

⚡ **The Daylight Deacon** ⚡
Doña Ana Daylight Lodge #78
AF&AM

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John W. Taylor PM, Editor

Stated Meeting 2nd and 4th Saturday

The Master's Mission Statement

It is my mission, to improve our members/membership by fulfilling the promise of additional Masonic knowledge through education and training; and to provide a framework for effective leadership to ensure the stability and long-term success of the Fraternity.

Symbolism of Charcoal



We learn in the first degree lecture, that EAs serve their Masters with Freedom, Fervency and Zeal, symbolized by Chalk and charcoal and clay. Why charcoal?

In many cultures, charcoal was seen as a wondrous substance, for it made possible the use of metals. It fervency, or great heat, was critical to refining progressively harder and harder metals, from lead to copper, brass to bronze, and iron to steel. In the lecture we learn that “there is Nothing more fervent than Charcoal, to which, when well ignited, the most obdurate metals will yield”. It is interesting and instructive that the term “obdurate” carries the meanings “hardened in wickedness”, “persistently impenitent”, and “resisting or insensible to moral influence”. Thus a second

service is expected of our Brother, namely to ignite himself in his search for a better moral foundation and strive to fit himself for the Builder's use.

The Romans marked festive days with lime and unlucky days with charcoal.

A Korean tradition is to wait twenty-one days before visiting a new mother and child. All visitations are restricted for this time period, and ropes are hung across the gate to keep people out. The ropes, called kumchul (or geumjul), are decorated according to the sex of the child. Charcoal, white paper, and pine needles let people know that a girl has been born; charcoal and red paper (sometimes peppers) signify that a boy has been born to the family. The charcoal symbolizes cleanliness, red symbolizes the male, pine needles symbolize chastity in women, and white is to prevent impurities from entering the house.

Charcoal is also a symbol of absorption, coming from the same physical properties it possesses, and hence was often used as a symbol of quick absorption of thoughts and lessons. It is the porosity of wood charcoal that explains why it floats on the surface of water, although it is actually denser. This also accounts for its ability to readily absorb gases

and liquids; charcoal is often used to filter water or absorb odors. Its pharmacological action depends on the same property; it absorbs the gases of the stomach and intestines, and also liquids and solids (hence its use in the treatment of certain poisonings). Charcoal filters are used in some types of gas mask to remove poisonous gases from inhaled air.

To dream of charcoal unlighted, denotes miserable situations and bleak unhappiness. If it is burning with glowing coals, there are prospects of great enhancement of fortune, and possession of unalloyed joys. Author unknown

From the East:

March should prove to be a busy month. We will go through our first round of Ritual Proficiency Exams. These exams will be for the opening/closing in all three degrees. This should position us positively in the event of the Grand Masters Recommendation concerning "to be Master one must have passed the Ritual Proficiency to Open/Close on all three degrees". Our ritual work is the life's-blood of Freemasonry. It is what sets us apart from every other fraternal and charitable society in existence. Our Ritual Practices have been well attended and we have been having a good time doing and learning. Grand Lodge Communication will be March 21 and 22 in Clovis. Bro. Carlson and I will attend. Our door prize drawing at the February 8 Stated Meeting was won by Bro. Phil Marvin. He went home with a blue fleece pullover embroidered with the Square and Compasses and "Dona Ana Daylight Lodge #78, Mesilla, NM", and a diamond ring (dime and ring!). A door prize will be given at each Stated Meeting; to win you must be present. See you at Lodge!

George Washington Degree – El Paso

On Monday evening, February 18, Coronado Lodge #1406, conferred the MM Degree in honor George Washington, PM Alexandria Lodge #22, at the El Paso Scottish Rite Temple. The degree was in Tux (1st section)

and Costume (2nd section); a good turn out of New Mexico Masons from Alamogordo and Las Cruces rounded out the audience.

Future Speakers

March 8 – Norman Miller, PM Fraternity Lodge #1111; El Paso Lodge #130; Five Points Lodge #1137; PDGM Masonic District 60A TX; and Secretary of Fraternity Lodge #1111, El Paso, will speak on "Leadership".

April 12 – Ward Redshaw, PM/PDGM will speak on "World War II Bataan Experiences".

February Quiz Answers

1. George Washington was "Charter" Master of Alexandria Lodge #22. He was NOT Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge #22, because his name was not added until five years after his death. The Lodge was #39 under Charter of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. In 1788 the Lodge was re-chartered by the Grand Lodge of Virginia as Alexandria #22. In this new Charter (1788), "George Washington, Late Commander in Chief of the forces of the United States" was named as the first, or Charter, Worshipful Master.
2. George Washington was raised a Master Mason in "the Lodge at Fredericksburg." "Fredericksburg Lodge #4 is NOT correct, as Fredericksburg Lodge received its number from the Grand Lodge of Virginia, which came into being in 1787. Washington was raised in 1753.
3. Washington was not a Grand Master. He was proposed as Grand Master of Virginia in 1777, but declined on the dual grounds that he was too busy with national importance, and, as he had never been Master of a Lodge, he was not eligible.

March Quiz

1. The title of the first of the Old Charges is:

“Of Masters, Wardens, Fellows and Apprentices”?
“Of Lodges”?
“Concerning God and Religion”?
“Of Civil Magistrates, supreme and subordinate”?

From the Secretary’s desk:

At the last meeting I had the pleasure of reading a petition for the degrees, and I realized what a joy it is to be able to continue reading petitions. It’s a little extra work for me and a lot of extra work for the Lodge (specifically the Degree Team) but it’s the kind of work that makes us feel good. Why? Because with each petition for the degrees, I realize that regardless of statistics, there are still good and honorable men who want to be part of our fraternity and that Masonry will never fade away. So keep the petitions coming; we all look forward to the little bit of extra work and to welcoming newly-made Masons.

Happy birthday:

March 14 – Scott Burks
March 31 – Ward Redshaw

Calendar:

Sat., Mar. 1 9AM Ritual Practice
Sat., Mar. 8 9AM Stated Communication Program by Bro. Norman Miller of El Paso on “Leadership”
Sat., Mar. 15 9AM Ritual Practice
Sat., Mar. 22 9AM Stated Communication Annual Grand Lodge Communication will be held this same date.
Sat., Mar. 29 9AM Ritual Practice

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and I will send the newsletter to that address so we can save the Lodge the cost of paper and postage.

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