

November 7, 2025, Newsletter #123

Dear Brethren and Friends,

Special Announcements:

November 7th and 8th (Friday & Saturday) – Grand Lodge in Guthrie, OK. Open to all Master Masons. Come and participate in the governance of your Grand Lodge and meet Masons from all over Oklahoma. Friday is open to the public. Saturday is the tyled Grand Lodge. Be sure and bring an apron and your 2025 dues card to be admitted.

Nov 11 (Tuesday) – DDGM Echota West will present a Veterans Day program discussing the meaning and use of the black ball. Masons only. Dinner at 6 pm, program to follow.

Dues notices are out. Payment is due by January 1, 2026. You can bring you dues to lodge, mail them or pay on-line at <https://balodge243.square.site/> .

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

The Plumblines (Author Unknown)

Note: the information in this article is readily available on the internet. So, I am not revealing any secrets!

Imagine a single cord, no thicker than a whisper, dropping from the top of a cathedral wall. At its end swings a teardrop of lead. The wind rocks it, yet the moment it stills, that line is perfect—ninety degrees to the earth, true to the unseen pull of gravity. Operative masons trusted their lives to that line. One degree off and a tower falls. Tonight, in ten short minutes, let us see how Freemasonry trusts our lives to the very same tool: the Plumb.

1. From Stone to Soul

In the quarries of ancient Egypt, the Greeks, and the great Gothic yards, the plumb was born. A string, a bob of lead—Latin plumbum—and the law of gravity. No batteries, no lasers, just the honest attraction between earth and weight. Hang it beside a rising wall; if the string kisses the stone from top to bottom, the wall is upright. If it gaps, the wall is false. Simple. Brutal. True.

When the stonemasons' guilds became lodges of speculative gentlemen, they kept the tool but changed the wall. The wall is now you.

2. The Fellow Craft's First Gift

You do not meet the plumb in the Entered Apprentice degree. That degree gives you the 24-inch gauge and gavel—time and willpower to chip away the rough. Only when you climb the winding stair, lungs burning with the climb of manhood, does the Senior Warden press the plumb into your hand.

He says: "The Plumb is the jewel of my office. It admonishes us to walk uprightly before God and man."

Three words: up-right-ly. Not crooked, not leaning, not “mostly vertical.” Upright.

3. The Bible Opens Its Own Plumb

Amos 7:7–8: “Behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in His hand. And the Lord said unto me, ‘Amos, what seest thou?’ And I said, ‘A plumbline.’ Then said the Lord, ‘Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel.’”

God does not bring a sword or a scale. He brings a builder’s tool. Why? Because divine justice is not arbitrary; it is vertical. It drops straight from heaven to the human heart, missing nothing, excusing nothing. The same gravity that keeps planets in orbit keeps conscience in line.

4. Three Lessons in One Hanging Line

- **Integrity:** The plumb teaches that a man’s word must hang true. Promise your brother a favor—deliver it. Sign a contract—honor every clause. One hidden sag and the whole wall of reputation cracks.
- **Justice:** Hold the scales even, but hold them plumb. Judge your brother by the same line you judge yourself. No favoritism, no grudge. The bob swings free; so must mercy and truth.
- **Courage:** Gravity never sleeps. Temptation tugs sideways—profit, pleasure, fear. The upright man feels the pull but does not yield. He stands while others lean.

5. The Junior Warden’s Jewel

Look across the lodge. The Junior Warden wears the plumb at his breast. Why him? Because when the lodge is at refreshment—when collars are off and guards are down—character is most tested. A drunk driver, a whispered slander, a quiet bribe; these are the sideways winds that topple towers. The Junior Warden reminds us: even at table, stay plumb.

6. A Modern Story

Last year a young Fellow Craft—an engineer—faced a choice. His firm wanted to bury faulty stress data to win a bridge contract. Millions in play. One signature and he’d be set for life. That night he took out his pocket plumb—a gift from his raiser—and hung it from his desk lamp. The line fell straight across the falsified report. He tore the page, resigned, and started over. The bridge still stands. So does he.

7. How to Use Your Plumb Tomorrow Morning

- **Wake and ask:** “If my day were a wall, would the plumb kiss it clean?”
- **At noon, pause.** Hold an imaginary string from heart to heaven. Where does it gap? Close it.
- **At night, journal** one act of uprightness and one sag you corrected. Watch the wall rise.

8. The Final Swing

Brethren, the Great Architect could have chosen any tool to badge His craftsmen. He chose the humblest: a string and a weight. No moving parts, no prestige—only the quiet courage to let truth pull you straight.

So here is my charge: Carry the plumb in your apron pocket, your phone case, your conscience. Let it swing free. When passion leans you left or fear drags you right, feel the tug and stand fast. For the man who lives plumb does not merely avoid falling; he becomes the pillar others lean on until they, too, learn to stand alone.

The line still hangs. May it hang true in every heart here tonight.

I now surrender the plumb to the gravity of your own reflection.

Lord, grant us the strength to use the plumbline to align our life, upright and perfect. Amen.

Lodge Calendar

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Nov 11 (Tuesday) (Veterans Day) – DDGM Echota West will present a program discussing the meaning and use of the black ball. The program is for Masons only. Dinner at 6 pm, program to follow.

Nov 18 (Tuesday) - Stated business meeting. Dinner at 6 pm, lodge at 7 pm.

Nov 25 (Tuesday) – Fellowship night.

Dec 2 (Tuesday) – Stated business meeting and Officer Elections. Dinner at 6 pm, lodge at 7 pm.

Dec 7 (Sunday) – Officer installation. 2 pm.

Dec 9 (Tuesday) – Fellowship night.

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

Dec 23 (Tuesday) – Fellowship night.

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

Dues statements will be coming out shortly. 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> .