

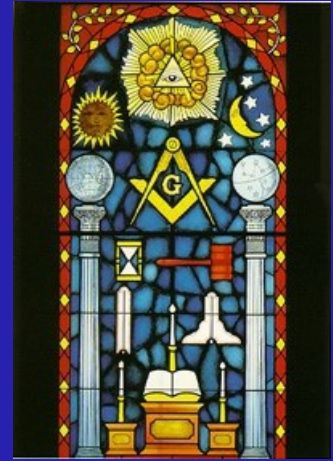
APRIL 1, 2018

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4

Lubbock's Light

The Newsletter of Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392

And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light — Genesis 1:3



The Ritualist's Corner

Ritualist's Corner

One of the problems that most often plagues Masonry is poor ritual. By this, I don't just mean getting the words wrong -- I mean ritual that is drab and uninspiring, which fails to actually *teach* a candidate. Ritual is often mediocre, and it doesn't have to be; anyone can do ritual well, provided he knows a little about acting.

It isn't hard, actually; it's mostly a matter of knowing how to do it, plus a lot of practice. This article is intended to impart some guidelines on how to do Good Ritual. It doesn't demand a lot of time, or any particular talent, just a little drive to do well. Read it and play with it. With some practice, you should be able to use these techniques to good effect in your Lodge. The course

is specifically aimed at dealing with the longer speeches, but much of it is also relevant to shorter pieces; I commend it to junior officers.

This is adapted from a lecture that I worked up for my own lodge; having done that, I figured I should try to spread these tips around for the common weal of the Craft. (Caveat: I do assume that you have some kind of cypher book, with encoded ritual. If your jurisdiction doesn't use this, you'll have to adapt these lessons.)

1: Figure out the Words

The first step of learning any ritual is to know what you're saying! This should be obvious, but is often overlooked, because brethren are afraid to admit that they don't already know the right words. Don't be afraid to admit your own limits -

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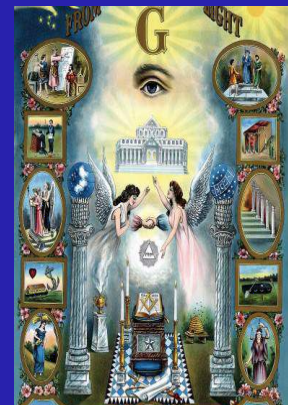
MUCH happening this month! Don't forget your taxes are due by midnight Tuesday, April 17! Monday, the District of Columbia celebrates Emancipation Day, which is normally April 16, and April 15th is on Sunday.

Emancipation Day affects taxes the same way federal holidays do. Therefore, the tax deadline is pushed out to the following Tuesday, April 17, giving taxpayers two extra days to file their returns.

Final preparations for the 52nd Anniversary Hilltop meeting will be Monday April 30 and Hilltop itself will be Saturday, May 5. The current Grand line has been invited and we expect some candidates running for the Grand South next year.

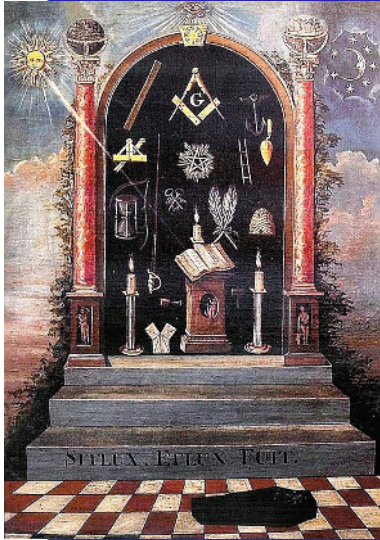
A Grand Master's Conference will be held on April 21st at the Scottish Rite. Last I heard, registration starts at 2:00pm and the Conference begins at 3:00pm.

Lastly, Saturday, April, 28 - April 29 we will be at the Gun Show at the Civic Center. All mem-



“Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting

The Ritualist's Corner— *con't from page 1*



- I've never met *anyone* who gets every single word right every time.

Start out by listening to someone say the speech, preferably several times. (You should be doing this the entire previous year, listening to your predecessor.) Listen carefully, and make sure you understand what's being said; ask questions if you don't. (After Lodge, of course.)

Next, go through your cypher or code book carefully, and see how much you can read. Mark words that you can't figure out, or that you're unsure of -- this is the point to catch any mistakes you may be making. Then call or get together with a Ritualist or a reliable Past Master, and talk through it, reading out of the book slowly. Have him correct any mistakes, and fill in the words you don't know. Take notes (preferably somewhere other than in the book), because you will forget the corrections as soon as you're on your own.

2: Understand the Speech

This step gets overlooked even more often than the previous one. Read through the ritual a couple of times, and make sure you really grasp it. Don't just know the words -- know what it's talking about. Find out who the characters being talked about are. Again, ask questions.

Now, start trying to understand the speech structurally. Any ritual is made up of components, separate pieces that are linked together. For example, a section may be talking

about symbols, with three paragraphs per symbol: concrete meaning, abstract meaning, and purpose. Figure out what these pieces are -- you'll use them later.

The next step is especially useful for long speeches -- visualize the speech. Any speech can be thought of in terms of movements, places, rooms, stuff like that. Words are hard to remember in order; places are easy. The canonical example is the Middle Chamber Lecture, which walks through King Solomon's Temple. That's no accident -- that path is easily visualized, and makes a good example of how to learn ritual, which is probably why it is the first major speech an officer learns. This is why we use symbols in the first place: because they are easy to learn and internalize. Use them.

3a: Small-Scale Memorization

This is never anyone's favorite part; anyone can do it, but no one finds it simple. It's considerably easier if you do it right, though.

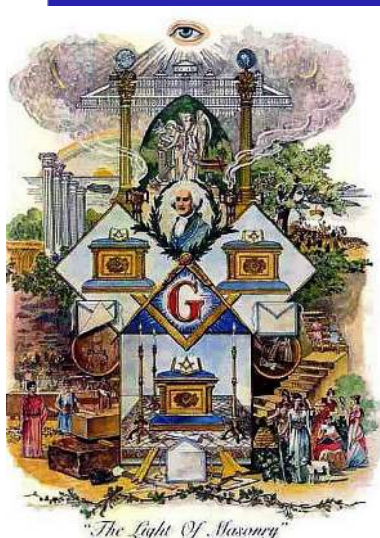
Start out by reading the speech over and over. Don't move on to the next step until you can read it from the cypher quickly, without breaks or hesitation. Read it *out loud*, when you get the chance. This step is particularly important, and skipped more often than any other. Don't skip it -- this is how you get your brain and mouth trained to the words. It may sound silly, but it really matters -- the mental pathways used to talk are distinct from those used to read.

Now, start trying to learn sentences. Just sentences. Read the first word or two of the sentence, then try to fill in the remainder from memory. Don't fret if you can't do it immediately; it will probably take at least 5 or 10 times through before you're getting most of the sentences. You'll find some that are hard -- hammer those ones over and over (but don't totally neglect the rest while you do so). Again, get to the point where you're doing reasonably well on this, before going on to the next step.

3b: Large-Scale Memorization

Once you've got most of the sentences, try to move on to paragraphs. Again, some will be easy and some hard. Try to understand exactly why this sentence follows that one -- in most cases, the ritual does make sense. An individual paragraph is almost always trying to express a single coherent thought, in pieces; figure out what that thought is, and why all the pieces are necessary. Keep at this until you're able to get most paragraphs by glancing at the first word or two, or by thinking, "Okay, this is the description of truth," or something like that.

Finally, start putting it all together. This is where the structural analysis in Step 2 gets important. You visualized the speech, and figured out how it hooks together; use that visualization to connect the paragraphs. Make sure you have some clue why each paragraph follows the one before. In al-



"The grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race"

G. Washington

The Ritualist's Corner— con't from page 2

most every case, the next paragraph is either a) continuing this thought, or b) moving on to a related thought. In both cases, you can make memorization much easier by understanding why it flows like that. Convince yourself that this paragraph obviously has to follow that one, and you'll never forget the order.

4: Smoothing It Out

You're now at the point where you've got pretty much all the sentences down, and most of the paragraphs, and you're able to get through the whole thing only looking at the book a few times. Now, start **saying** it.

When you're driving in the car; when you're alone at home; pretty much any time you have some privacy, try saying it all out loud, at full voice. Trust me, it sounds very different when you actually say it aloud. You'll find that you stumble more, and in different places. Some words turn out to be more difficult to pronounce than you expected. Try it a few times.

Start out by trying to do this frequently -- once, even twice every day. It'll be hard at first (and it's a real pain to pull out the cypher book while you're driving), but it'll gradually get easier. When you're starting to feel comfortable, slow down, but don't stop. Practice it every couple of days, then every week. Don't slow down below once a week. If you feel up to it, see if you can speed up your recitation. (But do not ever speed-talk the ritual in open Lodge -- that's for memoriza-

tion and rehearsal only.)

5a: Mindset

Last part. You're now at the point where you pretty much have the ritual memorized. Now, the trick is learning how to perform it well. Very nearly everyone has some amount of stage fright; us acting types often have it even worse than most. The trick to overcoming it is control of the nerves.

Now that you're comfortable reciting the ritual, observe how you do it. By now, you're not thinking about it so much; your mouth is doing almost all the work, with the conscious mind simply making a few connections between paragraphs. That is the right state to be in. Think about how that feels, and learn it.

Before you go in to "perform", do some basic acting exercises. Take a few deep breaths; concentrate on not thinking. I think the ideal is a little light meditation, but it takes a fair bit of practice to be able to drop into that state on demand; for now, just worry about being calm. Being calm is far more important than anything else. If you're calm, you're unlikely to screw up too badly; if you're tense, you're far more likely to. Some people like to exercise the body a bit, to relax the mind; you should do what works for you.

5b: Acting

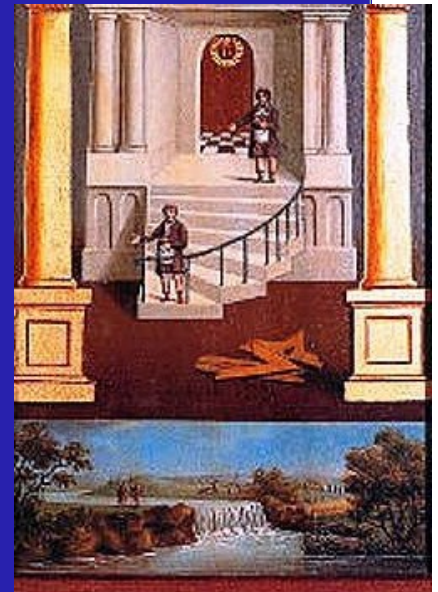
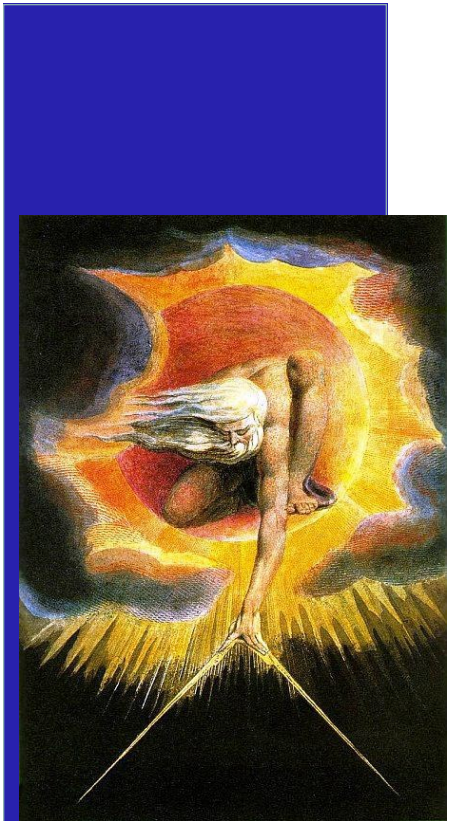
Now the final nuance, which separates merely competent ritual from the really good stuff. Now that you're able to let your mouth do all the talking, start listening to yourself.

Think about the ritual again, but don't think about the words, think about what it means. What are the important bits? Emphasize those. How could you use your body or hands to illustrate a point? Try talking **to** the person in front of you, not just **at** them -- look them in the eye and make them get the point. You are teaching important lessons here; try to capture a little of the emotional intensity of that importance.

Think of your "performance" as a melding of two parts. Your mouth is providing the words, your mind and heart the emotion. Again, nothing beats practice. This is what rehearsal should really be for -- taking a dummy candidate in hand, and learning how to really get the point across. Don't fret if you find that you need to change "modes" now and then -- here and there you will need to think about the words briefly, when you change paragraphs or hit a hard sentence. That won't throw you, though, so long as you keep track of what you're saying; you've already figured out why each part leads into the next, and that will guide you when you stumble.

Conclusion

Don't expect to get all this down instantly; it takes most people a few years to really get good at it. Just try to advance yourself bit by bit. Learn the transitions and pieces first -- if you have that, you can get through the ritual. Next time, work on memorizing more thoroughly. The time after that, work on getting it really



“Take everything you like seriously, except yourselves.”

Rudyard Kipling



WORSHIPFUL MASTER JERRY HENDRICK

"Master's wages". What are they?

Today, the Free and Accepted Mason is concerned only with moral work. His reward, therefore, is found within himself. The spiritual wages go well beyond these and have countless worth. The very heart of being a Freemason and the joy received is a much more meaningful wage. The intangibles. of love, friendship, respect, opportunity, happy labor and associations are the wages of a Master who earns them. Not all earn them, hence, the phrase "to pay the Craft their wages if any be due. . ." A member

may earn as much as he desires, and the more one puts into the Craft, the more one receives.

Freemasonry



SENIOR WARDEN HEATH MORGAN

From the West

As a part of our ceremony, we all walk into lodge with our aprons tied to our waist. In fact, we are not allowed to walk into an open lodge without it. But how many of us truly think about one, if not the most important, symbol in our craft? Let's all go back to our EA days, and really look at the explanation of our first apron. If you remember, we were told that it was an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason. It is not by coincidence that those two thoughts are put together. A badge tells the outer world something about you, it names you in a way. In our case, that we are to be

a fraternity of men who are concerned with what is right. Not just by creed, but by deed. We are to be innocent of malevolent or mischievous designs. Our actions and words have an effect upon the world and the people that live in it. In other degrees we hear the words, virtuous, amiable, piety, wholesome, pure. When we put our aprons on, it is a reminder of how we should live our life, not just in lodge, but every day and everywhere.



JUNIOR WARDEN JUSTIN ROBBINS

From the South

With last weeks conclusion of our in-depth look at Title V, I would like to take a step back from the law book and offer some of my own thoughts about masonic law in general. Much of the law book (Title V especially) discusses generally what a mason can and cannot do along with disciplinary measures that might occur if these rules are violated. To an outsider, the laws might appear overly harsh and specific and many may wonder why any man would choose to become a mason at all. Fortunately, we masons know that freemasonry is much more than just law. Masonry helps us become better men, husbands, fathers, and leaders within our society. Not simply because the laws tell us to do so, but because

each of us were looking for more in our own lives. I would like to encourage each of you to strive to do what is right, not based on the law, but based on the lessons taught through the degrees masonry. While the law may hold masonry together, the lessons of freemasonry are what keep men knocking on the door of freemasonry.



"Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip."

Will Rogers



FROM THE SECRETARY HARROLD LOVELESS
Taking Care of Business

Lubbock Lodge's Stated meeting will be April 13th. Dinner begins at 6:30pm with the meeting following at 7:30pm. The lodge will also be manning a booth at the Civic Center Gun Show on the 28th and 29th. This year members Yellowhouse and Crosbyton also volunteered to help out. This activity can be used toward the Vanguard Award.

A Grand Master's Conference will be held on April 21st at the Scottish Rite. Last I heard, registration starts at 2:00pm and the

Conference begins at 3:00pm. Just a reminder, if three of the five principle officers are present, this too can be used toward the Vanguard Award.

Notices of non-payment of dues went out in February. As of this time, I have not heard from 7 brethren. If dues are not paid by June 23rd, it is an automatic suspension according to Chapter 18, Title II, Article 319 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas. I am hoping this does not happen.



FROM THE SENIOR DEACON BRANDON GOULD
Visiting Brothers and Prospects

Brethren, I would like to thank all of our visitors from our last stated meeting for coming out to join us for our visit from the District Deputy Grand Master, Charles Leatherwood.

I would like to encourage all area masons to get out and visit the local lodges whether it be their floor practice or stated meetings. Masonry is a brotherhood so why not get out at any chance you have to meet your fellow brethren and enjoy the fellowship that masonry offers. Lubbock Lodges stated meeting will be on Friday, April

13th with the meal at 6:30 and opening at 7:30 but we also have floor practice every Tuesday at 6:30 and hope to see some new faces around.



FROM THE SENIOR STEWARD LUIS RAMOS
Food, Flowers & Frolic

Creator and provider of all things we thank You for this occasion, and ask your blessing upon the food that has been prepared for us. We thank you also for the fellowship with our brothers. Enrich us in our time around these tables, that through our conversations and sharing we may become more committed to understanding and supporting one another in words and actions which are consistent with Your laws and the principals of our Craft. Amen.



Upcoming Menu for April:

- Menu:
- Pizza
- Cookies
- Asst drinks

Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.

Mark Twain

LUBBOCK LODGE APRIL CALENDAR



Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392
Masonic Calendar

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Wolfforth Stated Mtg FLOOR PRACTICE	4	5	6 Yellowhouse Stated Mtg Scottish Rite Reunion	7 Scottish Rite Reunion
8	9 Emma Lodge	10 FLOOR PRACTICE Lubbock OES	11	12 Rainbow Girls	13 STATED MEETING	14
15	16 Crosbyton Lodge	17 FLOOR PRACTICE Mackenzie Stated Mtg	18	19 Freedom OES	20	21 Daylight Stated Meeting Grand Masters Conf
22	23 Commandery	24 FLOOR PRACTICE	25 Scottish Rite	26 Chapter Rainbow Girls	27	28 GUN SHOW
29 GUN SHOW	30					

March 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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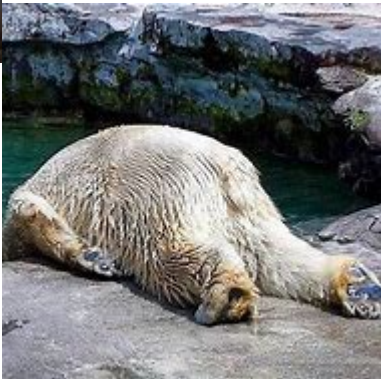
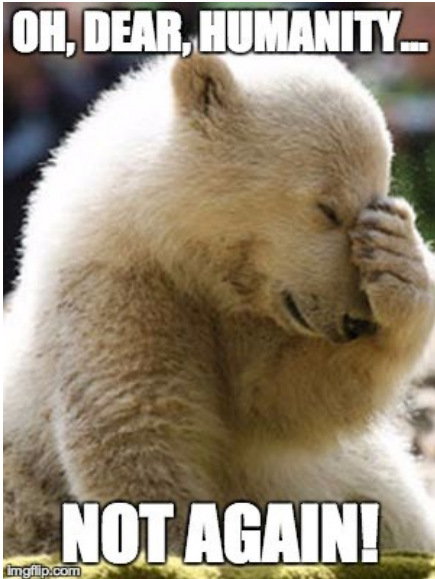


A small Lodge had had a string of bad luck. It was preparing to initiate a candidate on a steamy evening in June and it's air conditioner had stopped working. After sweating their way through part of the work, the Master had asked the candidate what he most desired. The candidate replied "a beer". At this juncture the SW started and whispered "light" to the candidate. "OK", the candidate replied, "a lite beer".

"Freemasonry is an institution calculated to benefit mankind"

Andrew Jackson

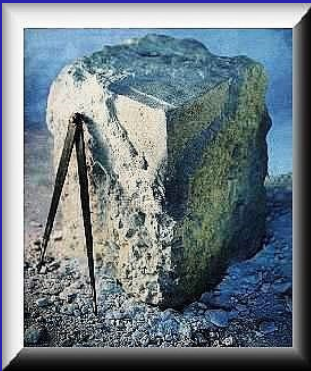
LUBBOCK LODGE #1392 IN ACTION



“To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.”

Theodore Roosevelt

LUBBOCK
MASONIC LODGE
#1392
MASONIC DIST 93-A



For more information visit
lubbockmasoniclodge.org



SICKNESS AND DISTRESS



Bro. Tom Martin and family



Please take the time to visit our sick and distressed; send them cards or call them on the phone,
and be sure to keep them in your prayers.

If you know of sickness or distress with a brother or his family, please let us know.

“The things a man has to have are hope and confidence in himself against odds, and sometimes he needs somebody, his pal or his mother or his wife or God, to give him that confidence. He's got to have some inner standards worth fighting for or there won't be any way to bring him into conflict. And he must be ready to choose death before dishonor without making too much song and dance about it. That's all there is to it.”

Blaise Pascal

This Month's Brothers' Birthdays

James Owens 4/1
Glenn Fant 4/17

4539 BROWNFIELD DR
LUBBOCK, TX
79410-1721

MEETINGS:
SECOND FRIDAY OF EACH
MONTH, 7:30 P.M.
MEAL: 6:30PM
FLOOR SCHOOL:
EVERY TUESDAY @ 7P.M.



The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Coke Etgen, PM

THE LANGUAGE OF FREEMASONRY

Why is the language of Freemasonry so different from that which we normally use? This question is often asked by new members of our Fraternity. The Ritual of Freemasonry is a product of the early decades of the 18th century. It contains much of the language of that time period and other words and phrases from the very old work have been incorporated. This is why the language is written and spo-

ken as it is. If the time and effort is spent to study the words of our Ritual, one will discover that the thoughts and teachings imparted cannot be put in fewer words and still retain their meaning.



E-Mail: admin@lubbockmasoniclodge.org