

# Look To The West



## Do we do as we say?

As I continue my journey in the East, and continuously look to the future, I ask myself, "What is our greatest weakness?" And, I have come to one realization. As a fraternity we have been failing at consistency, doing exactly what it is we say we do. We say we make good men better, by making them masons, and subjecting them to our ritual, and moral principles. I ask though, how many of our lodges can actually make Masons, let alone teach them the morals we so dearly value? Do I even live up to that standard? I humbly remind the reader that this post is as much self reflective, as it is observational.

The first vision of Masonry most get is when they are brought to light as an Entered Apprentice. I remember my initiation well. Men who, just hours before were dressed as workers,

## New Look

We have changed our layout to hopefully be able to better present content. We hope you like the changes!



As always, have something to say? Let us know! While we primarily print happenings at CDR, we try to highlight everyone.



## Masonic Spotlight!

Meet Brother Andy Canafax  
PM

Secretary Grant 85



If you are a newly made Mason, or the oldest amongst us, you have probably met Andy Canafax. Andy has been a Master Mason since 2006. Since that time he has been busy in the service of the craft. He was made Master at Grant 85 in 2010, and served as DDGM in 2020-2021.

Andy has been secretary at Grant 85 for many years, and has been elected to that position for a life term! He has also been quite busy on various Grand Lodge committees. From Publicity Committee to Masons Helping Masons, he is always eager to serve the needs of his lodge and the fraternity!

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farmers and tradesmen, transformed into men in tuxedos. I remember watching as these men went through their various lectures, never pausing for a word. Never rushing. Just relentlessly delivering a well paced, easy to understand lecture, with the ease of a casual conversation. I was in awe. For once in my life intimidated even. Not in a threatened manner, but more of, "Can I ever hold myself to this level of skill.

The last sentence of the fourth paragraph of The Kentucky Monitor states, while discussing the qualification of a WM, "able and willing to undertake the management of the work". Though this applies to all the work of the lodge, shouldn't it apply to the most basic function for the lodge? That of making men Masons?

I know many lodges struggle with this, the ones I am a member of do as well. That is a discussion for another day, but is a direct result of us not doing what we say we do.

How many Masters have served that have never conferred a degree? We push people through in a progressive line, and one day they end up in the East without ever having performed the work. Maybe in their times at various stations, no members came in. Its been a rough couple decades for us. Maybe they have a degree team. There are many reasons this may have happened, but in the end, shouldn't we hold ourselves and others to this simple standard? In other jurisdictions, lodges have inspections to ensure the Master and his lodge can perform the work. We get one chance to impress upon these men the solemnity and sincerity of Masonry, if we can't do our work to a high standard, how do you think that is taken by them? If we continue to promote men who cannot do the work, what does it say about the quality of our organization? Would our forebeares approve?

When a mason is brought to light certain symbols and tools are to be illuminated, but instead our unpreparedness, and unfamiliarity with the ritual is instead laid bare under the blinding light of reality. The candidates deserve better and Masonry deserves better. Our forefathers demand better.

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Join us on a  
visit to:

## Carrollton 134



On the banks of the storied Ohio River, lies the small town of Carrollton Kentucky. Named after the signer of the Declaration of Independence, Charles Carroll, it was founded in 1792 as Port William. In it's heyday it was one of Kentucky's largest tobacco markets.

Tucked behind the hospital, you will find Carrollton 134 Masonic Lodge. Early some mornings the smell of fresh pancakes tantalize the senses, as these brothers come together to raise funds for their scholarship program. And Brothers, they move a lot of pancakes! This year alone they are filling five scholarships, a remarkable feat for a lodge of any size. A testament to being a very active lodge.

## Interviews

CDR has embarked on a project, and we need your help. We have been filming interviews of Masons. We all have our own unique story, and we want yours to be heard. Brother Ratliff has been saving our fraternity's history, one story at a time. He has invested heavily on this project, and all he needs you to do is schedule a time and talk. Let's face it, Freemasonry has been terrible at explaining to the world how it changes people's lives. For years we have let others speak on what the fraternity is, and most of what they say is false and unpleasant. Share your story, so the next generation can relate to you and this organization.



All you have to do is reach out to Brother Ratliff, and schedule a meeting. Even better, get a few brothers from your lodge together, and he will gladly come to you. It costs nothing, and who knows, maybe your story will inspire the next generation of Masons.

You may contact Robby through our lodge or via the email this newsletter is sent under.



# Events far and wide



## Upcomming Events

CDR694 Regular Stated Meeting May 10th 9am

## Notices

Do you have an event you would like us to share?

Email us.

Degrees, get togethers, we will share all.



Just send us an email to the address you recieve this newsletter from. We will do our best to get them added. Need 2 months lead time.