



# TRESTLEBOARD

## VIEW FROM THE EAST

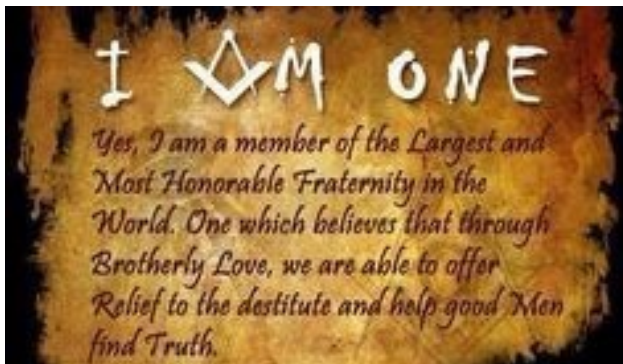
By Douglas Arps, Jr., Worshipful Master

Greetings Brothers,

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer spending time with your families and making memories. As many of you know, my oldest daughter Abigail has been very active with volleyball and now she made the freshmen team for high school; I can't believe I have a high schooler. And Brooke is still very active in swim – she actually had a swim meet in Oro Valley recently and we stayed with RW Eric Dupree while we were there. It was great fellowship. Our Outdoor Degree is coming up soon. As we get closer we plan on having some practices at Brother Leon's house to make sure our floor work is on point since it's not a normal Lodge setting. We also have had some practices during the summer which is not normal since most of the time we don't really go down there during the summer, but it was sure nice to do some work and have a little fellowship after.

As we continue throughout the year I really want to visit some Brothers throughout Arizona or honestly anywhere. I would really like to try to check off some criteria for the Master Architect or Master Builder awards and continue after. So I'll see how my schedule over the next couple months are for work and let you guys know. Also MWB Mike Dale has been traveling a lot. I'm pretty sure if there is a event going on he plans on attending; he wouldn't mind company during those travels, so just keep it in your minds and give him a call or text and see what his schedule looks like. Maybe one of us could go here and there. I know I plan on going to New Mexico Grand Lodge with him; the times I've been there for work I've built up some relationships with some Brothers over there and would like to show them my support.

Brotherly Love,  
Douglas W. Arps, Jr. "DJ", WM



### STATED MEETING

Second Thursday of each month,  
September through June

Dinner at 6:30pm

Meeting at 7:30pm

### REGULAR MEETINGS

Degree work most every  
Thursday at 7:00pm

Call (928) 783-7993 or visit  
[www.yumalodge17@gmail.com](mailto:www.yumalodge17@gmail.com)  
for schedule

### OFFICE HOURS

Call (928) 503-4356 for an  
appointment.

### TRESTLEBOARD

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**Article submissions are due  
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numbered month.**

Sabrina Arps, publisher  
(928) 246-6580  
[ncbudgirl88@gmail.com](mailto:ncbudgirl88@gmail.com)



## 2024 OFFICERS

### Worshipful Master

Douglas W. Arps, Jr. "DJ" (Sabrina)  
(928) 503-9802

### Senior Warden

Brad E. Hamner  
(928) 919-6866

### Junior Warden

Hector Aponte (Johannes)  
(928) 257-9992

### Secretary

Michael A. Kofta, PM, DDGL (Ruby)  
(928) 580-5965

### Treasurer

Tim Williams, PM (Pat)  
(928) 581-3985

### Senior Deacon

Sam Azar  
(928) 920-5560

### Junior Deacon

Ben Vik  
(760) 562-6589

### Senior Steward

Ivan Pagan  
(559) 309-1065

### Junior Steward

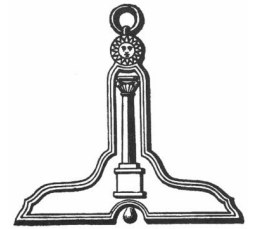
TBD

### Marshal

Sean McGoffin

## VIEW FROM THE WEST

Submitted by Brad Hamner



Fraternal Greetings from the West,

It's been a long, excessively hot summer but we are on the downhill side of it. I hope you all took some vacations and found your way of enjoying the darkness. As we come back from darkness to receive and have a part of the light by which all Masons work, we will hit the ground running. It's going to be a very busy few months to finish out the year.

We have few degrees to get through including our Outdoor Degree that is rapidly approaching, some Lodge proficiency, and goals! We need all Brothers on deck! It was great seeing everyone at the September Stated Meeting and I look forward to seeing you all every Thursday for the rest of the year for practices and improving ourselves in Masonry. I hope this Trestleboard finds you all well, see you soon!

As always, for those Brothers that may have issue with transportation or traveling at night, please do not let that keep you from attending Lodge and Fellowship. Reach out to myself or WB DJ and we will make arrangements; there are several Brothers willing to help out.

Brad Hamner  
Senior Warden

## GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH

Submitted by Hector Aponte

### Stoicism



Stoicism is an ancient Greek philosophy founded by Zeno of Citium around 300 BCE. It teaches that true happiness comes from personal virtue and rationality, rather than external factors like wealth or fame. The philosophy emphasizes four cardinal virtues: wisdom, courage, justice, and temperance. By practicing self-control and fortitude, Stoics believe one can achieve a tranquil and fulfilling life.

Some of the most famous Stoic philosophers include:

1. **Zeno of Citium:** The founder of Stoicism, who began teaching in Athens around 300 BCE.
2. **Cleanthes:** Zeno's successor, known for his work on Stoic ethics and theology.
3. **Chrysippus:** Considered the second founder of Stoicism, he greatly expanded the school's teachings and wrote extensively on logic and ethics.
4. **Seneca:** A Roman philosopher, statesman, and playwright, who emphasized practical ethics and the importance of inner peace.
5. **Epictetus:** A former slave who became a prominent teacher, his teachings were recorded by his student Arrian.
6. **Marcus Aurelius:** The Roman Emperor, whose work "Meditations" is a key text in Stoic philosophy, reflecting on how to live a virtuous life.

These philosophers have significantly shaped Stoic thought and continue to influence modern interpretations of the philosophy.

Reading of writings of these great thinkers is a very fulfilling endeavor.

Hector Aponte  
Junior Warden

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

Submitted by WB Michael Kofta, PM

Brothers and Sisters,

Summer is almost over and we are gearing up for the end of the year push for proficiencies prior to elections.

\*\*\*Mark your calendars!!!!

You do not want to miss out on our Outdoor Degree on Saturday, October 12th. We have the location and now we need Brothers to step up and let the Worshipful Master or myself know where you would be willing to help. Setup, teardown, meal, or parts in the degree. I recently checked and there are only five people signed up for the Outdoor Degree! If you need a ride to Lodge or the Outdoor Degree, please call a Brother near you or call me the week prior (not the night of) so that I can contact someone near you to assist in getting you to the location.

For the Blue Lodge being dark, there has still been a lot going on. There was the Grand Chapter for the Order of the Eastern Star, Arizona Grand Commandry for the York Rite, Schools and Lodges of Instruction, and Outdoor Degrees at other Lodges across the state and in California. There are more Outdoor Degrees coming up including our very own! You need to get signed up and registered and let others know that you are going so that we can carpool.

There are still a lot of other events coming up soon. Fall Ceremonial at El Zaribah Temple, the Colorado River Fall Festival for York Rite, and Fall Ceremonial for Scottish Rite. Information on these can be obtained through the local body Secretaries or Officers. If you are interested in joining any of the other Masonic bodies, ask one of them for a petition.

We are looking forward to continued visits to other Lodges and visiting Brethren from other Lodges to our own. We have a few Brothers who are finishing off their proficiencies for advancement to Fellowcraft and Master Mason. Which means we have a few degrees coming up.

It is imperative that you keep your information in Grandview updated so that our Lodge member information is accurate and up-to-date. If you have any information that needs to be updated in our Lodge database or in Grandview and do not know how, please contact me so that I can update it. If you make any changes in Grandview, please let me know. Please log in and update your information. We are down to nine Brothers who still need to pay their dues for 2024. September is here!

If you would like to help out with any of the committees that the Lodge has in place or would like to help out in any other area such as prospect management, please speak with the Committee Chairman that is listed in the Trestleboard, the Worshipful Master or myself.

If you need any assistance in general, or with practicing, or on proficiency, feel free to contact me.

Fraternally,  
Michael A. Kofta, PM  
Secretary  
DDGL, District 6



## 2024 OFFICERS (CONTINUED)

### Chaplain

Antero A. Trujillo "Doc" (Norma)  
(928) 581-6286

### Tyler

Ira M. Hearen, Jr. (Elizabeth)  
(479) 430-8544

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### CHAIRMAN

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(928) 503-9802

Hector Aponte, 2026  
(928) 257-9992

Benjamin T. Hinderer, PM, 2026  
(928) 581-8508

Brad E. Hamner, 2025  
(928) 919-6866

Ira M. Hearen, Jr., 2025  
(479) 430-8544

Antero A. Trujillo "Doc", 2024  
(928) 581-6286

Jeffrey Grimes, PM, 2024  
(928) 246-1594

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Secretary:  
[yumalodge17@gmail.com](mailto:yumalodge17@gmail.com)  
Trestleboard:  
[ncbudgirl88@gmail.com](mailto:ncbudgirl88@gmail.com)

**Yuma Territorial Lodge 17**

Stated Meetings: Second Thursday at **7:30pm**  
(Dinner preceding the meeting at **6:30pm**)

Degree Work: Most every Thursday at **7:00pm**.

Trustees' Meetings: Some Mondays prior to Stated Meeting at **6:30pm** (check with WM).  
Lodge members welcome.

**York Rite Bodies**

Stated Meetings: First Monday at **7:30pm**.

Practice: Third Monday at **7:00pm**.


**Order of the Eastern Star**

Meetings: Second and fourth Tuesdays at **7:00pm**.  
(Dinner preceding meetings at **6:00pm**.)

**Yuma Shrine Club**

Meetings: Second Mondays at **7:00pm**.

# September 2024

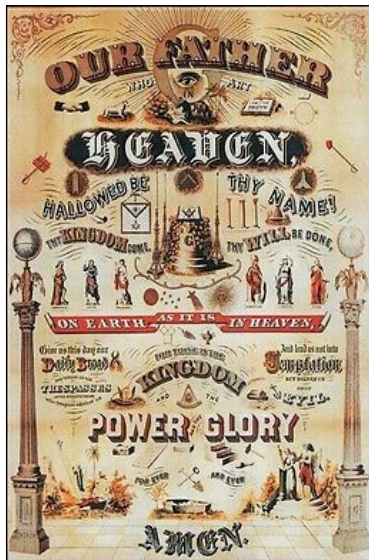
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 <b>LABOR DAY</b>	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 <b>STATED</b>	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 	25	26	27	28
29	30					

***UPCOMING EVENTS:***





Degree Work/Practices – Check with Line Officers



[facebook.com/YumaMasons](https://facebook.com/YumaMasons)



# October 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 	8 	9	10 <b>STATED</b>	11	12 Yuma Outdoor Degree
13	14 <b>COLUMBUS DAY</b>	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 	22 	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## WORDS FROM THE PAST MASTER

Submitted by Benjamin T. Hinderer, PM



Good day,

If you have not gone to the Grand Lodge website and read the MW Grand Master message please do, it is inspiring and makes you want to be a better Mason. If you did read it but you haven't read it in awhile go back and read it again. I reread it the other day and got something new out of it this time. Definitely worth a read every month. It is an honor and privilege to have a Mason from our Lodge be the Grand Master. I believe this has only happened a handful of times since we have been chartered. Also, don't forget to read your spiritual Trestleboard either. It will help with any problems you are currently experiencing and might give you a different insight to help you through whatever you are experiencing.

We often find ourselves mired in our daily struggles. We become bogged down with anxiety, stress, and depression. We feel as though we are sinking deeper into a dark pit and find it difficult to get out. The Great Architect of the Universe is our redeemer! He comes to our rescue by lifting our burdens, placing our feet back on track, and nudging us to walk in the right direction.

Benjamin Hinderer, PM

## THE MASONIC HEART

Submitted by Benjamin Vik, Junior Deacon

From an early age, we modern humans are taught that the whole intellect and personality of man resides in the brain, that huge mass of neurological tissue that resides in our cranial cavities. We have automatically assumed that all of human experience, all that we think and feel resides in this cluster of neurons and nerve endings. However, our ancestors, those who lived and thought in the millennia prior to our existence, had a slightly different view of the emotional and logical seat of man and his thought processes.

The ancient Egyptians, those professional embalmers, made it a habit to remove all of the organs of the human beings who were mummified and place all of those organs but one in containers called "canopic jars." (As an aside, the term "canopic" derived from Greek stories of the Trojan Wars, describing the ship captain Canopus who was slain and buried in the Egyptian delta area in a jar!) But the actual practice of the Egyptian people was to place all of the unnecessary organs in containers separate from the body and return the most important organ, the heart, to the interior of the body where it belonged and could further guide the person through the afterlife.

The heart was considered of supreme importance to the ancient Egyptians, and was called the IB, the center of the mind, intelligence, and understanding. This was the innermost part of Man, which held his deepest loves and hates, and the gamut of his choices of good and evil. Thus, in the afterlife the heart itself was weighed on the scales of the goddess Ma'ahiti, and the imbalance between good and evil choices determined the human's eternal placement in the worlds beyond. The physical brain, on the other hand, was disregarded and summarily discarded by the Egyptian mummifiers in this system of belief.

To the ancient Chinese people, the heart was considered the seat of intelligence, and of the mind. The word that they used for this concept was the XIN, which not only represented the concept of the beating heart pumping blood, but also the intellect of man.

The ancient Hindus, in the Atharva Veda text, described the heart as the link between the self, the soul, and intelligence. "This is my Soul in the innermost Heart, greater than the mid-region, greater than heaven."

Even the ancient Greeks believed that the heart was the center of emotion and desire; the seat of life itself. This was where Love was born. The famous Greek philosopher and physicist Aristotle firmly believed that the heart was the repository of the Soul.

There are so many more examples, not the least being the Biblical ones that Freemasonry draws from so heavily. Jeremiah 24:7, "I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord"; Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all Your Heart"; Psalms 51:10, "Create in me a new heart, Oh God"; Proverbs 23:7, "as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

(continued on page 6)

## THE MASONIC HEART (continued)

Submitted by Benjamin Vik, Junior Deacon

I do not assume to think, and I don't expect you to, that the actual physical, fleshy organ of the human heart is the center of all human emotion and thought. Many persons have experienced the amazing medical intervention of heart transplant, to the joy of all their family and loved ones, with no degradation or change to their internal personalities or beliefs. In short, the removal of our physical tissues does not affect our philosophical, moral, or ethical structures one iota.

But I have to believe in an internal, undetectable human Heart, at the center and core of every human being. This Heart is the place where we store, without equivocation, all of our values, the morals which we aspire to maintain, and our personal system of ethics. This is where we feel and produce Love, where we are "heart-full" or feel "heartache," and also the tragedy of "heartbreak." This is the place where we look without thought, and make without any effort the important decisions of our Lives and our Loves. This is where we know, without even thinking, that if there is a "question, a push-back" to any course of action we are intending to make, that we can be absolutely certain that it is our Heart guiding us in the correct direction.

A while ago, I was told by a wonderful mentor that when you are ready to make the first step into Freemasonry, you will know "in your Heart" that it is the right thing for you. You will find, or you will have found (if you have already initiated), that this is true. You will have no doubt. All that you seek in your heart on this path will open to you, and you will not be disappointed, mostly... Ok wait. Allow me to temper that statement with some humanity.

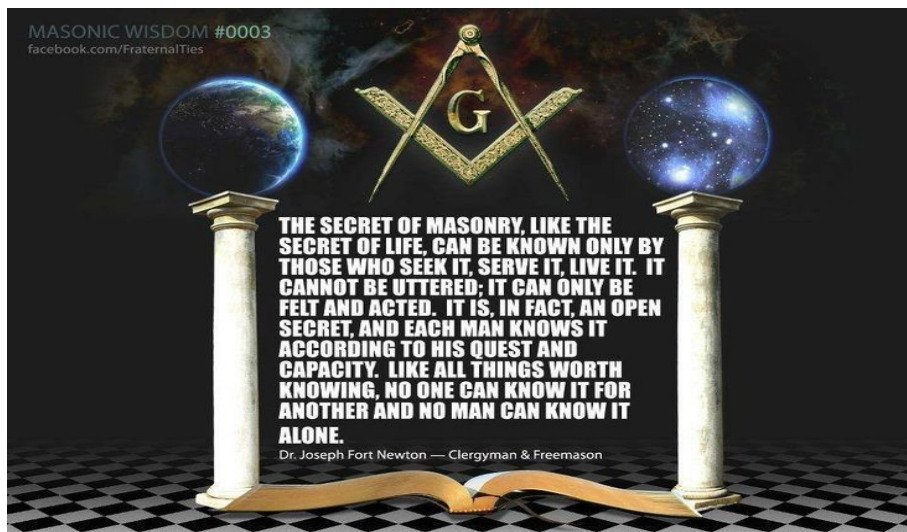
Sometimes your interactions with your Brothers will disappoint you for a time, but you must, you absolutely must, listen and follow your heart. We are not all the same person. We have opposing personalities and thought processes, but our ultimate goal of service will never change. This will always link and hold us together, because it is what drew our hearts to the Fraternity in the first place. Believe me, there is always a path to return to your Brothers, and rekindle that bond of eternal Fraternity.

In conclusion, we understand that our ancestors understood wonderful and innate truths, and interpreted them as properly as their cultural ideologies and mythos deemed fit. Within our imperfect modern selves, we will always retain a nucleus of truth we can innately recognize as an arbiter of correct action, which will ultimately lead to the path of true happiness and satisfaction.

Trust your Heart.

### References:

- *Strudwick, Helen. "The Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt." New York Publishing Co., Inc., 2006.*
- *Sandman, Holmburg M. "The God Ptah." Lund, 1946*
- *Wong K.C. Lien-Teh W. "History of Chinese Medicine." Southern Materials Center, 1985.*
- *Kutumbrah P., "Ancient Indian Medicine." Orient Longmans, 1962.*
- *Peck A.L. "Aristotle, Generation of Animals." William Heinemann LTD, 1949.*



# Traveling Men

WM Tony Milanes and Brother Ira Hearen went on quite the adventure over the summer, representing both their home Lodge of Imperial #390 and Yuma Territorial Lodge #17!



Visiting Mexicali Lodge “Abelard Rodríguez 44” Lodge #56 in Mexicali, Mexico along with Steve Dagdag, Carlos Bejarano, and Albert Masqueda



Visiting Coachella Lodge #476



Visiting Big Bear Lodge (left) and Santa Barbara Lodge #192 (right), both in California



MWB Michael Dale was in attendance at Grand Chapter for Arizona Eastern Star July 31st through August 3rd. He was there doing double duty, both as a member of Yuma Chapter #14 and as Grand Master. He was invited to speak by then-Worthy Grand Matron Pat Peterson, then he was invited to present the flag at the Grand Installation for newly elected Worthy Grand Matron Candace Leininger!





## STAR IN THE EAST

By Linda Neal, PM, Associate Matron



Greetings Everyone,

Many of our members attended Grand Chapter July 31st through August 3rd to support the Order but also to celebrate the election of our own Sister Ruth Wilmot to the office of Grand Conductress. She was also appointed to the Blue Book Committee and Fraternal Correspondence Committee. We are so very proud of you Ruth! Congratulations to our



other Chapter members who received appointments to Grand Chapter Committees:

- Carolyn Simson – Chair, Artificial Flowers, Chair, Decorations
- Grant Veile – Escort to the Grand Conductress, Assistant Grand Sentinels
- Molly Veile – Personal Grand Page to the Grand Conductress
- David Gillis – Membership
- Linda Gillis – Memorial, Triennial 2024
- Carol Cloud – Registration
- DJ Arps – Stairmasters
- Mike Dale – Triennial 2027
- Sabrina Arps – Stars Over Arizona Co-Editor
- BJ Dale – Stars Over Arizona Co-Editor
- Linda Neal – Stars Over Arizona Reporter

Another highlight of the Grand Chapter Session was the pride and joy of watching Brother Michael Dale, Most Worshipful Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of Arizona, Free and Accepted Masons carry our American Flag. We miss him (and Sister BJ) at our meetings when they are traveling, but know they will have a great year and come back to us!

Although we were dark in July and August, we did meet at WM Sabrina and WP DJ's home to discuss the proposed amendments to the Rules and Regulations. Thank you for hosting that get-together. Our Chapter was also represented at the annual Wii Bowling Tournament in July. The Bearded Ladies were back again, although one team member couldn't make it. Luckily, Sister Sammie Hunt from Chandler #18 let them "borrow" one of her grandsons! They took home the 3rd place trophy and WM Sabrina took home the award for highest game! It was a great time and they look forward to attending again next year!

Our first meeting in the Fall will be September 24th where we will honor our Grand Chapter appointments. We will also have a stated meeting on October 8th, followed by our Halloween-themed stated meeting on October 22nd.

Upcoming birthdays:

- SEPTEMBER – Sandi Bennett, PM (9th); Beth Ann Prather, PM (11th); Beverley Treherne (11th); Curtis Cloud (21st); Myrtle Gunlock (25th); Ruby Kofta (25th); Emily White (26th); Marvel Leader, PGM (27th); Laquita Allison (29th)
- OCTOBER – Teresa Nunnaley (19th)



Until next time, please keep all our ailing members in your thoughts and prayers. If you know someone who isn't feeling well, would appreciate a phone call or card, or may need assistance running errands, please call Worthy Matron Sabrina Arps at (928) 246-6580 (or any Chapter member) to let her know. We miss seeing all of you and we hope to see everyone's smiling faces at our meetings. Eastern Star members are welcome to visit our meetings, so if you know of some visiting, please invite them! Take care and be safe!

### **YUMA CHAPTER NO. 14, ORDER of the EASTERN STAR**

The meetings are held the SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY of each month, September through June. All members are welcome. A light meal is served at 6:00pm, followed by our meeting promptly at 7:00pm. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please call the Lodge at (928) 783-7993.







**YUMA TERRITORIAL LODGE 17**  
**OUTDOOR DEGREE**

**OCTOBER 12TH 2024**

**REGISTRATION 8AM GAVEL DROPS AT 10AM**

**\$50**

- ☆ COWBOY COFFEE & DONUTS
- ☆ PULLED PORK, BEANS, AND CHIPS
- ☆ COMMEMORATIVE BOLO TIE AND YEAR HANGER

**\$35**

- ☆ IF ALREADY HAVE BOLO TIE

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: WB KOFTA OR WM D.J.**

**WB KOFTA: 928-580-5965 EMAIL: MICHAELKOFTA@GMAIL.COM**

**WM D.J. 928-503-9802 EMAIL: CRIMSWRESTLING@GMAIL.COM**

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☆ APRONS PROVIDED

☆ CURRENT DUES CARD REQUIRED

☆ **MASTER MASONS ONLY**

# Masonic Anniversaries

*When you became a Master Mason*

## SEPTEMBER

Roger Christiansen  
David Conaway  
Ralph Ferree  
Benjamin Hinderer  
John Mitchell  
Welton Phillips  
Eddie Straws

## OCTOBER

Anthony Bowen  
Jackson Cox  
Robert Dhu  
Aaron Hawkins  
Kevin Hawkins  
Richard Hyatt  
Larry Keyes  
Jerry McAdams  
James McKinley  
Jack Puckett  
James Schultz  
Jimmy Seals  
Quaid Smith, PM  
Victor Wallner

**\*\*\* ATTENTION \*\*\***

**Deadline for the November/December 2024 Trestleboard is**

**OCTOBER 20TH**

**\*\*\* ATTENTION \*\*\***

## PUBLISHER'S CORNER

It's time to get back into the swing of meetings or working with our Lodge and Chapter. It also means my favorite time of year – COOLER WEATHER! The cooler weather brings out the hoodies, sitting by the fire, and most importantly, our winter visitors! We can't wait to see our friends from far and wide. The Lodge room and Chapter room seem empty without them.

If there is anything you would like to see in the Trestleboard or have any suggestions, please feel free to let me know! If you see any corrections that need to be addressed, please let me know those as well so they can be corrected. If you attend an event, don't forget to take pictures and submit them, either to me or on the Yuma Lodge Facebook page. Take care and stay safe!

Sincerely,  
Sabrina Arps



# COMMITTEES

## MASTER'S PROGRAMS

### Audit

Worshipful Master

### Budget

Worshipful Master

### By-Laws

Mike Kofta, PM, DDGL

Benjamin Hinderer, PM

### Cemetery Clean-up

Trustees

### Facilities Maintenance

Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Timothy Williams, PM, DDGM

### Funeral

Worshipful Master

### Grievance

Michael A. Dale, PM

### Library/Archives

Benjamin Vik

### Masonic Education & Ritual

Mike Kofta, PM, DDGL

Timothy Williams, PM, DDGM

Michael A. Dale, PM

### Masonic Relief

Worshipful Master

### Master's Advisory

Michael A. Dale, PM

Timothy W. Williams, PM, DDGM

### Wives, Widows, and Orphans

Quaid E. Smith, PM, KYGCH

Brad Hamner

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### Candidate Instruction

Michael Kofta, PM, DDGL

### Officer Instruction

Michael Kofta, PM, DDGL

## FUNDRAISING

### Chairman – Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Brad Hamner

### Barbeque

Brad Hamner

Trustees

### Midnight at the Oasis

Worshipful Master

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### Bikes for Books

Brad Hamner

### Public Schools

Brad Hamner

### Roadside Clean-up

Ira Hearen, Jr.

## MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS/FRATERNAL SUPPORT

### Birthday Cards

Benjamin Hinderer

### Facebook

Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

### Mason of the Year

SW & JW

### Membership Participation/Retention

Worshipful Master

### Sickness and Distress

Antero Trujillo

### Telephone Calling

Quaid E. Smith, PM, KYGCH

### Trestleboard

Sabrina Arps, Publisher

Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

### Website

Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

### Wills and Bequests

TBD





## YUMA INSURANCE, INC.

**Jack H. Puckett, CIC, CPCU**  
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