year.

Please check the Albert Pike #303 website for more details and any other upcoming events at the Lodge. A special thanks to our Senior Steward David Ryan for updating the site.

Well Brethren, this year is flying by and I really appreciate all of you helping to make it such a great one. It has already exceeded my expectations and now the sky is the limit. Come down and participate in the fun and the work. You will not be sorry you did. Until we meet again.

W.: Warren R. Rensner118th Master of Albert Pike Lodge

NEW MEMBERSHIP AT ALBERT PIKE IS IN FULL SWING.....STOP BY A MEETING AND SEE WHY!!

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DO YOU THINK HIRAM WOULD HAVE TWEETED?



As a Master Mason, we all know about the working tools of Masons and are taught there several uses. These uses are now symbolic and represent the core values of Masonry and how, as Masons, we are to carry ourselves. Although these tools are still relevant in our teachings, there are other tools that need to be used to increase the exposure of the fraternity.

With social media booming we, as Masons, must take advantage of our ability to get our message out.....and quickly. Currently, the average age of a male seeking out information regarding Masonry is about 32 years of age. Currently, there are over 157 million Facebook® users in the United States; 45.2% of those users are male; and 40% of those male users are between the ages of 25 – 44. That means that over 28 million of those users are in our target audience.

The great thing about social media is that it allows the introverted to speak their mind; the boisterous to scream from the roof top; and the over the top one to “toot his horn”. That being said, whenever you do something positive, hear something positive, or see something positive regarding our great fraternity, please.....post something about it on your Facebook® status; Tweet about it on your Twitter® account, or simply just talk about it!!! Take advantage of these new tools that can be used to grow Masonry. It is up to US BROTHERS!!

By: *Brian Byrd*



THE SECRETARY'S SHOUT OUT

The year is just a third over....but is that ONLY or ALREADY? Our lodge has been very busy thus far and in this short time we have had over 20 restorations and currently have 15 in the process of receiving their degrees as well as eight completions. With that record, I prefer to say the year is ONLY one third gone! Now we just need to keep this momentum going. I, along with the rest of the officers, as well as the newly made Masons, are excited about Masonry and its impact on our lives and our community. I cannot remember being so excited about our work---even in the “good old days” when conferring degrees was routine, this excitement was not as evident as it is today. Albert Pike Lodge is alive and very well....thank-you! As secretary, I have been busy trying to learn all the ins and outs of this job while trying to keep up with all this degree work. Heartfelt thanks to Treasurer W.: Sheldon Lawrence for his efforts to assist in my learning process and to W.: Scott Kailer for his patience and effort to come over and “fix” what I mess up!!! When we say Masonry is a “family” one need look no further than to his brothers to see that this is true. My hat is off also to W.: Bros.: Jim Ralston, Scott Kailer, Roger Snellen and their back-ups who help us keep those promises made by brothers much like ourselves to “be there” for our departed. W.: Carl Patton, Bros.: David Ryan, Doug Chartier, Kevin Conn and others whose presence mean so much to the families. What a great lodge I am privileged to serve---thank you for letting me!

Brethren, hopefully by the time you read this, I will have assembled the cast for the third degree full dramatization. As of now, however, I need people!! Even if I do have a full cast, I still need brothers to be ‘stand in back-ups’ . It would be great to have two fully staffed teams so that we could present this beautiful degree several times a year! Practice is the 1st Wednesday of each month at Albert Pike Lodge (6:45 PM). By: *James A. Craig*

sec@AlbertPike303.org

ALBERT PIKE'S 2012 MASON OF THE YEAR

As some of you may have heard, W:. Warren "Doc" Rensner awarded W:. H. Gene Payne as Albert Pike's Mason of the Year for 2012. Gene was duped into thinking he was given a Masonic Education piece for the Stated Communication on February 8th, 2012. As Gene was about three minutes into his presentation, Doc interrupted Gene. To Gene's surprise, Doc stood up and walked toward him. Gene was presented with a plaque and name plate to W:. H. Gene "Pain".....not Payne. This humorous name plate was later replaced with the correct spelling. We are not sure which name plate Gene left on, however, he has both to display.

With much emotion, Gene received the award and gave a speech that spoke about his journey in Masonry and how the Albert Pike Lodge has evolved over the years. Gene was gracious enough to make the comment, "This is the best set of officers and trustees in place...in my opinion...that Albert Pike has ever had!" Gene finished his speech and delivered a huge smile and hug to Doc and a thank you to the Lodge.

Incidentally, Wichita Lodge #99 awarded Gene Payne with their 2012 Mason of the Year award on March 10th, 2012 at Gene Payne's Roast. For everyone that knows Gene, he is absolutely deserving of these great awards. Thank you Gene for all of your years of Masonic service and friendship.

By: *Brian Byrd*



Masonic Humor: How many Masons does it take to change a light bulb? It takes 5; the Worshipful Master to direct it, the Senior Steward to do it, and three Past Masters to tell him how they would have done it.



WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU AT STUDY CLUB!!!

MONDAYS at 7:00 PM

8th and Market

Call Jim Craig for more information:

316-942-2956

If you wish to receive Albert Pike related emails, and currently are not, please email Brian Byrd and ask him to put you on the list. DBrianByrd@gmail.com

FROM YOUR TRUSTEES OF ALBERT PIKE

Why Audit?

Historically, during the second stated meeting of the year the lodge membership is presented with the annual audit review. This January was no different where Mike Porter attended and provided a review of your lodges sound financial situation. While not the hottest Masonic topic to talk about, this newsletter presents a great opportunity to address a question that comes up from time to time; Why does the lodge pay for a professional, annual audit?

The finance committee and lodge leadership generate and adhere to a simple and sound budget, annually. Additionally, your lodges balanced investment portfolio ensures continued income and growth for the next 100 years.

Just as our Masonic ritual provides a framework that has served generations; following and auditing against generally accepted accounting principles ensures relevance, reliability and consistency when economic situations and leadership roles change. While expanding programs is a goal of most every Master, doing so in a challenged economy with declining membership is no accident.

Your Master, Trustees and Lodge leadership are committed to maintaining and building the financial position of the lodge and the legacy of it's programs and prominence in the community. Trustee meetings are typically held on the first Friday of each month in the lodge office at 4:00 PM and are open to any Albert Pike Member. The Master and senior officers of the lodge are normally present at our meetings and provide input and updates on the activities of the lodge. We do follow an established agenda and would ask that you contact the lodge if you just wish to attend.

Thanks for your continued support of your Lodge!

Trustees

Bob Talbott, PM 1999 ——— Scott Kailer, PM 1995 ——— Jim Ralston, PM 2008

UPCOMING LODGE & SOCIAL EVENTS

May & June 2012

May 9th - Stated Communication - 7:00 PM

May 23rd - Stated Communication - 7:00 PM

June 13th - Stated Communication - 7:00 PM

June 27th - Ice Cream Social (Sedgwick County Park) - 6:00 PM

July & August 2012

July 11th - Stated Communication - 7:00 PM

July 25th - Watermelon Feed (Sedgwick County Park) -6:30 PM

August - No Stated Communication—Lodge is Dark

WORD FROM THE WEST

What an exciting start to this year! The line is working well together and raising new Master Masons are coming to study club and attending the meetings. Best of all, they are anxious to help with the work.

Study club is growing more and more, in part due to the camaraderie that is being built and also due to the constant communication to the craft. As study club continues to improve, so does our ritual work. Countless Brothers are coming together to work and fill the seat (It is almost like it's supposed to be!). One of our newest Master Masons, Aaron Page has already shown the craft that he is able to do the Questions and Answers for the First Degree. Brother Aaron, with the assistance of Brother Kevin Conn, has set the bar very high for the Brothers and Albert Pike Officers alike.

If you have not been to lodge lately, come on in and you will notice that we have opened up the lodge a bit, and the floor work is a lot more accurate, which makes it more fun and clean. The Teacher of the Year program sailed right along this year with everyone focusing on their assigned tasks and duties.

On February 18th, our very own W.: Carl Patton received his 60 year pin. Next time you see W.: Brother Carl, have him show you his new pin.

In closing, I would like to express how proud I am to be working with all of the Brothers of the area lodges, but most especially Albert Pike. Let's keep up the good work and focus on filling those seats at our Stated Communications.

Fraternally,

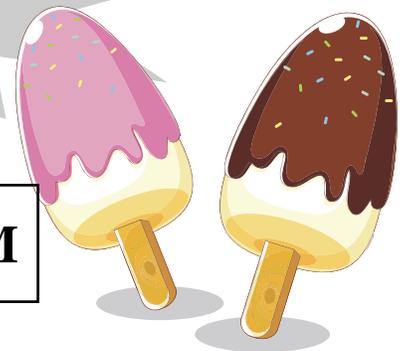
SW Stan Howard



WATERMELON FEED - July 25th @ 6PM

**OPEN TO ALL ALBERT
PIKE MEMBERS,
THEIR FAMILY &
FRIENDS**

ICE CREAM SOCIAL - June 27th @ 6PM



ALBERT PIKE MEMBERS IN ACTION



“Doc” giving M:.W:. Jeff Sowder a “High Five”!



R:.W:. Roger Snellen and Hidi Byrd at the Potentate's Ball



Rich Duffner at the Kansas Masonic Home



Brian “Sponge” Byrd and Mike “Scooby” Ward dressed up for the Midian Cartoon Unit



Ill. Terry Schrant and his Lady Pam . Terry was installed as Midian's 2012 Potentate. Over half of this year's Divan are Albert Pike members!!

TEACHER OF THE YEAR UPDATE

As you may have already read on our website, 2012 is shaping up to be another great year for our lodge's traditional "Teacher of the Year" Ceremony! To refresh some of you; Albert Pike Lodge awards a teacher, in USD 259 with the Albert Pike Teacher of the Year award on an annual basis.

This year we received very quality nominations from the invited field of 89 schools in USD 259. However, we had the very tough chore of narrowing these teachers down to only one winner. This year's winner is a first in that it is a man! Mr. Jonathan Maltz, Science teacher and Department Chair, from Wichita South High School. In addition to the winner this year, we have possibly started a new tradition in choosing two "honorable mentions" as well. The people awarded honorable mentions were Mr. Chad Kirkman from Price Harris Elementary School, and Dee Dee Stroot from White Elementary. Both very worthy candidates.

On April 3rd, WM:. Warren "Doc" Rensner, along with W:. Sheldon Lawrence, W:. Jim Craig, Bro David Ryan, and Cindy Lawrence visited South High. With the assistance of the nominating Principal Cara Ledy and a group of additional staff (including Mrs. Maltz, who also works at South High!), we surprised Mr. Maltz in his classroom during his AP Chemistry class with the news that he had won! He was visibly touched at the award and realization that he will be honored on April 27th at our 13th annual ceremony. There was no shortage of fellow staff at South High telling us that Mr. Maltz is very deserving of the recognition and that we made the right choice.

It should also be mentioned that after Mr. Maltz was notified and the group was walking back from his classroom, Mrs. Maltz informed us that her sister was to be installed as the Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star this month in Valley Center and that her father is a Brother mason! We are truly everywhere!

The notifications of the honorable mentions took place on April 10 with W:. Sheldon and Bro Ryan at Price Harris and White Elementary schools where Mr. Kirkman and Mrs. Stroot were both surprised and appreciative that they had been honored with the awards.

All in all, it sounds like this year's event will be well attended! As this is the highest profile charitable event our lodge of 1000+ conducts each year, *each and every* Brother is strongly encouraged to attend and help support this worthy event April 27th!



NEWS FROM THE SOUTH

Brethren, as I stated in our last newsletter, membership is our number one Lodge goal this year. I have been encouraged by the amount of new petitions and restorations brought into the Lodge thus far. The men helping with the degree work, and those who witness the work from the sidelines, have shown us that they are supporting our growing Lodge, and the new men are receiving their light in Masonry.

We need to continue with the fine work of bringing new men to Masonry. If you know of any man who would make a good Mason, contact them and give them information on Masonry or get them to one of the Masonic Information Nights to see if they would wish to join our fraternity. If they cannot attend an information night, then give them an Albert Pike business card or bring them to one of our social events in June and July.

If you do not have an Albert Pike business card, please stop by the lodge office and pick one up. Brother David Ryan created the concept to make it easier to speak with someone who is interested in Masonry. This business cards allows one to leave a very positive first impression with the new prospect.

We learned at Grand Lodge in Salina . The incoming Grand Master, Donald D. Newman, Jr., has issued an edict effective April 1, 2012 that petitions for the mysteries, membership, affiliation, transfers, dual or plural membership into a Kansas Lodge must use the revised petitions bearing a March 2012 revision date, and that a required sealed background check be attached to the petition when it is submitted to the Lodge for acceptance. No petitions on the old format may be received in the Lodge after March 31, 2012. For more details, please contact our Lodge Secretary or come to a Stated Communication.

The revised petitions and information on the web site for the background checks can be obtained in the Lodge office. All Lodges in Kansas are under the same rules, so if your candidate wishes to become a Mason, he will need to complete the new petition and attach the required background check. New petitioners will not know that we have changed our petition unless he had a copy of one of old petitions. If he does, he may wonder why we are requiring all the additional information, but remind him that it is just another way to ensure that we are getting good men into the fraternity. We will need to follow this new procedure until the Grand Master reverses or modifies his edict, or a proposed by-law change is submitted and passed next year at Grand Lodge session. Fraternally!

JW Paul Ditty

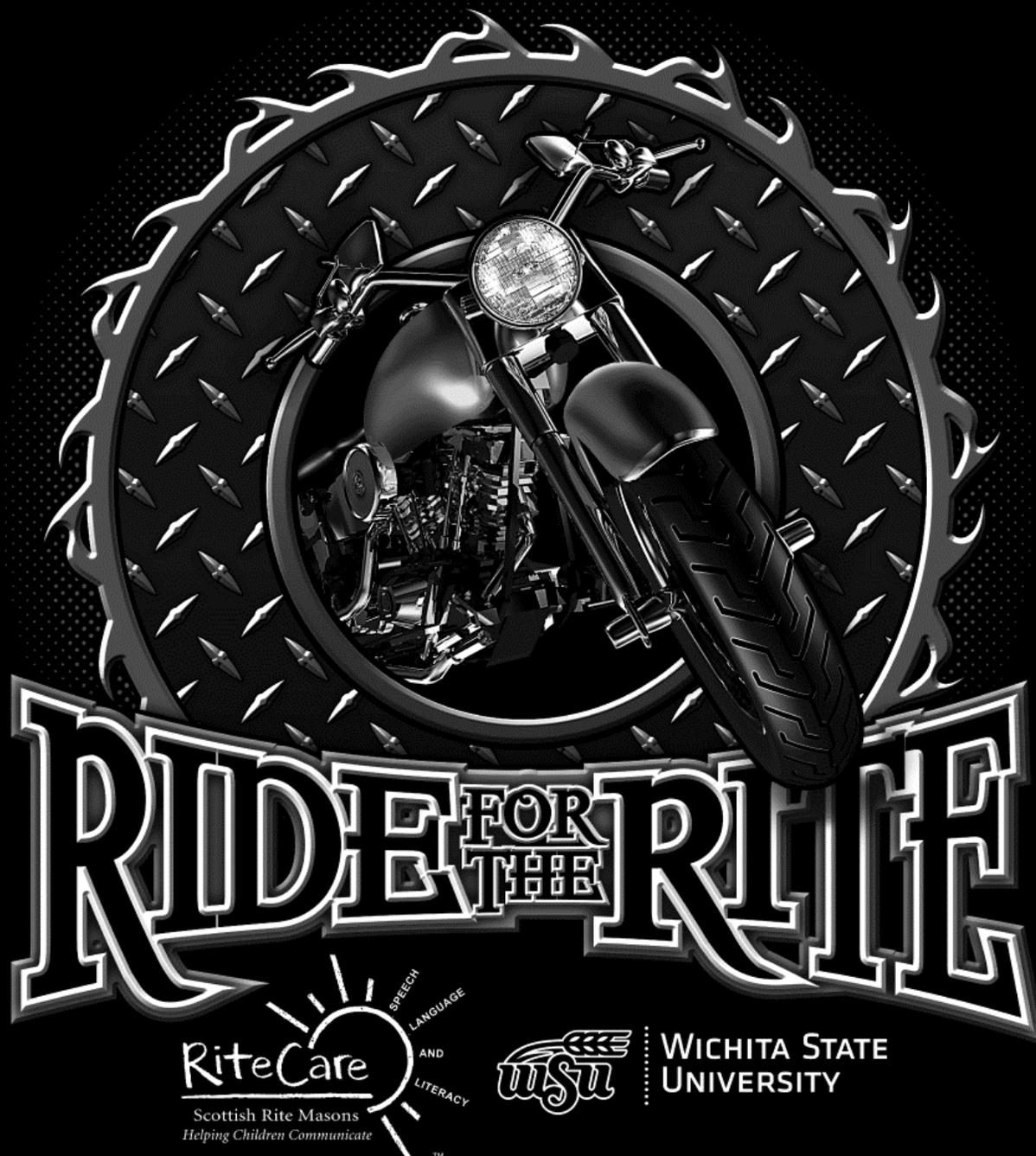


Photo of new Master Mason Aaron Page receiving his apron was edited by Brother David Ryan

RIDE for the RITE POKER RUN

With one of the key components of Masonry being about philanthropy, Albert Pike Brothers, and 32 Degree Scottish Rite Masons, David Ryan, Mike Ward and Brian Byrd have not only been assisting with Albert Pike's Teacher of the Year dedication, they have been working very hard to put together a Poker Run for the Wichita Scottish Rite. The event is open to all motorcycles and classic cars. This Poker Run will benefit the Rite Care Center, on the campus of Wichita State University.

The Ride for the Rite Poker Run will be on Saturday, June 9, 2012. For more details check out: www.RideForTheRite.org



Albert Pike Lodge No. 303 A.F.&A.M

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Wichita, Kansas 67213-5542

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ALBERT PIKE OFFICERS (2012)



Worshipful Master
Dr. Warren R. Rensner

- Stan Howard.....Senior Warden
- Paul Ditty.....Junior Warden
- Sheldon Lawrence, PM.....Treasurer
- James A Craig, PM.....Secretary
- Gillard Cohen.....Chaplain
- Brian Byrd.....Senior Deacon
- Mike Ward.....Junior Deacon
- David Ryan.....Senior Steward
- Bruce Lemaire.....Junior Deacon
- Doug Chartier.....Tyler
- R.:W: Robert C. Talbott, PM.....Trustee
- R. Scott Kailer, PM.....Trustee
- Jim Ralston, PM.....Trustee