

FROM THE EAST - WORSHIPFUL MASTER ROSS J. DECENT

Brethren,

Welcome to the start of a new masonic year at Euclid Lodge No. 65. I hope you are all looking forward to this new chapter in our history as much as I am.

I think that everyone enjoyed the installation ritual – I know I certainly did!

Now it is down to hard work for me and every member of the team.

There are two topics I'd like to talk to you about this month, one is my masonic journey, the other is my plan for the masonic year ahead.

My father was a mason. He was the 47th master of Chalkwell Lodge no. 6738 in Southend on Sea, England. Those of you who attended our installation on November 12th will have seen I wore the pin he received at his 1996 instillation. He always wanted me to follow in his masonic footsteps, but at that time I was busy raising a young family and didn't think I had the time. Some years later my brother Craig, who had become a mason in my father's lodge, was involved in a near death boating accident which resulted in him losing an eye. I saw first-hand the help he and his family received from his lodge and that had an impact upon me.

When my father passed, I found out from my brother that my father, who was a London taxi driver, learnt the ritual while sitting on the rank waiting for fares, deriving so much pleasure from an otherwise unproductive time. Very soon after that I was invited by my cousin to join his lodge. I knew the time was right. This was my opportunity to give back in appreciation for the financial support my brother had received and the fraternal respect my father had earned and so, in 2004 I

became a Master Mason at Vaudeville Lodge No. 5592 in London.

Freemasonry became an important part of my life and when we moved to Naperville in 2007 I knew there were two organizations with which I needed to become involved. One was Congregation Beth Shalom (a local Jewish Temple) and the other was Euclid Lodge. I decided I wanted to become an active member of this lodge and became a part of the team, rising up through the ranks and now I am so proud to be your worshipful master. Now for the year ahead. As you all know, masonry is founded on three principle moral virtues – faith, hope and charity. All three are important to me and will be my compass through the coming year. As you know I'm a person of faith. At my installation I swore an oath on a family Hebrew bible which is almost 100 years old.

Recently I attended the 178th Grand Lodge Communication in Springfield where Euclid Lodge received a certificate of achievement in the Grand Master's Award of Excellence. At that same event Hinsdale Lodge received the Lodge of the Year award, having obtained the highest score in the Grand Master's Award of Excellence. This coming year I would like Euclid Lodge to be the next recipient of the Grand Master's Award of Excellence Lodge of the Year. It will take a lot of work but I know we can do it. The most important principle is charity. This year I am concentrating on two local charities. The first is Rally for Ryan. Ryan is a 15-year-old Naperville boy with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. His family have raised more than a million dollars for research in the past ten years. The second is Feed My Starving Children. Both charities have

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FROM THE EAST

very different needs, although they both help children. Rally for Ryan needs financial donations to increase the research funds.

Feed My Starving Children, although they also need money, have a need for volunteers, and I will be arranging several visits to their facility throughout the year to help package food for starving children in third world countries.

My final hopes for the year are these. I'd like to increase our numbers and to that end I'm challenging each brother to bring in one new member this year. That, together with increased masonic education for all members should help us to achieve my third and most important goal - by this time next year we will be the best lodge within the State of Illinois.

This coming month we have a few events lined up.

The Salvation Army Bell Ringing will take place on December 2nd in front of Casey's Foods and Trader Joe's in the Naper Plaza Shopping Center.

The Annual Children's Holiday Party will be held on December 16th starting at 1:30pm.

Chezaday the Magician will be performing and Santa Claus will distribute gifts to all the children 12 years and under.

I am also in the process of arranging a visit to Congregation Beth Shalom on Friday December 29th for Saint John the Evangelist Day.

I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

Fraternally,
WB Ross Decent

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

On Sunday, November 12, 2017, Euclid Lodge held their annual installation of officers. They are:

Worshipful Master: Ross J. Decent
 Senior Warden: Mark R. Hopf
 Junior Warden: George C. Murray
 Treasurer: Brandon A. Zears PM
 Secretary: Timothy J. Ory PM
 Chaplain: Charles E. Macyunas PM
 Senior Deacon: Paul A. Felstrup
 Junior Deacon: Bryan M. Newson
 Senior Steward: Walter Hemphill Jr.
 Junior Steward: Monty C. Jackson
 Marshal: Dana R. Armitage
 Tyler: Joseph A. Ingraffia PM
 Musician: David S. Moore

DEGREE WORK

Our new Worshipful Master Ross Decent has started out his year in the East by doing a great job in obligating three candidates on the Entered Apprentice degree on Tuesday, November 21. We welcome our new Brothers, Ivan Velazquez, Stephen Mendola and Jurie Victor.

Junior Warden George Murray and his able assistants, Senior and Junior Stewards Walter Hemphill Jr. and Monty Jackson provided a delicious Thanksgiving dinner for the attendees prior to the degree.

Thank you Brothers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, December 2, 2017 we will be ringing the bells for the Salvation Army. As of this writing, Brother Hopf was looking for a few more volunteers.

Saturday, December 16, 2017 we will be holding our annual Christmas party.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

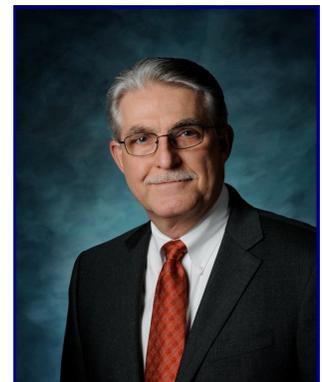
Chad M. Gibbons	Dec 6
Roy S. Pederson	Dec 11
John A. Cressman	Dec 12

Elden P. Laffoon Sr.	Dec 13
Kenneth R. Koranda	Dec 14
Mason C. Wright Jr.	Dec 14
Michael A. Sanchez	Dec 15
Frank J. Cabrera II	Dec 17
Kevin E. Bennet	Dec 22
Jason J. Jeffers	Dec 22
Ivan Velazquez	Dec 22
Albin R. Anderson Jr.	Dec 23
Don J. Cowart	Dec 26
Adam B. Carlson	Dec 28
Alexander W. Mitchell	Dec 29
Floyd H. Sullens	Dec 29
John F. Prescott	Dec 31

DECEMBER RAISING DATES

Thomas W. Welsh	Dec 9 (11)
Leo B. Wilcher	Dec 9 (11)
Steven J. Venditti	Dec 9 (11)
Michael D. Wells	Dec 9 (11)
Mark C. Mortimer	Dec 9 (11)
Kyle K. Baker	Dec 9 (11)
Mason C. Wright Jr.	Dec 9 (11)
Brandon A Zears	Dec 15 (8)
Patrick L. Temesvary	Dec 15 (8)
Alexander W. Mitchell	Dec 18 (33)
Frederick E. Huntington	Dec 21 (69)

There is nothing further on the Secretary's table, Worshipful..





Past High Priest Highlight Theodore Jacob Steffes 1926-1927

STEFFES, Theodore Jacob was born June 4, 1876 in Aurora, Kane County, Illinois the son of Jacob Steffes and Mary Reuland. He married Mary Lies June 12, 1900 in Kane County, IL and they were the parents of three children, Theodore Jacob Jr., Francis Aloysius and Bernard Jacob. He was a plumber and plumbing contractor. He was raised a Master Ma-

son June 15, 1916. He was exalted a Royal Arch Mason September 21, 1916 and served as High Priest of the Chapter in 1926 and 1927. He was also a member of Aurora Commandery No. 22 and the Tebala Shrine. He died January 31, 1959 in Aurora, Kane County, Illinois and was buried in the Lake Street Memorial Park Cemetery, Elgin, Illinois.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing

The Lodge will be ringing the bells for the Salvation Army again this year. Locations are Casey's Foods and Trader Joe's in the Naper Plaza Shopping Center, Washington

Street and Gartner Road. Volunteers are needed for two hour shifts starting at 9:00 a.m. and finishing at 5:00 p.m. Contact Bro. Mark Hopf to sign up.

Mark Hopf:
prismark@yahoo.com



Christmas Party

The Euclid Lodge Christmas Party will be held Saturday, December 16, 1 to 4:430 p.m. at the lodge. Please contact Bro. Mark

Hopf with the names and ages of those you would like to receive a present. Limited to family of members, ages 0 to 12.

Mark Hopf:
prismark@yahoo.com

Annual Installation of Officers

The annual installation of officers was held on Sunday, November 12 at 2:30 p.m. The Installing officers were:
Master - Floyd Sullens

Chaplain - Steve Rosen-sweig
Secretary - Neville Diamond
Senior Deacon - Vaneet Kapoor
Marshal - Don Cowart

Our new Worshipful Master was pleased to have a large group of friends attend. Photos on pages 4 and 5.

COMMITTEES & ACTIVITIES

FINANCE

Ross Decent, Mark Hopf, George Murray

SICKNESS & DISTRESS

Mark Hopf

REFRESHMENTS

George Murray, Walter Hemphill Jr, Monty Jackson

BY-LAWS

Don Cowart

COMMUNICATION

Timothy Ory

EQUIPMENT & REGALIA

Mark Hopf

MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

George Murray, Walter Hemphill, David Moore

ENTERTAINMENT

John Will

ILCHIP

Samuel Derr

ACADEMIC BOWL

George Murray, Mike Lochtefeld

EDUCATION/FURTHER LIGHT

Don Cowart, David Moore

LIBRARY

Brandon Zears, James Simpson Jr.

TABLE LODGE

Michael Ault

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Paul Felstrup, Mike Lochtefeld

PAST MASTERS DINNER

Don Cowart

BLOOD DRIVE

Monty Jackson

NAPER BLVD CLEANUP

Scott Schmied

COMMUNITY DAYS

Paul Felstrup



INSTALLED OFFICERS



INSTALLING OFFICERS

FRIENDS



Euclid Lodge No. 65 Officers 2017—2018



WM ROSS J. DECENT



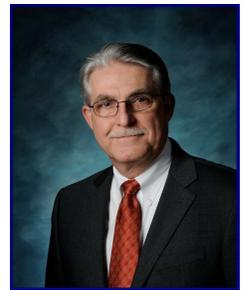
SW MARK R. HOPF



JW GEORGE C. MURRAY



TR BRANDON A. ZEARS



SEC TIMOTHY J. ORY



CH CHARLES E. MACYUNAS



SD PAUL A. FELSTRUP



JD BRYAN M. NEWSON



SS WALTER HEMPHILL JR



JS MONTY C. JACKSON



MA DANA R. ARMITAGE



TY JOSEPH A. INGRAFFIA



MUS DAVID S. MOORE



WHAT CAME YOU HERE SEEKING?

During the course of my Masonic travels, attending the Conference of Grand Masters, and other Grand Lodge communications, there are three topics that dominate most discussions: Guarding the West Gate, providing a worthwhile experience to the new Mason, and membership retention. Several committees have studied these topics and have made reports. Breakout sessions have addressed them. It is obvious that these are areas of universal concern. We have enjoyed discussions on: the differences of generations, the effect of technology, and what new brothers are looking for. In the end, membership retention appears to be our largest problem. We have asked ourselves, “What are new Brothers seeking?” and, “How do we hold their interest?” All these issues are as relevant in Alaska, as they are in any other jurisdiction.

Leadership is “a process of influencing people to accomplish the mission, inspiring their commitment and improving the organization.” As Masons we have the opportunity to be leaders, and to develop leadership in ourselves and among others. Leadership is about character, about who you are as a person and as a Mason. Few of us are destined to be leaders like our Founding Fathers, but by the example of who we are, we do inspire others. Leaders are individual who you have looked up to, or tried to emulate by their example. Our new Brothers are looking to all of us to be the example and to be leaders. The first order of business of any Masonic leader is to promote peace and harmony among the Brothers, and that duty is incumbent upon all of us! You can be a leader by example and you can promote civility within your lodge and in your community.

Guard the West Gate

Attract and inspire quality men to join our Craft. We should be less concerned with numbers and more with quality. We make good men better! We need to be faithful to our trust; we should only recommend those to participate in our privileges who we have a strong reason to believe that, by a similar fidelity, he will reflect honor on our Ancient Craft. Many jurisdictions, including our own, have adopted the “Six steps to Initiation” program in some form and extent. I have

encouraged our lodges to adopt this program in a form that best fits their unique circumstances. Get to know a prospective candidate. Invite him to lodge meals and activities, and get to know him and his family. Require him to demonstrate, in some form, a commitment to learn the work. Ask him to memorize a short paragraph or two, or write a short paper on a subject he is knowledgeable. Or perhaps, have him read something monitorial and then write a summary of what it means to him. These things will only whet his interest and feed his appetite. This may take six months or longer, however the candidate now has made an investment; he has demonstrated interest and commitment, and has a better understanding of what we expect of him. Also, you have had time to get to know him. When you sign his petition, you will have strong reasons for doing so, and you will be upholding your obligations when you recommend him.

Provide a Worthwhile Experience

Many Lodges have taken steps to make their meetings less tedious and more meaningful. Business meetings across all organizations are necessary, but are often dull. Delegating issues to appropriate committees and having them bring reports and recommendations before the Lodge is good leadership and shortens discussion concerning the more tedious business of the Lodge. Committees not only can make Lodge meetings more efficient, but involve the Brothers. This provides another means of inclusion and involvement. Additionally, these are opportunities to begin developing leadership within Lodges.

In all meetings, the Master should uphold proper Masonic decorum and protocol. That said, good and meaningful ritual work demonstrates pride, is inspirational to the new Brother, and inspires all the Brothers to contribute to good work. Lodges that provide some form of education at their meetings attract more Brothers. Moreover, having informal gatherings, either in the dining hall, someone’s home, or elsewhere, is an opportunity for educational discussions and are equally important to fellowship and inclusion. There should always be time for fellowship either before or after all meetings.

What Came You Here to Do?

Or, what came you here seeking? Ah, now there is the question! What is our new Brother seeking? What do we all seek in our Masonic experience? When you submitted your petition did you know then and do you know now what you were seeking? Think about that! These are serious questions worthy of some contemplation. And now when we go to Lodge what do we seek? I venture you have never given much thought to these questions, but it might be useful to determine the answers. So, let me put still more questions before you: Do you enjoy watching the news? How do you feel about all of the controversy? Do you appreciate all the contention and negativism in social media? If you answered that you are bothered or distressed by this negativism, what came you to Lodge seeking? I propose that you came seeking “Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love,” and that you came seeking fellowship, peace and harmony. Moreover, I suggest our new Brothers came seeking that same brotherly love and affection. They come seeking a refuge from the profane world with all its conflict, dissention, and negativism. Yet, we, being human, have allowed the ills of our society to creep into our “Sacred Retreats.”

My Brothers, I believe we can do more for membership retention and attracting good men by being leaders in respect and civility and by refusing to take part in the contention and conflict that has infected our society. Be strong. Live by your convictions. Live by your obligations as a Mason. Be civil and respectful to all! Society needs relief from the distress of our contentious world; our Lodges need to be sanctuaries. We need to be leaders, and we need to be a positive influence in civility and respect!

Be leaders, and do good unto all!

Most Worshipful Brother John K. Bishop
Grand Lodge of Alaska



December 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2 <i>Salvation Army Bell Ringing</i>
3	4 <i>Officer Ritual Practice 7:00 p.m.</i>	5 <i>Euclid Lodge Stated Mtg. 7:30 p.m.</i>	6 <i>Trinity Commandery Mtg.</i>	7	8	9
10	11	12 <i>Euclid Chapter 13 & Adoniram Council Mtgs. HANUKKAH BEGINS</i>	13	14	15	16 <i>Euclid Christmas Party</i>
17	18 <i>Officer Ritual Practice 7:00 p.m.</i>	19 <i>Euclid Lodge Special Mtg. 7:30 p.m.</i>	20 <i>Trinity Commandery Mtg. HANUKKAH ENDS</i>	21	22	23
24/31	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29	30

**EUCLID LODGE NO. 65 A.F. & A.M.
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630-355-0280
NAPERVILLEMASONIC.ORG
1st & 3rd TUESDAY



TRESTLEBOARD

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The All-Seeing Eye and the U.S. \$1 Bill

If you saw the movie National Treasure, you know all about this one. The back of the U.S. \$1 bill contains Masonic imagery of the All-Seeing Eye over an Egyptian pyramid. And everyone knows that's a Masonic symbol, right? Well, not really. The eye and the pyramid are actually part of the Great Seal of the United States, which was put on the back of the \$1 bill in 1935. There is indeed an All-Seeing Eye floating over an unfinished pyramid, with the words ANNUIT COEPTIS (Latin meaning, "He [God] has fa-

vored our undertakings"). Beneath it are the words, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, which translates as "A new order of the ages." It does not mean "a new world order," as has been alleged. (New World Order would be written as NOVUS ORDO MUNDI).

A Committee of four men, including Benjamin Franklin, designed the Great Seal of the United States in 1776. The image of the eye within a triangle to represent God was suggested by the only artist among them, Pierre du Simitiere, who was not a

Freemason. The design was tinkered with by two other committees before being approved. The unfinished pyramid was suggested by Francis Hopkinson (another non-Mason), and none of the final designers was a Mason. The eye within a triangle to represent God appears throughout the Renaissance, long before the advent of speculative Freemasonry. The triangle being three-sided represents the Christian belief in the Trinity of God - Father, Son, Holy Spirit. No records associate Freemasonry with the symbol be-

fore 1797. The unfinished pyramid represents the strong, new nation of the United States, destined to stand for centuries, just as the pyramids have stood in Egypt. There are 13 rows of stones, representing the 13 original colonies, with the image of God watching over them. Many Masonic lodges, especially in Europe, display the All-Seeing Eye just as it is used on the \$1 bill, as a non-denominational representation of God. Excerpted from: Freemasons for Dummies