Worshipful Master: Joseph Felix Editor: Henry Spomer, PM

Edition: March, 2022

**Andrew Jackson 1767-1845** 7th President, 1829 – 1837 Harmony Lodge No. 1, Nashville, Tennessee, an Honorary Member of Federal Lodge No. 1, F. & A.M., Washington, D.C., and Jackson Lodge No. 1, F. & A.M., Tallahassee, Florida. In 1822 and 1823, he served as the Grand Master of Masons in Tennessee.

Orphaned at age 14 he was raised by his Uncle. He read law in his teens and became a very wealthy lawyer, a Prosecuting Attorney and a Politician. He served is several wars and many conflicts. Pres. Jackson had survived his fair share of accidents and mishaps, one being a bullet lodged in his chest from a duel 30 years before. On January 30, 1835, an unemployed painter, Richard Lawrence entered the Capitol rotunda confronted Jackson and removed a Derringer pistol from his jacket, and fired his weapon. With a bang the cap fired, but the bullet failed to discharge, The President charged his assassin and attempted to beat his would-be assassin with his cane, and Lawrence fired his second gun. Once again, the weapon failed to discharge its round. Navy Lieutenant Thomas Gedney and Tennessee Congressman Davey Crockett subdued Lawrence. It is said that Jackson carried a facial scar(s) from a British soldiers saber when he was hit in the face for refusing to polish the soldier’s boots.

Andrew Jackson was the first to be elected president by appealing to the mass of voters rather than the party elite. He established the principle that states may not disregard federal law. As president he signed the Indian Relocation Act which led to the “Trail of Tears”. He developed the new Democratic Party and strongly led the party and his presidency.

Andrew Jackson died at his home, (The Hermitage, near present day Nashville) of congestive heart failure on June 8, 1845.

 

Greetings to all brothers! We hope this edition finds you all doing well and we wish you and yours good health and happiness.

Check out our Web Page at mm56.org. It has posts and new Masonic Education articles on it.

**From Our Worshipful Master:**

The Masonic Ring

A poem

Those men who help my dad each day,

They wear those Mason rings.

A Square and Compass set in gold,

The praise of which I sing.

My dad, he hurt his back you know,

 One cold and wintery day.

He slipped and fell upon the ice,

The insurance would not pay.

And since that time those rings I see,

On hands that help us much.

With mowing lawns and hauling trash,

Each day my heart they touch.

They even built a house for me,

Amid our backyard tree.

Where all the neighbor kids,

Would play with laughter full of glee.

My Mom she cried from happiness,

The time the Masons came.

To aid our family in distress,

Without a thought of gain.

And when I'm big, just like my dad,

Of this it must be told.

I want to wear a ring like his,

A Square and Compass gold.

Long years have passed since when

My dad was in that plaster cast.

And since I swore that Solemn Oath,

Which unites us to the last.

But more than that I'm proud to say,

I wear his Mason ring.

The one dad wore for many years,

Until his death this spring

And one last time his comrades came,

To aid my weeping mother.

They praised and bid a fond farewell,

To our fallen Brother.

And after which MY son did ask,

About their Aprons white.

And of the rings upon their hands.

Of gold so shiny bright.

With tearful eyes I said with pride,

They're men of spirit pure.

Those men who wear those Mason rings,

Of that you can be sure.

And before he went to bed that night,

The family he foretold.

Someday I'll wear a ring like dad's,

A Square and Compass gold.

Author Unknown

**Know your Lodge Officers:**

Last month we heard from our Worshipful Master and this month is our SW & JW

**From our Senior Warden:**

Josh Sticht, originally from Illinois, moved to Arizona as a child in 1991. He attended Sabino High School and graduated in 1998. He then proceeded to go to Pima Community college and graduated with an Associates Degree in Business and then continued on to Northern Arizona University. Where he obtained his BS in Business Administration.  Since graduation he has worked in the finance field for 16yrs.  He has been married to his beautiful wife for 6yrs and they have 3 children, a 12 yr. old daughter Cadence, 5yr old son Sawyer and 2 yr. old son Finley.  Josh is a coach on his son Sawyer's T-Ball team.  When not busy with activities for his family or the lodge he enjoys spending time in the outdoors camping and hunting.

**From our Junior Warden:**

WB Matthew Hedrick was born in Cadiz, Spain in November 1973 to Sparland and Kathleen Hedrick while they were stationed at Rota Naval Air Station.  In 1992 Matt enlisted in the United States Air Forces where he served in multiple locations until retiring in February 2018. His career spanned 24 years of honorable Active Duty. He has deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom Sentinel/Resolute Support.

He was stationed at Davis Monthan AFB, Tucson in 2013 where he met WB John Love.  Having long been interested in Masonry, Matt began to have conversations about the Craft with WB John.  Leading to his petitioning to join the lodge in 2015.  Since then he has moved through the chairs and stations, starting out as Junior Deacon and eventually leading to his election as Worshipful Master in 2021.   Outside of Masonry, Matt enjoys spending time with his family and riding his motorcycle.

Matt has the pleasure of being married to Ashley. He has three children, Kaylie, Austin, and Zakary.  As well as two grandchildren Braelynn and Jackson Taylor.

**Updates/Reminders:**

I have had a few problems with the Web Site and have been working to correct them. Please be patient as I work through them and become more efficient in Web work. A thank you to WM Joe Felix who is trying to teach me and also has to correct my Web Page problems. Trying to teach an old dog new tricks can be a chore and maybe impossible.

Each month before the stated meeting dinner the line officers have scheduled meetings with different groups for presentation of the groups’ progress and updates on activities. Be sure to check the schedule and be prepared to brief the line officers. So if you are on a committee or have been assigned a job please look at the schedule to see if you are on the agenda to make an updated report to the line officers.

Exciting times ahead many things are happening in your Lodge. Come join us as we move into the future.

**Dinner:** Dinner at 6:30. Next meeting is March 7, 2022. The menu is: Smoked Chicken Breast, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Veggies and Desert. Please let Henry Spomer know by March 3rd if you will attend the dinner so we will have enough food for everyone. Email 1papapie@comcast.net

**Helping Hands:** If you or you know of one of our Lodge Brothers who has fallen on hard times and needs help with his dues, please let WM Joe Felix or Secretary Dave Brown know. The lodge and Brothers are there to help you. Please let someone know so we can help.

If you would like to participate in a degree, please contact, Josh Sticht at joshsticht@gmail.com.

**Officers for 2022**

Worshipful Master--Joseph Felix Senior Warden--Josh Sticht Junior Warden--Matt Hedrick PM

Secretary--David Brown PM Treasurer--Pat Zech PM Chaplin—Henry Spomer PM

Sr. Deacon—Carl Warren Jr. Deacon—Tyler Rivas Tyler—Sam Talvy

Sr. Steward—Thomas Christopherson Jr. Steward—Joe Santistaban PM Marshall--- Stephen Lamb

1 yr. Trustee--Jeff Horton PM 2 yr. Trustee--Jim Wild PM 3 yr. Trustee--Gordon Beatty

**Educationally:** *Here is an old article but still very appropriate to this day*

**The Masonic values of The New England Patriots** [February 3, 2015](https://masonologyblog.wordpress.com/2015/02/03/the-masonic-values-of-the-new-england-patriots/) [Livingstone](https://masonologyblog.wordpress.com/author/masonologylivingstone/) [Culture](https://masonologyblog.wordpress.com/category/culture/), [General](https://masonologyblog.wordpress.com/category/general/), [Self-Improvement](https://masonologyblog.wordpress.com/category/self-improvement/)[Freemason](https://masonologyblog.wordpress.com/tag/freemason/), [Freemasonry](https://masonologyblog.wordpress.com/tag/freemasonry/), [new england patriots](https://masonologyblog.wordpress.com/tag/new-england-patriots/), [super bowl](https://masonologyblog.wordpress.com/tag/super-bowl/), [The Patriots](https://masonologyblog.wordpress.com/tag/the-patriots/)

Hello Readers,

Two days ago, the New England Patriots scored their 4th Super Bowl title, the most in the salary cap era. Tom Brady is now in the discussion for being the greatest QB of all time, and Bill Belichick is in the discussion for being the greatest coach of all time. Whether you like them or hate them or even think they are running vast conspiracies of cheating to beat other teams, there is little to argue that that they are currently best run franchise in professional sports.

This isn’t a fluke or something that is happening by chance either. For the entire Patriots organization, there have philosophies, ideologies and ways of doing things that have caused them to stay at the top for so long. And as a Mason, there are things that they do that we can all learn from and hopefully emulate.

1. Do Your Job.

It’s common in society today for people to talk the talk but not walk the walk. It’s also common for people to half-ass their work, to mail it in or to not follow directions. For the Patriots, this motto of Do Your Job means that you do exactly what is commanded of you in practice to the letter. You have a job to do, the team is relying on you. Go out and do it.

As Masons this message is something that we’re familiar with. It brings us back to our Operative Masonic roots, where Masons worked together in teams to create many of the iconic structures that we see around the world today. When working together to build a great structure, each Mason had a job to do. Whether it was perfecting stones, artistically designing edifices, spreading cement, measuring balance, each Mason had one job and the entire lodge relied on them to do it. Yet how the Patriots approach the team aspect is actually very individualistic. Do Your Job. That is a message to each person that their focus is singular and internal. It’s about what that individual has to do. This is entirely Masonic. When we come to Masonry, we come because we are working on subduing our passions, learning and improving ourselves in Masonry. It’s about our individual work. It’s about you and how you perfect your own stone.

Yet Do Your Job is also understood within the team philosophy. If each player does their job, the whole team works as a cohesive unit and is able to do incredible things. Masonry is the same way. Even though the work is individual, we are all together in a unified lodge. While we have each individually come to search for light, it is understood that it is found through other brothers as well.

If each player does their job then the team will succeed wildly and be as great as the Patriots are. And if each individual Mason does their job, then the lodge as a whole succeeds wildly. On the other hand as we saw in the Super Bowl, Tharold Simon struggled and it allowed the Patriots to pick on him and move the ball against one of the better defenses of all time. All it takes is one bad player for the entire team to collapse. The lodge is the same way. All it takes is one bad member for the lodge to become weakened and to collapse. Simon didn’t do his job, either through bad coaching or lack of working himself. A Mason who doesn’t do their job to make themselves perfect runs the risk of making the lodge weak and having the whole fall apart.

2. A Championship Leader:

The Patriots win because they have a great coach in Bill Belichick who knows how to run the show. To say that Belichick is tireless in his commitment to winning is an understatement. He puts all of his energy and effort into breaking down film, working with his players and being involved with almost every aspect of the organization. Every player and coach looks to him and follows his lead. He is admired because of his relentless external commitment to results and being able to achieving those results.

In Masonry we want the Worshipful Master to be the same. We want someone who is tireless in their commitment to making a great lodge. Every Mason is part of that lodge and a Worshipful Master knows how to rule over his Brothers with a relentless commitment to results and to being able to achieve those results. Now each lodge and each individual Mason has their own set of goals, so what your results are definitely depends on the place and brother. Yet finding what each lodge and brother needs requires research. And Bill Belichick spends hours and hours watching game film to find out how to best change and tailor his approach to each individual team and opponent. A great Worshipful Master will spends his time with his brothers to find out what each of them needs and what best works for the lodge.

Bill Belichick is the undisputed leader of The Patriots team. He is the one who draws up the game plans and put them into action. He teachers the players the best way to execute it, and then guides them as they put the plan into action. Masonry again is the same way. Masons need a leader who lays out a plan and brings everyone together to make that plan work. This springs from our Operative History where a Chief Architect put together the blueprint for the structure and then directed his Masons on how to build it. Behind every great building was a legendary Grand Master who makes sure each Mason did their job and worked as a cohesive unit. They looked to God to draw up the blueprint, they set it into actions, they handled personalities and made sure each Mason was put in the best possible place to succeed.

In addition a great leader also listens to the people that work for him. You will often see Belichick roam the sidelines and talk to his other players and coaches asking them how things are going. What are they seeing? What is happening? How is the game plan working? Belichick has his blueprint but he also makes sure to listen to the players to figure out ways to improve on that blueprint. A great Worshipful Master makes sure to always consult with his fellow Masons to make sure things are being done right and to ask how things can be done better.

Also Bill Belichick is very flexible. He has his plans that he takes into the game but if the plan isn’t working his team he’ll quickly go to a new plan of attack. The Patriots are legendary for changing things up on the fly to find different ways to challenge an opponent. In Masonry we find the tools that are given to us are open for our own interpretation. And like any Mason, sometimes the first approach to something isn’t actually the right one and you find yourself seeing things differently later. For Worshipful Masters, that means the plans you put into place aren’t dogma. They need to be open to change. Your leadership styles, your plans for the year and even ways you help to improve brothers has to be flexible. You have to know that if something isn’t working you need to have a plan B, C and D.

3. The Patriots embody our Masonic tools.

Think of the Square and Compass. Is there a team out there that better follows them both? No! The Patriots always square their actions. No player gets special treatment. In Training Camp the player that works out the hardest gets the best parking spots. Tom Brady was normally this guy until he slowed down a bit for a few years and didn’t train as hard. He lost his preferential parking spots. Another example, Jonas Gray ran for 200 yards again the Colts in the regular season. A few days later he was late for practice. He was sent to the bench and he barely played since. Bill Belichick treats his players the same no matter who they are or what they do. This weeds out the prima-donna players while also creating the fairest system for talent to rise. It also brings players together knowing that they are all being treated as equals. If every stone is squared the same, they are much more likely to fit together.

As for The Compass, it calls for us to circumscribe our desires and to keep our passions within due bounds toward all mankind. The Patriots are perfect examples of this. Each player has something they want. It could be the big contract. Or more playing time. Or more masses. Or more media exposure. Whatever. But the Patriots players deep their desires in check. They sacrifice for the team. If they each went after what they wanted they would have turned into the Oakland Raiders a long time ago. They can still have desires and many of them do, but by keeping things in check it allows for everyone to fit in with each other and become a cohesive unit.

They are also excellent at keeping their passions within due bounds. Watch them at the podium when speaking to the media. They constantly talk about the respect they have for other teams and players. When asked about winning they say they want it but they will say that it’s a lot of hard work and mental focus. Do these players want to win? Of course. These are some of the most competitive players in the world. But they again keep their passions in control. Engaging in a chest puffing “who is better” war or words with another team will only lead to distractions and for the other team to get bulletin board material. By keeping their passion to a controlled burn, it allows them to stay focused and disciplined in practice all the way through the game. And the Patriots are extremely passionate during the game, throwing every ounce of energy out onto the field. But they also keep their passions within due bounds on the field by never letting the other team’s trash talk get to them. They also make sure to not get to emotional and let the emotion of the moment cloud their heads. They each have a job to do and too much emotion can cloud their judgement. When Russell Wilson was driving for the score, Malcolm Butler had just let up a miracle catch to Jermaine Kearse. He could have let his negative emotions get to him. He could have let the momentum swing of the Seahawks driving to bring him out of his focus. But he kept his passions within due bounds, stayed focused, did his job and intercepted Russell Wilson’s pass two plays later. And the rest is history.

The Patriots are currently the greatest run in professional sports. And as we learn from the Trowel, the only contention that should exist among us is who can best work and agree. The Patriots are the best. They are the masters and as we continue on our journey of self-improvement, consider their work and how their methods could assist you.

Livingstone

**Wisdom:**

**A Story from...The Power of Attitude** *By Mac Anderson*

IN MANY WAYS, WE'RE ALIKE; however, one little difference almost always makes a big difference. The little difference is attitude. William James, over a century ago, said, "The greatest discovery of this generation is that a human being can alter their life by altering their attitude."

Attitudes truly are contagious, and from time to time we need to ask ourselves..."is mine worth catching?" I'd like to share a short excerpt from my book titled: The Power of Attitude.

Not long ago I was in Nashville, Tennessee and I went into a convenience store to get a newspaper and a pack a gum.

The young women at the check-out counter said, "That 'll be five dollars please," and as

I reached into my wallet, the thought occurred to me that a newspaper and gum didn't

quite make it to five dollars.

When I looked up to get a "re-quote", she had a big smile on her face and said, "Gotcha!

I got to get my tip in there somehow!"

I laughed when I knew I'd been had. She then glanced down at the paper I was buying

and said, "I'm sick and tired of all this negative stuff on the front pages. I want to read

some good news for a change."

She then said, "In fact, I think someone should just publish a Good News newspaper -

a paper with wonderful, inspiring stories about people overcoming adversity and doing

good things for others. I'd buy one everyday!"

She then thanked me for coming in and said, "Maybe we'll get lucky tomorrow; maybe

we'll get some good news," and she laughed. She made my day.

The following day, after my business appointments, I dropped by the same store again

to pick up a bottled water, but a different young lady was behind the counter.

As I checked out I said, "Good afternoon," and handed her my money for the water. She

said nothing - not a word, not a smile...nothing. She just handed me my change and in

a negative tone ordered...."Next!"

It hit me right between the eyes: Two people, same age; one made me feel great, and

the other, well, made me feel that I had inconvenienced her by showing up.

By the choices we make, by the attitudes we exhibit, we are influencing lives every day .

in positive or negative ways...our family, our peers, our friends, and even strangers we've

never met before and will never meet again.

So when you brush your teeth every morning, look in the mirror and ask yourself..."Are

there things I'd like to change?" How will you choose to live your life...as "the grouch"

or as "the good news girl?"

Your answer will go a long way toward determining the joy and happiness that you will

experience in your life.

**What Came You Here To Do?**

*So “What came you here to do?” I see it as to Learn and Improve Myself and to Aid and Assist another to become a better person!*

*So now the question: ‘Have you improved today’?*

*Have you learned a new word?*

*Have you learned a new line in the ritual?*

*Have you started leaving for work just a few minutes earlier so you are not rushing to arrive by starting time?*

*Have you worked on your procrastination?*

*Have you developed an undiscovered product?*

*What step have you taken today to make yourself a better person or what have you done to help another become a better person?*

*It makes no difference if your accomplishment is small or large, for the point is you have taken a step forward.*

*Is it that you believe you can-not memorize ritual work? I would have to disagree with most of you. Don’t try to eat the whole elephant, just take one piece and one bite at a time, A few words at a time and by the end of the week you will have several sentences memorized.*

*So brothers if we took one small step to improve each day by the end of the week we will have taken five to seven steps to improvement.*

*This same application applies to us in our everyday world, be it to take a few moments to slow down, relax and observe. Put a smile on your face for others to see, it may make your day as well as others a bit better. Say Hello, Good By or Hi, How is your day going? Small things begin to add up by the end of the week and you will be surprised how the view of the world will change.*

*Remember all journeys or accomplishments start with a first step. HLS*

**Word Scrambler:**

*March’s Word is:* *NMNIOIAAEXT*

*February’s word is: OTABNGILIO – Obligation*

*January’s word was: ORPANNPINOETETSAR --apron presentation*

*Prize for solving is: ISSRNOOIAOTATFYUCWN (Hint) Three words: OYRU ONW IFTIANOCSTAS*

*Upcoming Events March 2022*

*Monday March 7th Marion McDaniel Officers Meeting 6:00 PM*

*Monday March 7th Marion McDaniel Dinner 6:30 PM*

*Monday March 7th Marion McDaniel stated Meeting 7:30 PM*

*Tuesday March 15th 1st Degree Practice 7-9 PM*

*Saturday March 19th Social Event All day*

Monday March 21st 1st Degree Exemplification 7-9 PM

Fri – Sun March 25th-27th ARIZONA MASONICON 2022 (See Secretary for more info)

***March Masonic History:***

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| *March 3* | *On this date in 1753, George Washington received his Fellow Craft degree in Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia* |
| *March 4* | *March 4, 1829. Andrew Jackson Inaugurated.*  |
| *March 5* | *On this date in 1792, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was organized* |
| *March 6* | *On this date in 1775, several black men, including one named Prince Hall, were initiated into Freemasonry in Boston. This marked the beginning of what became a huge movement or organization in the United States known as Prince Hall Masonry, composed mainly of African Americans.* |
| *March 9* | *On this date in 1822, a national Masonic Congress was held in Washington DC, in the U.S. Capitol building* |
| *March 17* | *On this date in 1856, the Grand Lodge of Kansas was formed* *On this date in 1848, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington DC was established* |
| *March 18* | *On this date in 1902, the Tall Cedars of Lebanon was incorporated, in Trenton, New Jersey.* |
| *March 23* | *On this date in 1887, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle received his 3rd degree.* |
| *March 25* | *On this date in 1882, the Grand Lodge of Arizona was organized**On this date in 1902, Sir Winston Churchill received his 3rd degree in Studholme Lodge #1591, London* |

 ***Birthdays:***

*Pat Zech 3/8/1956*

*Robert Ozier 3/21/1936*

*Keith Sweatland 3/30/1945*

Fraternally,

Joselph Felix, WM Matt Hedrick, PM JW

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