



Aaron Lodge 49

Free & Accepted Masons of Arizona

August 9, 2023

Volume 2023/24 Issue 1

Trestle Board Special Grand Communication Issue

Summer 2023



Welcome to Summer issue of Aaron Lodge's Trestle Board. This is a special edition focusing on all the events of the 141th Annual Grand Communication that took place during June 1st-3rd. We have updates on the new Grand Line Officers, our new Grand Officers for our District, and of course, results of our efforts for the yearly Awards. Our regular editions of the Trestle Board will return in September after our Summer Break. We are still looking for suggestions and additions to include in the Trestle Board. As always, please send all communication to trestleboard@aaronlodge49.com. For now, please enjoy this special issue.

Aaron Lodge 2023 Officers

Master - *Luis Irizarry*
Senior Warden - *Tony Williams*
Junior Warden - *Zachary Taylor*
Senior Deacon - *Geno DeCarlo*
Junior Deacon - *James Bohlman*
Senior Steward - *Taylor Petterson*
Junior Steward - *Justin Ashler*
Treasurer - *Chris Taylor*
Secretary - *Don Moyer, PM*
Chaplain - *Don Lowery, PM*
Marshall - *Shawn Jones*
Tyler - *Jim Wild, PM*

Quote of the Month

It Is The Desire
To Serve
That Makes a Great
Leader,
Not the Desire To Rule



Grand Lodge of Arizona

Taken from the Grand Lodge of Arizona website

In 1863 political concerns and the pressures of the Civil War were largely responsible for the separation of the Arizona territory from the New Mexico Territory. That year President Abraham Lincoln appointed John A. Gurley as Governor of the newly created Arizona Territory. He was to establish a government thus ensuring that Arizona Territory and its resources would be and remain under Union control. Governor Gurley died before he could arrive in the territory. John Noble Goodwin was appointed by President Lincoln in his place.

John Goodwin, a Freemason, and his party arrived in the Arizona territory in December 1863. He established the territorial capital of Prescott, approximately twenty miles from Fort Whipple. In 1864 nine Master Masons held a meeting in Prescott at John N. Goodwin's house. Brother Goodwin presided at the meeting. After satisfying themselves that all present were Master Masons, those nine Masons decided to apply to the Grand Lodge of California for a dispensation to open a Lodge at Prescott. The name selected for the new lodge was Aztlan. Brother John T. Alsap, who later became the first mayor of Phoenix, was chosen as its first Master. Brother Goodwin was chosen to present the petition to the Grand Master of California. Brother Goodwin presented the petition on April 23rd, 1865, and the dispensation it requested was granted. In January 1867, after the California charter had been granted, Aztlan Lodge No. 177 was duly constituted and the officers installed by Past Master John Martin.

Freemasonry had officially arrived in Arizona.

Thereafter, four more lodges were formed in succession. These four are Arizona Lodge in Phoenix (1879), Tucson Lodge in Tucson (1881), Solomon Lodge in Tombstone (1881), and White Mountain Lodge in Globe. All but White Mountain Lodge were chartered by the Grand Lodge of California. White Mountain Lodge was chartered by the Grand Lodge of New Mexico in 1881.

On the 23rd day of March, 1882, representatives from these four lodges convened in Tucson for the purpose of considering the propriety of establishing a Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the Territory of Arizona.

A committee was formed to examine the credentials of the attending delegates, and after its satisfactory report, it was resolved that by virtue of the powers vested in the members assembled it was right and proper that a Grand Lodge for the territory should be formed. A constitution was adopted and it was formally resolved, "That a lodge of Master Masons be opened for the purpose of organizing and opening, in Masonic form, the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the Territory of Arizona."

Officers were appointed to fill the stations and places and a Lodge of Master Masons was opened in ancient Masonic form. The various officers were elected as follows: Ansel Mellen Bragg, Grand Master; John Tabor Alsap, Deputy Grand Master; Alonzo Bailey, Senior Grand Warden; William Arthur Harwood, Junior Grand Warden; Abraham Marx, Grand Treasurer; and George James Roskruge, Grand Secretary.

On the 25th day of March, 1882, the grand officers were installed and the Master Masons Lodge was closed in the ancient Masonic form, the convention having accomplished the business for which it was called, adjourned sine die.

The Grand Lodge was then opened in proper form, with music by a choir and prayer by the Grand Chaplain, after which it examined and endorsed the charters held by the various lodges represented. Then it was decided that, "The Grand Lodge claimed as the boundaries of its jurisdiction the whole of the Territory of Arizona," and further, that the Grand Master be authorized to endorse the charter of Aztlan Lodge when called upon to do so. On March 25th, 1882, after installing the grand officers and accomplishing the business for which it was called, the Master Masons Lodge was closed in ancient Masonic form, sine die.

Aztlan lodge later became a chartered member, and together the five lodges forming the Grand Lodge had a total membership of 274 Masons.

Those five original lodges are still in existence today and are designated 'Territorial Lodges'.

WE DID IT!



Hard work pays off. All the efforts over the 2022-23 Masonic year came to fruition at Grand Communication, when Aaron Lodge was awarded the Grand Architect Award for 2023.

Special thanks go out to our Lodge Officers, past and present, for their contributions and dedication to knowing and performing the rituals and to every Brother who came out and participated in events, education nights, official visits and more. The criteria for these Awards are a combination of Ritual, Education, Communication, and Participation. This is absolutely a Lodge Award and could not be achieved by just one or two people, but required the time and effort of the Lodge as a whole.

Last year saw Aaron Lodge earn the Master Builder Award for the first time in 21 years. It's been 22 years since Aaron Lodge earned the higher Master Architect Award. We will continue to do our part to achieve these Awards on a yearly basis and hope you will continue to participate and support in trying to make Aaron Lodge the best it can be.

2023-2024 Grand Line

Grand Master

Most Worshipful George R Rusk

Deputy Grand Master

Right Worshipful Michael A Dale

Senior Grand Warden

Right Worshipful Leigh Creighton

Junior Grand Warden

Right Worshipful Roger Biede III

Grand Secretary

Very Worshipful Greg Vasquez, PGM

Grand Treasurer

Very Worshipful Ron Richards

Grand Secretary Emeritus

Very Worshipful Wilbur E Robertson

Grand Secretary Emeritus

Very Worshipful George Stablein

Grand Treasurer Emeritus

Very Worshipful Michael McGee

Senior Grand Deacon

Worshipful Brother Eric Dupree

Junior Grand Deacon

Worshipful Brother David Sahady

Senior Grand Steward

Worshipful Brother James Xie

Junior Grand Steward

Worshipful Brother Reed Houge

Grand Lecturer

WB John Wallace Welch

Grand Chaplain

VR Antero Trujillo

Grand Orator

WB Andrew Stefan Warianka

Grand Marshall

WB Harley Jay Goodson

Grand Standard Bearer

WB Joseph Henry Felix II

Grand Sword Bearer

WB Daniel Steven Lilley

Grand Bible Bearer

WB Robert Lee Ribbeck

Grand Pursuivant

WB Marcus D Hensley

Grand Organist

WB Gordon Stevenson

Grand Editor

WB George Balady, Jr

Grand Tyler

WB Juan Felix Valdez

Grand Counsel

WB Richard Leland Brooks

Grand Photographer

WB Allen Nichols

Specific to Aaron Lodge

District Deputy Grand Lecturer

District 4 - John Schmidt

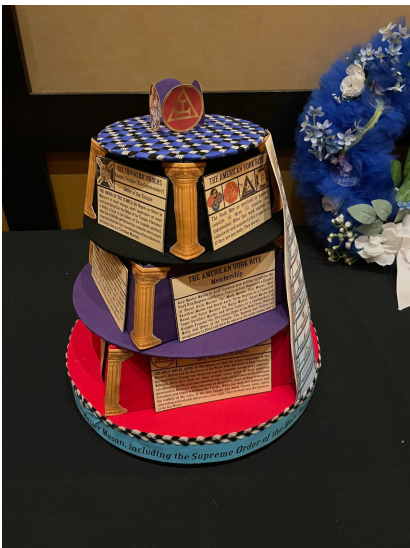
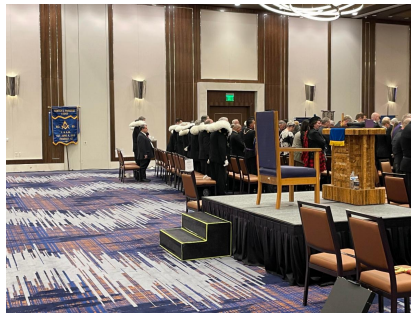
District Deputy Grand Master

District 19 - Don Lowery



Photo Gallery

Submitted by Bro. Luis Irizarry





This brings us to the end of our Special Grand Lodge Summer Edition of the Trestle Board. Next issue, the Trestle Board will resume it's normal monthly recaps and updates as we come back from Summer Break for our 2023-2024 Masonic Year.

Dear Brethren of the Mystic tie,
 the night is waning fast,
 Our work is done, our feast is o'er,
 this toast must be the last.
 Good night to all, once more good night,
 again that farewell strain,
 Happy to meet, sorry to part,
 happy to meet again.

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