



ALBERT PIKE LODGE

Jan thru Apr 2015—Volume 24—Issue 1

Making Men Master Masons Since 1895!

GREETINGS FROM THE EAST!



In 1895, Albert Pike Lodge #303 received their Charter; now 120 years later **we** are still doing good work as Masons. I believe over the years, as most organizations do, **we** have lost some of our focus and have forgotten what **we** are supposed to be doing, but **we** believe **we** will get back on track as a Lodge.

This year **we** plan to be out in the community much more than before. **We** have decided that **we** will participate in a bowling game against area Lodges; compete in a paintball event; and even go to a Wingnuts game for our Annual H. Gene Payne All Masonic Family Reunion. **Doug** and **Chris** are spearheading this. Please keep your eyes, mailboxes and inboxes open for these events.

Another slight change is that **we** will be moving our Mason of the Year presentation to October, instead of doing it in February. That meeting will be an open meeting, which will allow more than just us Masons to see the recipient of that award. The biggest reason for the change is so that **we** can see who truly is the Mason of the Year. The Rusty Nail Degree is coming back this year. If you are not sure what that is, be ready for the September meeting chaos! **The meetings in February will start at 7:30, not 7:00. We** are trying something new to accommodate the craft.

We will also be having a few “Themed” Stated Meetings. Nobody said Masonry has to be boring. In fact, **we** are looking to emphasize the quality of work, while bringing a little bit of fun into the Lodge meetings. If you are curious as to what I might be up to.....don't miss a meeting this year...we are thinking Table Lodge.

I am honored to have served in line with a great bunch of men, both in the past, and now. These men have helped round me into a better person; a key “secret” to our fraternity. I am blessed to have been raised, and gone through the chairs, with Wardo too! **Mike Ward, Kevin Conn** and I have been working in the shadows for the past few months trying to put together a team that will represent the Lodge, not us, very well. **We** hope to carry **our** Lodge for the next 120 years!! Thank you for electing me!

W.: Brian Byrd

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WORDS FROM THE WEST



Greetings from the West! I look forward to serving the Lodge and Brethren of Albert Pike as the Senior Warden for 2015. I would like to begin the year by saying how great it is to be a part of a lodge that generously gives, that gives of it's Time, Knowledge, and even Monetary Donations to multiple worthy events. Each year I look forward to Teacher of the Year Presentation, reading all the essays for the Grand Lodge Essay Contest, and truly wish I could make the Venture House every time, but time is not always kind. These are all worthy charitable events and deserve our full attention as a Lodge. If you have not taken part in one of these events over the years and would like to, get with one of the Lodge Officers or contact the Lodge Office and volunteer to help. There is always space for more assistance from the brethren and their families.

Robert Farley- a poet, in his works says: *“Charity is a blessing- a chance to serve others. Think of the service you may render, not of serving self alone, think of happiness of others and in this you will find your own!”*

As we move forward in 2015, I know I have stated this before, but we need to be even more visible in our community and with the youth. We need to make every effort to be supportive of our Youth Organizations, so I again this year challenge each of you to attend at least 1 Masonic Youth Function in 2015. We need to show them our support, as they are our future, not to mention it is the Brotherly thing to do. You cannot begin to understand the appreciation and gratitude they share to see the support from the Blue Lodge. Many of us have ladies who are also in Organizations tied to the Fraternity; each of those Organizations can always use our support. How can we ask them to stand behind us and support us, if we are not willing to stand behind them and offer them the same support? However Charity does not need to stop there, as previously mentioned, we need look at ways to participate more in the community and support other local charitable events. I am not saying to support them monetarily through the lodge, but with our time. We as a lodge, as Masons, should make an effort to participate in some local community events over and above what we do for Venture House or Midian Shrine, like the Leukemia, Lymphoma Society Light the Night Walk, maybe Volunteer to help with the Special Olympics, or any one of the numerous other awareness events in the Community. We need to get out there and show the world who we are as Masons!

“Charity has no substitute in Freemasonry. It has deeper roots in a freemason’s heart and certainly needs to be practiced by all masons. The solace it provides can be felt instantly with the blessings of the almighty and that unfailingly has the soothing effect on mind, body and soul.” - IMPORTANCE OF CHARITY IN FREEMASONRY by W.Bro.Vijay Kumar Gauhar.

Fraternally.....Mike Ward, SW



ATTENTION MASTER MASONS:

Keep looking, Masonic prospects are everywhere! You do not have to be a detective to search out new Masons. Don't forget to look in your family treethat is where the best prospects are hiding!

WORDS FROM THE SOUTH

Greetings from the South!

Well brothers we have completed another great year of Masonry. It has been a great drive with all the brothers working a fast paced schedule. We raised a lot of great Masons and have participated in quite a few fantastic events. I believe the upcoming year will be a unique and fun year. There are a few new ideas from the Worshipful Master that I believe will bring some enjoyment to all the Brothers. The level of camaraderie that this will bring, in my opinion, and hope will bring vibrant new life into the Lodge. I feel that the teamwork from everyone will bring all these ideas and practices into fruition and help some of the younger brothers and hopefully the older ones more involved with the lodge and degree work. I feel that the Lodge has a great support system and a wealth of knowledge of the longtime members can share with us younger ones to help make us a great lodge that anyone would be proud to belong to. We are going to work hard and hopefully play hard and make the best of the upcoming year. Make some new Brothers and get some old brothers back in the mix of it. I look forward to being a part of what I believe to be an epic year. I would like to thank you for your confidence in me to be your Junior Warden and I hope that I won't let anyone down. Hopefully we'll see you in Lodge more this year.



Regards.....Kevin Conn, JW

FROM YOUR TRUSTEES

Happy New Year to You and Your Family.

We are pleased to have closed out the 2014 budget year only 1.2% over budget. We want to thank the 2014 Master and elected officers for their leadership and assistance in helping the lodge with its budget. As of Oct. 1st we are working under the 2015 budget. The annual budget process remains challenged as membership numbers decline causing membership dues to decline. We want to thank those who have already paid their 2015 annual dues. We feel fortunate at not having a dues increase for several years and ask everyone's assistance by remitting your 2015 dues as soon as you are able. One factor that has been helping over the past couple of years is our recruitment of new members.

We feel that Albert Pike's investments are being managed and in line with our future. As our dues paying membership continues to decline we will be relying more heavily on income from these investments for operational funds. On January 28, 2015 at our Stated Communications, Mike Porter, CPA will be providing a summary of the annual audit of accounts that has been recently completed for the past fiscal year. This is a great opportunity to attend and ask any questions from the auditor that you may have. Please review the included calendar of events and plan to attend.

Thanks for continuing to support your Lodge.

Jim Ralston, PM

Russ Brown, PM

Sheldon Lawrence, PM

UGLY SWEATER THEMED MEETING (JANUARY 14th)

WISDOM FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Memorial: Michael Thomas Wilson

A shining light in the Wichita Bar and Kansas Masonry has been extinguished. On August 20, 2014, **Michael Thomas "Mike" Wilson**, died. Mike's passing was a personal loss to me. We first met at Albert Pike 303 Masonic Lodge soon after he arrived in Wichita in 2003; and we became fast friends, often having lunch together several times a week.

Mike was born on March 11, 1948, in Kansas City, Missouri. He graduated from Raytown High in 1966 and went on to earn his BA Degree from Washburn University in 1973 and his Master's Degree from Wichita State University in 1978. Prior to attending law school at Washburn University where he received his Juris Doctor Degree in 1988, Mike had a career in law enforcement in the Kansas City Metropolitan area as a patrol officer and patrol sergeant and detective and also, Chief of Police in Lake Quivera, Kansas.

After being admitted to the Bar, Mike was a public defender in Liberty, Missouri and then in 1993 and 1994, he was a pro-bono attorney in West Virginia. From 1994 to 2001, he was in private practice with Randall Hamilton in Winchester, Virginia. Mike then settled in Wichita where he officed with Phil Journey until Phil went on the District Court Bench. He later continued in private practice, focusing in CINC (Child in Need of Care) cases in the Juvenile Court.

It is often difficult to determine the full measure of a man, but certainly it can be said of Mike that he was "a man for all seasons." As a lawyer, he was a fierce advocate for his clients on one hand, but mild-mannered on the other, always more than willing to help out others in general and to listen to their problems. He had the common touch and was truly "a friend to man." Mike was a voracious reader and his interests covered many subjects, including history, politics and all things mechanical and he was a dedicated Freemason. Mike was an ardent fan of action and adventure movies and John Wayne was his favorite. He was always ready to spin a yarn and entertain his friends and associates with his never-ending humor. He always had a smile and a friendly handshake for everyone. But on the serious side, Mike was not afraid to express his opinions on politics, social issues and current events.

Over a year ago, Mike was diagnosed with cancer, but he did not wallow in self-pity. He continued to fight valiantly against all odds to survive the illness which threatened to shorten his life prematurely and he remained active until a short time before his passing.

Mike is survived by his wife, Camilla Mary, and their beloved dog, Petey. Mike and Camilla Mary celebrated their forty-fourth wedding anniversary just twelve days before Mike's death.

Even though Mike is no longer physically with us, he will always be remembered by all those who knew him for his friendship and loyalty, his dedication to the Law, his humorous stories and gregarious personality.

Fraternally.....*Gillard Cohen*

DO YOU HAVE A PROFICIENCY CARD YET?

SECRETARY'S SHOUT OUT

Two Thousand Fifteen! I want to say, "Can you believe it?" But actually, for the past few years, we have been raising more and more "younger" Masons than in a long time! In fact, to be eligible for membership, one only has to have been born in 1997 or earlier! Brethren, that fact is just a little bit harder for us "old" folks to wrap our fingers around. It seems it was just yesterday that "Y2K" was a long way in the future....then as that year got closer, there was a time of near panic as to what Y2K would do to our computer systems. There had never been another beginning digit than a "1" to record the years and would the computers realize that and switch to a "2" or would they "think" it's 1900 again?! This may seem a bit ridiculous to a lot of our newer Masons, but some day my Brothers, some day.....



Two Thousand Fifteen....I write this "Shout Out" with just a little trepidation as well as intrepidity as to what the year will bring. Trepidation (fear, trembling) because Brethren, for the first time since 1917 our membership it appears will dip under 1000! And intrepidity (brave courageous and bold!) because looking at the incoming line of officers, their enthusiasm and the enthusiasm displayed by many of the new Masons we have added to our rolls, I believe if we put our minds to it, we could have an increase in 2015 to at least push us closer to that 1000 mark once again!

This is not to say that 2014 was a bad year....IT WAS NOT!! In fact it was a very good year! We had raised 25 new Master Masons and restored and/or admitted 18 brothers for a total addition of 43!! However, the Grim Reaper has seen fit to take 41 of our Brothers as of this writing leaving us with an increase of only two for the year....It is the suspensions that will cause us to drop below 1000. Brethren, we cannot do anything about the Grim Reaper, but we can do something about the number of suspensions. Let us all resolve to make Albert Pike a lodge so active, so alive and so welcoming that NO ONE would even think about letting his membership lapse due to non-payment of dues.....especially since we as a lodge will gladly help any brother who needs help to keep himself current. If any of you are in such a position, do not let pride keep you from letting your brothers know you need help. Allow us the chance to help our brothers and therefore fulfill that part of our obligations to ourselves and to our brothers!

Thanksgiving dinner at Venture House! WOW!!! I am so proud to call myself a member of such a caring group who counts it a privilege to give of their time, money and energy to help the disadvantaged. And to a lodge which in general has proven the extant of its generosity through the gifts of the members to support both us and our affiliated bodies and our community!

Warren Rensner, Stan Howard, Mike Wilson, Jim Ralston, Bob Talbott, Merle Talbott, Russ Brown, Gillard Cohen, Doug Chartier, Brian Byrd, Mike Ward, Sheldon Lawrence, Scott Kailer, John Garrison, Dennis Roberts, Bart Ogden, Jim Craig, Tom Mason, Ross Smith, Kenneth Rupe, James Skidmore, Wilbur Bradley, William Middleton, James Edgar, Richard Finnell, John Parks, Roger Williams, Mike Rowsey, Charles Grim, William DeVore, Evan Jones, Russell Langley, David Elliott, Joseph Cook, Thomas Corson, William Duprez (who has since passed away), Roland Belcher, Charles Brown, Joe Patton, John Gracy, Tony Hale, Tim Berry, Jack Sentel, Leland Hufford, and perhaps more of our Brothers have contributed to both Albert Pike's.....

continued on page 7



ALBERT PIKE IN ACTION



Bros. Ed Day and Bart Ogden

“I promise you this, you will see a higher quality of work and more fun at Albert Pike Lodge moving forward!” -

W.: Brian Byrd



New Officers Being Installed



Bro. Austin Kitchen



Bro. Evan Andrews



Bro. Dave “The Original Wu Shock ” Johnson



Bro. Damien Cook and his kiddos!



Bro. Nick Breault and Lady Melissa



W.: Brian Byrd and Lady Hidi

THE PHOTOS ABOVE WERE CAPTURED FROM MEMBERS’ SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

NEW MASONS TO ALBERT PIKE

Rolland “Rick” Alamo

Evan Andrews

James Beasley

Brandon Bean

Charles “Joe” Beck

James Beasley

Timothy Bickerstaff

Marcus Bourquin

Nicolas Breault

James Combs

Cody Cox

Jerod Cox

William Duprez

Michael Eldringhoff

Cory Fitzgerald

Jason Fry

Estel Gibson

Arthur Gill

Shawn Herl

Darrell Jarman

Brett Jenlink

Luke Kidwell

Austin Kitchen

Orville Lanier

Todd Lassley

Jordan Layman

Austin Ledbetter

Adam Martinez

Thomas Mason

Dameon Orlando

Jeffrey Preston

Jay Ray

Aaron Roush

Phillip Shultz

John Silks

Mark Sloyer

Russ Smith

Charles Sowers

Nicklas Sullivan

Alec Trautwein

Tyler Vernon

Toby Weaver

Sean White

Robert Winters

Victor Word

** The term new Masons account for those new to the fraternity, restored or transferred into Albert Pike Lodge this calendar year.

DID YOU TOPLINE ANYONE LAST YEAR?

SECRETARY’S SHOUT OUT—cont’d

....well-being and our legacy of generosity to our “Brothers and Others”. Several family members of the above mentioned have also contributed “time, talents, dollars” as well! If I missed anyone, **please** let me know. You need to be acknowledged!

Speaking of gifts to the Lodge, I would be amiss if I did not mention those who have given the gift that keeps on giving. Recent new PPLM members include W.: **Brian Byrd** (2013) and Bro.: **Thomas A. Eddy** (2014) which brings our total number of PPLMs to 39! This is a gift that keeps on giving because even after these brothers have departed for that “House not made with hands” our Lodge perpetually continues to receive their dues!

HAPPY TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN!!!

James A. Craig, PM

ALBERT PIKE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 14, 2015 – Dinner & Stated Communication

- Dinner at 6:00 PM (Call the office at 316-269-7851 to make reservations)
- Stated Communication at 7:00 PM (**Ugly Sweater Themed**) - Masonic Education by Mike Ward

January 28, 2015 – Dinner & Stated Communication

- Dinner at 6:00 PM in the Lodge Office
- Stated Communication at 7:00 PM - Annual Audit Report by Mike Porter - Possible 2nd Degrees

February 11, 2015 – Dinner & Open Meeting (Teacher of the Year Kick Off Meeting)

- Valentine's Themed Dinner at 6:30 PM (Call the office at 316-269-7851 to make reservations)
- **OPEN Meeting at 7:30 PM** (Open to Ladies, Guests and Friends)

February 25, 2015 – Dinner & Stated Communication

- Dinner at 6:30 PM in the Lodge Office
- Stated Communication at **7:30 PM** - Masonic Education by Kevin Conn - Possible 2nd Degrees

March 11, 2015 – Dinner & Stated Communication

- Dinner at 6:00 PM (Call the office at 316-269-7851 to make reservations)
- Stated Communication at 7:00 PM - Grand Lodge Discussion - Masonic Education by Doug Chartier

March 25, 2015 – Dinner & Stated Communication

- Dinner at 6:00 PM in the Lodge Office
- Stated Communication at 7:00 PM—Possible 2nd Degrees

April 8, 2015 – Dinner & Stated Communication

- Dinner at 6:00 PM (Call the office at 316-269-7851 to make reservations)
- Stated Communication at 7:00 PM - (**Spring Break/ Luau Theme—Shorts and Spring Break related attire is requested**) - Masonic Education by John Gracy -

April 22, 2015 – Dinner & Stated Communication

- Dinner at 6:00 PM in the Lodge Office
- Stated Communication at 7:00 PM - Teacher of the Year Finishing Touches—Possible 2nd Degrees

April 24, 2015 – Teacher of the Year Program

- Teacher of the Year event will take place at 7:00 PM at the KMH Auditorium. Officers must be in dark suits or tuxedos for this event.

2015 VENTURE HOUSE PROJECT

This was our second year at the new location at 1010 N. Main. The group really likes the new location to say the least. At the Thanksgiving event, we served well over 300 meals. At the Christmas feeding, we served nearly the same amount of meals. We had a record attendance of Brothers, family and friends assisting this year. This is what we are all about, let's continue to do our part. Below is the list of names of the people that assisted between the two events. If we missed you, we apologize: **Sheldon & Cindy Lawrence, Chris Collins, Richard Steele, Whitney Steel, Nicole Baboian, Dennis Roberts, Jim Craig, Doug McNeal, Doug Chartier, Damien Cook, Tom & Jennifer Mason, Scott Kailer, Paul Gunzelman, Joe Patton, Robert Shively, Paul Ditty, Robert Winters, Tasm Suick, Sean Smith, Bob Talbott, Jim Davenport,**

Warren Rensner, Marian Beck, Rick Alamo, Dale & Linda Gibson, Doug & Earlene Bogart, Bree Colby, Tyler Clark, Brian, Hidi & Brayden Byrd, Jason Smith, Jamey & Liz Blubaugh and Jeremy Aanderud. In addition to the hours put in, we were able to donate around \$600 in food and other items and a check for \$635 to this great program. In the photo to the left, you will see Worshipful Brothers Craig and Lawrence presenting the check for \$635 to **Caroline Leahy** (Development & Volunteer Coordinator) and **Jennifer Wise** (Development & Volunteer Director). This was enable by the program that the Kansas Masonic Foundation has in place. Again, this is what we are all about.



W.: Craig, Caroline Leahy, Jennifer Wise & W.: Lawrence



Many Brothers hard at work in the kitchen



The Masons (real last name) working together



Brothers Collins & Gunzelman



Your Past Masters serving it up year after year



2015 ALBERT PIKE COMMITTEES

H. Gene Payne Outing—Doug Chartier (Chair), Chris Collins and EVERYONE ELSE.

Charity—Gillard Cohen (Chair), W.: Brian Byrd, & Mike Ward.

Essay Contest—John Gracy (Chair), W.: Brian Byrd & Mike Ward.

Finance—W.: Jim Ralston (Chair), W.: Russ Brown, W.: Warren Rensner, W.: Sheldon Lawrence & W.: Brian Byrd.

Masonic Education—Joe Beck (Chair), W.: Jim Craig, and W.: Brian Byrd.

Masonic Foundation—W.: Warren Rensner (Chair), W.: Stan Howard, and Ron Capps.

Masonic Home—W.: Warren Rensner (Chair), W.: Jim Ralston, W.: Brian Byrd and Robert Roswurm.

Membership—Doug Chartier (Chair), Chris Collins, and EVERYONE ELSE.

Necrology—W.: Jim Craig (Chair), W.: Jim Ralston, W.: Scott Kailer, and Kevin Conn.

Past Masters—W.: Dennis Roberts (Chair), W.: Stan Howard and W.: Paul Ditty.

Publicity & Communications—W.: Brian Byrd (Chair), W.: Sheldon Lawrence, W.: Dennis Roberts and Doug Chartier.

Public Schools—Mike Ward (Chair), W.: Sheldon Lawrence, W.: Stan Howard, Cole Robinson and Joe Beck.

Ritualistic—W.: Brian Byrd (Chair), W.: Jim Craig, , Mike Ward and Kevin Conn.

Social Media—W.: Brian Byrd and Doug Chartier (Co-Chairs)

Investigations—RW.: Roger Snellen (Chair) and EVERYONE ELSE.



B CARD Practice—Mondays at 6:00 PM

A CARD & Floor Work Practice—Thursdays 7:00—9:00 PM

Call Jim Craig for more information: 316-942-2956

NEW LINE OFFICERS—2015



Dr. Joe Beck



Chris Collins



Rick Alamo

These newly appointed Brothers will prove to be the life blood of our Lodge. They are highly dedicated and motivated men who are onboard to improve the quality of work and fun at your Lodge. Introduce yourself to them; you will not be disappointed.

2014 ALBERT PIKE TOP LINERS

Jason Baze	Nico Dominguez (2)	Jim Ralston
Brian Byrd (7)	Tom Fretes	Warren Rensner (2)
Doug Chartier (5)	Dale Gibson	Cole Robinson
Kevin Conn (2)	Mike Latimer	Robert Roswurm
Damien Cook	Sheldon Lawrence (2)	Lynn Ungles
Jim Craig (3)	Bruce Lemaire	Floyd Walpole
Jim Davenport	John Matthews	Mike Ward (2)
Paul Ditty	L.G. Menefee	
Dave Dolieslager (2)	Jon McConnell	



2014 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Beginning Membership January 1, 2014	1016
Master Masons Raised	25
Restorations	17
Suspensions	33
Demits	06
Deaths	45
Expulsions	01
Other	05
Membership January 1, 2015	975

AREA MASONIC ACTIVITIES

Jan 10—Ed Day's Farewell Party @ Midian (7:00 PM)	Feb 15—Circus @ Hartman (11AM & 4:00 PM)
Jan 24—Midian Shrine Public Installation @ WSR	April 4—Children's Easter Party @ Osage Park (9 AM)
Jan 31—Launch Party @ Midian (9:00 AM)	April 18—Potentate's Ball @ Airport Doubletree
Feb 13—Circus @ Hartman (11 AM & 7:00 PM)	May 1—Pre-Glow @ Midian (6:00 PM)
Feb 14—Circus @ Hartman (10AM, 2:30 PM & 7:30 PM)	May 2—Spring Shrine Ceremonial Day (All day event)

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

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Wichita, Kansas 67213-5542

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ALBERT PIKE OFFICERS (2015)



Worshipful Master
Brian Byrd

- Mike Ward.....Senior Warden
- Kevin Conn.....Junior Warden
- W.: Warren “Doc” Rensner, PM.....Treasurer
- W.: James A Craig, PM.....Secretary
- Gillard Cohen.....Chaplain
- Doug Chartier.....Senior Deacon
- John Gracy.....Junior Deacon
- Dr. Joe Beck.....Senior Steward
- Chris Collins.....Junior Steward
- Roland “Rick” Alamo.....Tyler
- W.: Jim Ralston, PM.....Senior Trustee
- W.: Russ Brown, PM.....Trustee
- W.: Sheldon Lawrence, PM.....Trustee