

**December 5, 2025, Newsletter #127**

**Dear Brethren and Friends,**

**Special Announcements:**

**Officer Elections:**

**Elected:**

**WM – Aaron Walker**

**SW – W:. Tony Griffith**

**JW – James Hiatt**

**Secretary – W:. Bob McLeod**

**Treasurer – W:. Scott A. MacDonald**

**Trustee (3-year term) – W:. Nathan Dollarhide**

**Appointed:**

**SD – W:. Alan Hart**

**JD – Josh Plute**

**SD – W:. Echota West**

**JD – Eric Downs**

**Chaplain – W:. Robert Thornton**

**Installation is this Sunday, Dec. 7, 2 pm and is open to the public.**

**Congratulations to Gragg Roberts for passing his EA proficiency.**

**Welcome back to EA Clayton Coleman. Glad you are going to continue your masonic journey.**

**We have a sizable number of people who now owe 2 years of dues. Please contact the Lodge Office and let us know how we can help you stay in good standing.**

**We will be developing the lodge budget for 2026 within the next month. Please pay your dues if you can or let us know if you can't.**

**We will NOT have fellowship on Dec 23 and Dec 30. Please spend time with your family and rejoice in the magic of the season. If you don't have family nearby, consider volunteering somewhere and help someone else thru this time of year.**

**Sustaining Member Program: It's not too late to participate in this year's Sustaining Member Program. This is designed mainly for our service exempt and perpetual members to help cover their per capita at a minimum.**

**There will be four tiers of giving:**

- **"Quarter" Club A total of \$25, which will cover the cost of a Member's Per Capita.**
- **"Century" Club A total of \$100, which will cover the cost of one day's operational costs of the lodge.**
- **"243" Club A total of \$243, which helps the lodge remain vibrant and active in our community.**

- “Penta Centennial” Club A total of \$500, which goes a long way towards improving our lodge.

Funds will not require a single payment, rather, they may be paid incrementally on a schedule of “your” choosing. As recognition, at the end of the year, a document will be prepared with the names of those individuals that met the for each level, which will then be framed and hung on the wall in Honor of those who gave.

Each year, a new list will be prepared, replacing the previous year’s list which will then be placed in the archives of the lodge, as a memento commemorating the donations.

Note: You may send a check to the Lodge or make a donation at <https://balodge243.square.site/>.

My Ramblings by W:. Scott A. MacDonald © 2025

Who are you to me?

Have you ever been in a store, looking for something, and then realize you are blocking someone’s path? When I do, I call myself an “obliviot” (Oblivious Idiot). It’s not intentionally, it is just how we sometimes get wrapped up in our own cares and concerns and don’t realize there are other people around. By the way, making up or coining a word a word or phrase is called neologism. Bet you didn’t know that.

There is another word I learned recently. It is “sonder”. This is similar to “obliviot” in that it describes the realization that every person has a life as vivid and complex as your own, and that we are just an extra in the lives of others.

To sonder is to have a profound feeling and realization that every random passerby is the main character in their own story, complete with ambitions, routines and worries. And we are just a secondary character, an extra who might appear in a fleeting moment.

The term “Sonder” was coined by John Koenig in “The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows”, which is a collection of invented words for emotions that lack a name.

The word itself has a sad connotation to me, but it rings true. As we worry about what others may think about us, the concept of “sonder” brings us back to reality. Jarring us into the realization we aren’t as important to others as we may think, at least for those people we meet in passing.

One concept in the book I found interesting is “Nighthawk” – *n.* a recurring thought that only seems to strike you late at night—an overdue task, a nagging guilt, a looming future—which you sometimes manage to forget for weeks, only to feel it land on your shoulder once again, quietly building a nest.

You can find his dictionary at <https://www.thedictionaryofobscuresorrows.com/> if you ae so inclined to explore.

I hope that our fraternity is the opposite of “sonder”. I hope we build relationships and brotherhood that understand that we are important in each other’s lives. That we are not just passing, unimportant strangers. We do that by gathering in fellowship and learning about each other. Our passions, our success and even our failures. To do that we need to invest our time in each other. As we approach a new year, please renew your commitment to your brothers and to the lodge.

By the way, we had 29 BA Lodge master masons at the meeting on Tuesday, plus several guests and 2 EAs. What a wonderful feeling to see everyone.

Isaiah 43:4 - Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life.

Proverbs 3: 3-4 - Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

Lord, give us the words we need to express our emotions and to build our brotherly relationships. In His name I pray. Amen.

#### **Lodge Calendar**

Dec 7 (Sunday) – Officer installation. 2 pm. Light refreshments to follow.

Dec 9 (Tuesday) – Fellowship night. Dinner at 6 pm.

Dec 16 (Tuesday) - Stated business meeting. Dinner at 6 pm, lodge at 7 pm.

Dec 23 (Tuesday) – No meeting due to the Holidays.

Dec 30 (Tuesday) – No meeting due to the Holidays.

Jan 2 (Tuesday) - Stated business meeting. Dinner at 6 pm, lodge at 7 pm.

Dues notices are out. You can pay your \$200 dues by mailing or bringing a check to the lodge or online at <https://balodge243.square.site/> .

Hope you all have a great weekend. See you at the next meeting!

Sincerely,

W.: Scott A. MacDonald, Treasurer and Membership Calling Chairman

PS – I will be posting the weekly newsletter on our website at <https://ba-mason.org/newsletter> .

