



# NORTH DAKOTA MASON



GRAND LODGE OF NORTH DAKOTA NEWSLETTER

December 2021

## Grand Master's Message



### IF YOU DON'T, WHO WILL??

*I'm reprinting this article that I wrote when I was the Junior Grand Warden. It's not out of laziness, but because it still sends a message, and many haven't read it yet. The message I've tried to push this year was to get back into what separates us from civic groups. So, as you read this, ask yourself "If I don't keep our ritual alive, WHO WILL?"*

In 2000, I started my career with the North Dakota Highway Patrol after my discharge from the U.S. Marines. I attended a 24 week academy and was assigned Crosby as my first post. When I got to Crosby, I began a long 8 week field training process. In this process, I had a 25 year veteran sergeant ride next to me in the passenger seat. For those 8 long weeks, I was quizzed, questioned, second guessed, and critiqued. We had nothing in common, other than the Colonel that signed our checks. During one very boring night on patrol, I met a vehicle that had a headlight out. I continued driving, because for all in tense of purposes, it was just a headlight and we only give warnings for those. Not like, it was a serious crime. My sergeant looked at me and asked why I hadn't stopped that vehicle. I gave him my answer. What I heard next, was something I have applied in my life for the last 18 years. He had asked, "IF YOU DON'T, WHO WILL?" He was right. If everyone had the attitude that I held that night, no one would every stop that simple headlight. No one would let that

driver know that they had a headlight out, as they probably did not even know. No one would possibly find that they were actually impaired and minutes away from killing an innocent family. Or was that driver transporting a human trafficked victim?

I have used that simple question that I was asked 18 years ago, in everything I do in life. Whether it be at work, home, or in lodge. I recently have spent a large number of volunteer hours working on our lodge building doing drywall and other repairs. My wife asked me why, and I quickly responded, "if I don't, who will?"

The other day I heard a brother say that he hasn't attended lodge recently, because no one was showing up. Well, if we all had that mindset, no one would ever show up. If I don't attend lodge, who will? When we sit in lodge watching the most beautiful apron or G lecture given by an eighty year old mason by memory, shouldn't we ponder that we will need to replace him some day? Age and memorization do not tend to go together. If I don't attempt to learn a lecture, who will? Ah, someone else will volunteer to work concessions at the Shrine circus. Yet again, if we all think that, no one will show up and the services that we provide will disappear.

We are all family members and co-workers in the world's greatest quarry, continuously building our symbolic temples. Just try to ask yourself these questions:

If I don't attend lodge, who will?  
If I don't attend the annual communication, who will?  
If I don't learn a lecture for degree work, who will?  
If I don't help at a Shrine circus, who will?  
If I don't volunteer at the lodge with maintenance and upkeep, who will?  
If I don't help flip pancakes at a scholarship fundraiser, who will?  
If I don't seek out worthy men to become brothers, who will?  
If I don't live by my masonic obligations, who will?

We can't do all of these things without something being neglected in return, like family or employment. However, we all can try to ask ourselves that question and find a happy balance.

Fraternally ~ Danny



[www.ndmasons.com](http://www.ndmasons.com)



## Deputy Grand Master ~~ RW Rick Wightman

“Making Good Men Better”, just what does that really mean? In fact, isn’t “Good” a subjective term? The short answer to the second question is of course it is. Most men judge themselves more harshly than those around them might. The truth of the matter is that every man knows his own heart, or should. A man’s heart can’t be judged by anyone else. The only exception to that rule would be by his deeds. Is he kind (are you)? Is he generous with his time and resources (are you)? Does he reserve judgement of others deeds until he understands the “why” of their action (do you)? Does he listen to all sides before acting (do you)? Is he miserly with his praise and encouragement (are you)? Does he seem to have his priorities in order (do you)? Has he ever.....? Have you ever.....?

In our quest for making good men better through Free Masonry, let’s not lose sight of the fact that we are all working to make ourselves better men too. Brothers, we are a work in process. As humans, we are inherently flawed. We are truly the rough ashlar and our mission in this life is to continuously work on smoothing our edges, leveling our surfaces, squaring our corners and bringing our vertical edges plumb.

Brothers, in my mind, the good men we are making better are ourselves. With our states lodges back open for brotherhood and fellowship, let’s all focus our energy on those activities that exercise our hearts and minds. Community. Charity. Brotherly love.

Stay safe and continue to look after one another.



## Senior Grand Warden ~~ RW Chad Kainz

Even though we have one of the smallest jurisdictions in terms of brother masons, we are not alone in the problems of lodges merging; turning in their charters; or getting members to return to lodge as we come out of the Covid pandemic. As I recently attended the North American Conference of Grand Masters, I heard many conversations stressing the following questions:

What value does masonry have in your life? How relevant is masonry for our newly made brothers or even our brothers that have been masons for years? How do we spark the light into brothers that haven’t been to lodge in sometime?

As I think about these questions, I reflect on my journey as a mason. We all have our story of a brother that sparked our interest into the craft and mentored us as we tried to understand the ritual and symbolic teachings early in our masonic youth. I know with over twenty years as a mason, I am still learning more light in masonry. When I became a mason, I remember all the times I visited with my uncles as they went through the cipher book with me. As they each explained the cipher book I began to realize they were teaching me more about masonry than those letters. I cherish those moments and conversations with my uncles.

Making masonry relevant not only to our new brothers, but keeping masonry alive and relevant to all brothers in our lodges is a challenge to us all. We need to have conversations with our newer masons of what they value and get an understanding of their expectations on how they see themselves as a mason. Some brothers may not know what those expectations are or what they want out of masonry. That is perfectly fine because we masonry means something different for all brothers. We need to open up and ask those questions. Some brothers may feel those conversations may not be easy, but we need to have those discussions. I feel it can only strengthen our lodges.

I know this isn’t a new idea, but I believe if our lodges ask brothers to be mentors to provide guidance, confidence, and knowledge of masonry to our newly made masons, we will retain more quality brothers. Will you be a mentor like my uncles and have an impact on a new brother? Will you be the trowel that spreads the cement of brotherly love?



## Junior Grand Warden ~~ RW Darrin Galde

Greeting from the South,

Old man winter is on the way out and Spring is just around the corner. Spring brings us more sunlight and it is also the time when our lodges bring us more Masonic light through degree work. The combination of a tough winter and COVID restraints have left many of our Brothers craving more Masonic light. We can all help impart more Masonic light. I challenge you to rededicate yourself to the craft and make the effort to get to lodge. Give that Brother that lives down the road a call and volunteer to drive him to the next lodge meeting. I often hear my inner voice saying “*why venture out on this cold and stormy night to attend lodge. You’ve seen the degree dozens of times and it doesn’t change*”. Well, my response is I need the light that Masonry brings. That light is seeing my Brothers meeting and performing a degree work. More Masonic light can be as simple as having a lodge meal with Brothers or just being on the sidelines during a lodge meeting. I am often asked by non-Masons why do you pay dues and give up nights and weekends to attend lodge functions? My response is that many of the best men I know are because of our common Masonic ties. I am a better man for being a Mason. I challenge all of you to increase the Masonic light in your life, you will be a better man for it.





## Grand Secretary Musings

### MW Lon Kvasager, PGM

I am going to shoot around the target...

We have watched the pandemic clutch the world in its grip the last two years, all of us effected in many ways. Many Covid restrictions are easing around the globe, however the pandemic is still affecting every one of us and most likely will continue into the future with possibly no end. It has changed how we conduct our business, how we relate to each other and how we just

plain survive.

If you haven't read the Grand Master's and Deputy Grand Master's articles, STOP NOW. Please read them first. Their comments dovetail perfectly into the meaning of my thoughts.

In my last article I spoke about "Masonic Reset". How many of you have looked into the opportunity to do that? That being the case, we cannot just wait around for someone else to do it for us, each of us can and should seize the moment. Remember - "If it is meant to be, it is up to me"

Freemasonry - "Making good men better" "If you don't, who will?"

One last thought... None of this is new thinking, but thoughts to contemplate when looking at the man in the mirror.

Yours in Masonry,  
Lon W. Kvasager, Grand Secretary

## NORTH DAKOTA LODGE HAPPENINGS



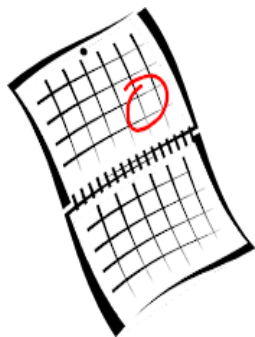
Grand Master Daniel Haugen visits with Past Master Orville Mjelstad of Fort Union Lodge No. 128 after the meeting



Grand Master Daniel Haugen presented Winton Wold, PM with his Mason of the Year Certificate for 2021.



Grand Master Daniel Haugen presenting Fort Union's newest Past Master C.J. Thome with his PM Certificate and Pin.



### SAVE THE DATE:

- June 16: Annual Communication Golf Tournament ~ 1:00pm ~ Place to be announced in the next issue
- June 17: Quarterly Meetings—Mandan ND
- June 18: Annual Communication Session—Baymont Inn Mandan ND
- June 20-27: Grand Lodge Office Closed



133rd Annual Communication  
Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of North Dakota  
Tentative Schedule



**\*\* Baymont Inn, 2611 Old Red Trail, Mandan, ND \*\***

*Thursday, June 16, 2022*

*1:00 p.m. Grand Master's 4 Man Golf Scramble*

*5:30 p.m. Grand Master's Picnic for Grand Lodge Officers and PGM*

*Friday, June 17, 2022 (Baymont Inn)*

*Registration 8:00 a.m. 12:00 & 1:00-4:00p.m. - Hotel Lobby*

*8:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. - Elected Committee Meetings*

*(P&GP, Finance, Foundation)*

*12:00 p.m. - Jurisprudence Lunch & Meeting*

*1:30 p.m. - Masonic College*

*4:00 p.m. - Memorial Service*

*5:30 p.m. - Social*

*6:30 p.m. - Grand Master's All Masonic Banquet - Baymont Inn*

*Saturday, June 18, 2022 (Baymont Inn)*

*8:00 a.m. - 11:30 Registration - Hotel Lobby*

*9:00 a.m. - Formal Opening of Grand Lodge and Business*

*12:00 p.m. - Ladies Luncheon*

*12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Men's Noon Luncheon*

*1:00 p.m. - Grand Lodge Business*

*4:30 p.m. - Installation of 2022-2023 Grand Lodge Officers*

*\*\* Mandan Masonic Center - 1705 Sunset Dr., Mandan*

*5:00 p.m. - Pictures of 2022-2023 Grand Line Officers*

*6:00 p.m. - Social*

*6:30 p.m. - Grand Master Elect Banquet - Baymont Inn*

**Candidates for the Junior Grand Warden Position for the 133rd Annual Communication**



Monyatta Watford  
Mount Moriah Lodge No. 51  
Williston ND



Jeff Nelson  
Bismarck Lodge No. 5  
Bismarck ND



Fred Kitko  
Malta Lodge No. 131  
Grand Forks ND



Candidates for the 3 Committees of the Grand Lodge & ND Masonic Foundation

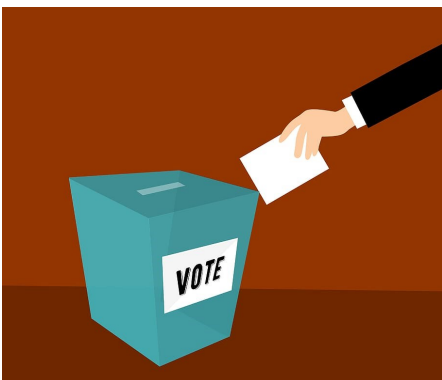


Tyler Hall  
Mandan Lodge No. 8  
Mandan ND

Policy & General Purposes Committee (P&GP)

2 Candidates 1 Position

5 Year Term



Colin Helfenstein  
Shiloh Lodge No. 1  
Fargo ND



Gerald Rekow  
Ellendale Lodge No. 13  
Ellendale ND

Finance Committee

2 Candidates 1 Position

5 Year Term



Bruce Krabseth  
Mount Moriah Lodge No. 51  
Alamo ND

ND Masonic Foundation Committee

3 Candidates 1 Position

5 Year Term



Merle Halvorson  
Mount Moriah Lodge No. 51  
Williston ND



Major General (Ret) Michael Haugen  
Shiloh Lodge No. 1  
Fargo ND



Steve Belcher  
Star in the West Lodge No. 33  
Minot ND

Contact us at:

Grand Lodge of North Dakota  
201 14th Ave N  
Fargo ND 58102  
701-235-8321  
grandlodge@nd-masons.com



*Gone But Not Forgotten*  
*Grand Lodge AF & AM of North Dakota*

<i>Robert L. Johnson</i>	<i>Rugby 65</i>	<i>November 10, 2021</i>	<i>Gordon F. Kartenson</i>	<i>Shiloh 1</i>	<i>November 22, 2021</i>
<i>Robert W. Robuson</i>	<i>Bismarck 5</i>	<i>November 23, 2021</i>	<i>Gordon L. Cannon</i>	<i>Sunrise 130</i>	<i>November 29, 2021</i>
<i>Tony E. Telken, PGM</i>	<i>Malta 131</i>	<i>December 4, 2021</i>	<i>Arthur S. Stavens</i>	<i>ND Member at Large 357</i>	<i>December 10, 2021</i>
<i>Charon K.P. Johnson</i>	<i>Welcome 54</i>	<i>December 13, 2021</i>	<i>C. William Kingsbury</i>	<i>Crescent 11</i>	<i>December 16, 2021</i>
<i>C. Byron Pedersen</i>	<i>Northern Mayflower 45</i>	<i>December 17, 2021</i>	<i>Patrick R. Endres</i>	<i>Malta 131</i>	<i>December 19, 2021</i>
<i>Maurice A. Geerdes</i>	<i>Mandan 8</i>	<i>December 30, 2021</i>	<i>Bradley P. Charnholm</i>	<i>Mandan 8</i>	<i>December 31, 2021</i>
<i>Larry A. Lee</i>	<i>Portal 84</i>	<i>January 15, 2022</i>	<i>Mark L. Peterson</i>	<i>Portal 84</i>	<i>January 24, 2022</i>
<i>Bernard Nelson</i>	<i>Star in the West 33</i>	<i>February 13, 2022</i>	<i>Arnold Nupen</i>	<i>Killdeer 112</i>	<i>February 25, 2022</i>
<i>Paul T. Ferrer</i>	<i>Star in the West 33</i>	<i>February 26, 2022</i>	<i>W. Gordon Erickson</i>	<i>East Gate 120</i>	<i>February 28, 2022</i>
<i>Duaine E. Flanders</i>	<i>Lebanon 34</i>	<i>March 6, 2022</i>	<i>Gary O. Bergstrom</i>	<i>Northern Mayflower 45</i>	<i>March 27, 2022</i>
	<i>Herbert A. Seaver</i>	<i>North Star 16</i>	<i>April 1, 2022</i>		

Grand Lodge AF & AM North Dakota  
201 14th Ave North  
Fargo, ND 58102

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED