

# YORK RITE NEWS



ARIZONA CHAPTER NO. 1 PHOENIX COUNCIL NO. 4 PHOENIX COMMANDERY NO. 3

July 2019

## Oath and Obligation

The Masonic obligations are strictly voluntary duties assumed by candidates as their part in becoming Brethren or by Brethren who take the responsibility to hold certain offices or complete certain tasks. The oath that they take is their personal confirmation, of the promises they publicly make before the body and the Deity.

These Masonic obligations are assumed to be binding, when a candidate is honest with himself and his brothers. History shows us many examples of this. How many times have we read about our ancestors who would rather face torture and death before breaking their oath and or obligation? An obligation was and should still be considered unbreakable, and cannot be set aside or only invoked when convenient.

Our obligation are a gentleman's agreement to perform certain function and to refrain from unethical actions. An obligation simply put is a pledge, and acknowledgment of promises made. The oath seals the obligation by the candidate. He is attesting to the seriousness of the words he has just publicly spoken.

Further your obligation was spoken in the presence of Him who can search the heart and knows exactly our reasoning behind everything we do. If we only took a few minutes to contemplate those obligations each week we would have better Masons, and set a better example for other men to follow. Our numbers would grow exponentially as those men we came in contact with outside of the craft would want to be a part of our organization.

Our obligations both masonic and personal should never be considered just a string of empty words. As Masons we should make more of our obligations and try to impress upon each other through our actions that a promise is a powerful thing.

When a promise is broken it can have serious penalties. The consequences of a broken promises is probably one reason why the Bible says you should let "your 'yes' be yes and your 'no' be no" The worst consequence is you lose trust and respect. All of your personal and business relationships will be strained, and even when you are truly willing to put forth the effort no one will believe you.

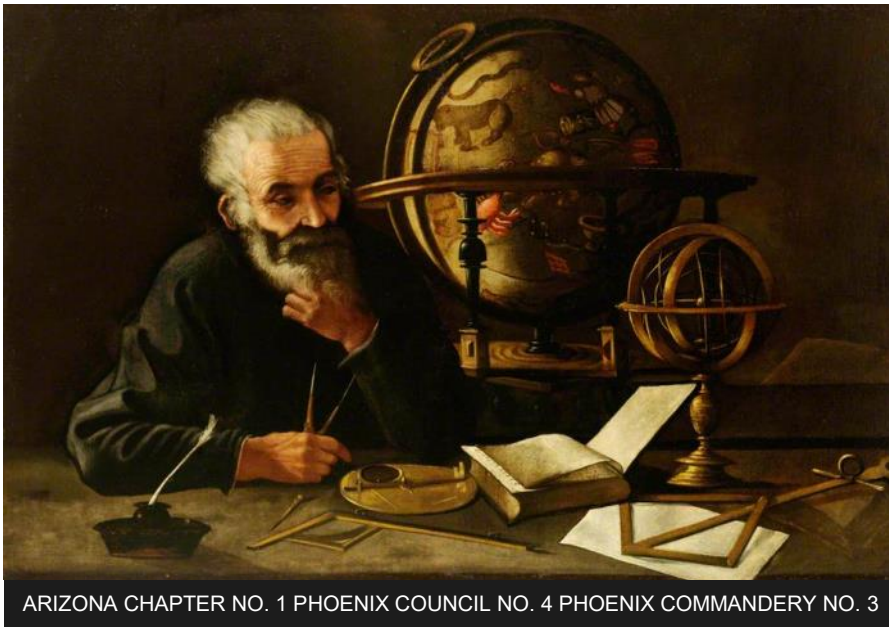
How much better off would the world be if every Mason took those words we recite more seriously, as a truly sincere and binding commitment and strived to live by them in every situation, everyday of their life.

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Romans 12:2

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## Basic History of Freemasonry

Freemasons are told that Freemasonry was in existence when King Solomon built the Temple at Jerusalem and that the masons who built the Temple were organized into Lodges.

Freemasons are told that King Solomon, King Hiram of Tyre and Hiram Abif ruled over those lodges as equal Grand Masters. The ceremonies, however, are built up of allegory and symbolism and the stories they weave around the building of the Temple are obviously not literal or historical facts but a dramatic means of explaining the principles of Freemasonry. Freemasonry neither originated nor existed in Solomon's time.

Many well-meaning historians, both Masons and non-Masons, have tried to prove that Freemasonry was a lineal descendant or a modern version of the mysteries of classical Greece and Rome or derived from the religion of the Egyptian pyramid builders. Other theories state Freemasonry sprang from bands of travelling stonemasons acting by Papal authority. Others say Freemasonry evolved from a band of Knights Templar who escaped after the order was persecuted by the pope.

Some historians have even claimed that Freemasonry derives in some way from the shadowy and mysterious Rosicrucian Brotherhood, which may not have even existed. All of these theories have been looked at repeatedly but no hard evidence has yet been found to give any of them credibility.

The honest answers to the questions when, where and why Freemasonry originated are that we simply do not know. Early evidence for Freemasonry is very meager and not enough has yet been discovered - if indeed it even exists - to prove any theory. The general agreement amongst serious masonic historians and researchers is that Freemasonry has arisen, either directly or indirectly, from the medieval stonemasons (or operative masons) who built great cathedrals and castles.

Those who favor the direct descent from operative masonry say there were three stages to the evolution of Freemasonry. The stonemasons gathered in huts (lodges) to rest and eat. These lodges gradually became not the hut but the grouping together of stonemasons to regulate their craft. In time, and in common with other trades, they developed primitive initiation ceremonies for new apprentices.

As stonemasons could easily travel all over the country from one building site to another, and as there were also no trade union cards or certificates of apprenticeship they began to adopt a private word which a travelling stonemason could use when he arrived at a new site, to prove that he was properly trained and had been a member of a lodge. It was, after all, easier to communicate a special word to prove that you knew what you were doing and were entitled to the wages it deserved than to spend hours carving a block of stone to demonstrate your skills.

We know that in the early 1600s these operative lodges began to admit men who had no connection with the trade - accepted or gentlemen masons. Why this was done and what form of ceremony was used is not known. As the 1600s drew to a close more and more gentlemen began to join the lodges, gradually taking them over and turning them into lodges of free and accepted or speculative masons, no longer having any connection with the stonemasons' craft.

The only problem with this theory is that it is based solely on evidence from Scotland. There is ample evidence of Scottish operative lodges, geographically defined units with the backing of statute law to control what was termed the mason trade. There is also plenty of evidence that these lodges began to admit gentlemen as accepted masons, but no evidence so far that these accepted members were other than honorary masons, or that they in any way altered the nature of the operative lodges. Yet it is in England that the first evidence of a lodge completely made up of non-operative masons is found. Elias Ashmole, the Antiquary and Founder of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, records in his diary for 1646 that he was made a freemason in a lodge held for that purpose at his father-in-law's house in Warrington. He records who was present, all of whom have been researched and have been found to have no connection with operative masonry. English evidence through the 1600s points to Freemasonry existing apart from any actual or supposed organization of operative stonemasons.

This total lack of evidence for the existence of operative Lodges but evidence of accepted masons has led to the theory of an indirect link between operative stonemasonry and Freemasonry. Those who support the indirect link argue that Freemasonry was brought into being by a group of men in the late 1500s or early 1600s. This was a period of great religious and political turmoil and intolerance. Men were unable to meet together without differences of political and religious opinion leading to arguments. Opposing views split families and the English civil war of 1642-6 was the ultimate outcome.

A newer theory places the origin of Freemasonry within a charitable framework. In the 1600s, there was no welfare state; anyone falling ill or becoming disabled had to rely on friends and the Poor Law for support. In the 1600s, many trades had what have become known as box clubs. These grew out of the convivial gatherings of members of a particular trade during meetings of which all present would put money into a communal box, knowing that if they fell on hard times they could apply for relief from the box. From surviving evidence these box clubs are known to have begun to admit members not of their trade and to have had many of the characteristics of early masonic lodges. They met in taverns, had simple initiation ceremonies and passwords and practiced charity.

Although it is not yet possible to say when, why or where Freemasonry originated it is known where and when "organized" Freemasonry began. On 24 June 1717 four London lodges came together at the Goose and Gridiron Ale House in St Paul's Churchyard, formed themselves into a Grand Lodge and elected a Grand Master (Anthony Sayer) and Grand Wardens.

## Stated Meetings, Ritual Practice, and Knight Cap

Stated Meetings are always the second Monday of each month. We are dark until September but will be having Sword Practice July and August at the same time of our stated meetings. We have swords available if you do not have one.

Our next stated meeting will be September 9th, 2019 Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. – to 9:00 pm and we will be opening in Commandery.

Our meeting are always followed by a social hour, the Knight Cap that is free to all masons, their friends, and family members. This is a time to get to know your brothers on a more personal level and allow your loved ones to participate.



Meeting Will Open In Phoenix Commandery #3

## Meeting Agenda, New Contact Information

If you would like to be on the meeting agenda please contact the Secretary / Recorder Steve Doran at 602-699-6156 or by email at [recorder@phoenixyorkrite.org](mailto:recorder@phoenixyorkrite.org)

The agenda will be finalized by Saturday September 7th, 2019. unless it is an emergency no additional items will be placed on the agenda after that time.

Rules for being on the agenda are simple. You must be informative, respectful, and build good will while presenting your idea or making a point.



# Birthdays , Necrology, Sick-ness and Destress.

## Birthdays

The Officers and Members of the Phoenix York Rite Bodies join in wishing, all of you a Happy Birthday!!

1. Rubin Beglarian
2. Robert Bradshaw
3. Eugene Fields
4. Howard Goldman
5. Bruce Johnson
6. Micah Johnson
7. Nick Rouse
8. Tommy Thompson

May you Always have the strength to endure any situation and know you are appreciated by each and every one of us. God gave you the gift of life and he also gave you the gift of living well. Please use it every day of your life.

## Necrology

None

## Sickness and Distress

***My friends prayed for me and You restored me to health and let me live. Surely it was for my benefit.***

1. Jim Rolle is in Assisted Living

**Please keep the Secretary / Recorder Steve Doran informed of any Sickness, Distress or Necrology.**

**We now have a dedicated phone number and email address!!!!!!!!!!**

## Contact Us

Give us a call or email us if you have questions or need more information.

### Recorder Steve Doran

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