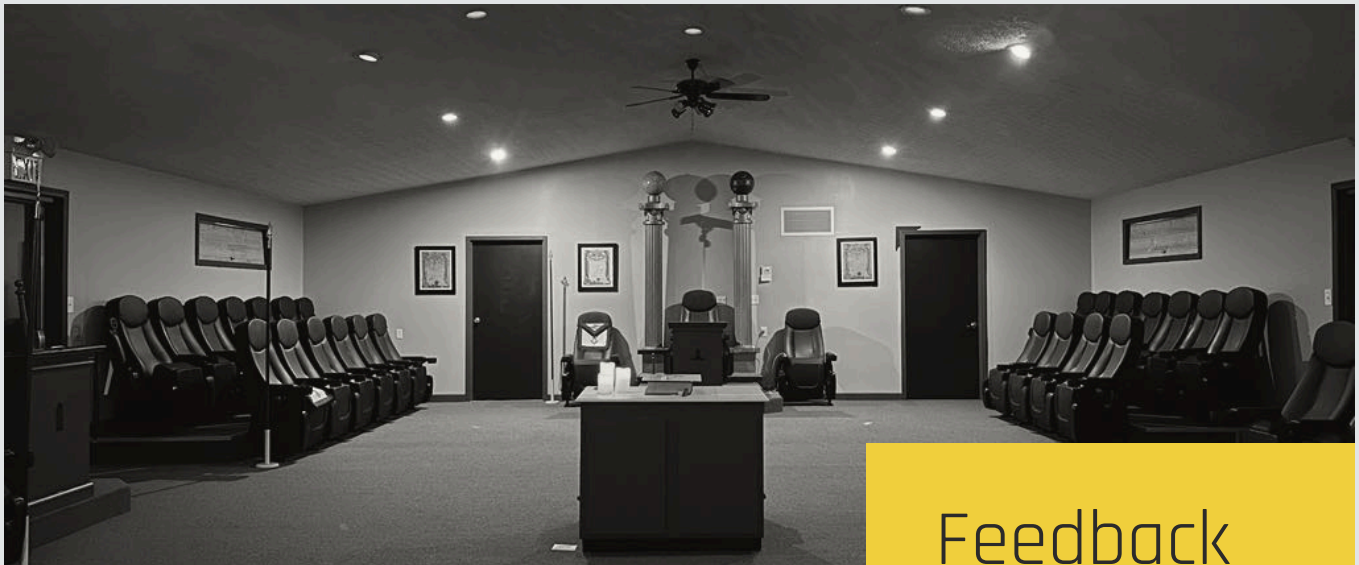


# Look To The West



## Discourse on Dress

The purpose of discourse is to share ideas and foster understanding. By bringing forth this topic it is merely intended to foster discourse and introspection.

To start let us propose that there are only five documents that are required for a lodge of Masons. A Charter, Book of Constitution, Lodge Bylaws, Ritual Book, and Volume of Sacred Law. As these are the only books required, they alone have the authority to define Freemasonry. Every other book written about Freemasonry, since they aren't required, are merely histories, opinions, and true and false narratives. For example, *Morals and Dogma*, though still a powerfully insightful tome, is Brother Pike's well informed opinion on Masonry. We freely tell people that, though many study this book, as it is not required in Blue Lodge Masonry, Mr. Pike does not speak for the fraternity. However the other Five Documents mentioned do have authority and dictate what we can and cannot do. This distinction is critical. With this understanding, we will now look at an issue happening within our craft.

More and more you will see some lodges say something like, suit and jacket expected, tie and jacket requested, business formal or casual

## Feedback

We want to hear from you! Feedback is always welcome. Want to write a piece? We're digital, we will give room to your voice!



Events, lodge information, interviews, all are welcome.



## Masonic Spotlight!

The future of Freemasonry



It has been an honor and a privilege to serve CDR in the East this year. When This newsletter was started, the name Look to the West was chosen, as it implied looking at the future of the lodge. That future is about to meet the present. I hope I have helped that future, and in some way contributed to its success.

The greatest lesson I have learned this year, is that life is fleeting, whatever you have, you need to be ready to pass it on. As my successor slowly transitions from the West, and crosses past the altar, I look forward to greeting him in the East, and giving what aid I can. Most importantly though, I hope I can encourage him to Look to the West, and build the future of his lodge.

## Mentorship

requested, or some indication of a preference for attire. Some have even put it in their bylaws, in others it is just an expected custom. However is it Masonic? That is the question. If it is, or isn't where in these five documents is that expressed? Obviously it isn't in the Charter, that merely establishes our link through time. Our constitution addresses dress only when talking about funeral rites. Our bylaws may say something, but that is only local law. Maybe our ritual book has something to say?

Maybe you have heard early on something similar to "Masonry regards no man for his worldly wealth or honors. it is the internal not the external qualifications of a man..... Your robes, your tinsel, and your jewels mean naught to him.... Paraphrasing for obvious reasons in this format, but can gladly show where that is said.. This is barely into the first part of joining the fraternity, and yet we are lecturing him that dress does not matter.

Maybe if this same document reiterated that stance, maybe if it were continuing theme, maybe then we could decide if judging based on dress is Masonic or not. Like if in your next degree the ritual book gave you charges or instructions. I congratulate you on your preferment. The internal and not the external qualifications ..... are what Masonry regards. Something like that.

The first two degrees explicitly point out that dress is not something Masonry is concerned about. So the foundation of Masonry is firmly set. In the funeral service part of Bro. Pirtle's Monitor, it does go so far to say, dark clothes shall be worn, with a black cravat, hat and white gloves, but stops short of calling for a suit, though that may be inferred.

Other rituals, other non recognized bodies, and some appendant bodies do mandate attire. Albert Pike's The Porch and the Middle Chamber most certainly does per example, but that isn't an allowed Ritual Book per our Constitution.

As for Volumes of Sacred Law goes, that is to each man's interpretation. However most preach modesty, and are against ostentatiousness.

So while some of our foundational documents explicitly say Masonry is not concerned with outward appearances, absolutely none set a dress code, except for special occasions. What does it teach our youngest members when we give them their degrees, then tell them, wait we do concern ourselves with outward appearances?

For now, we shall end debate here. However in the name of discourse, if someone wants to present a counter view, drop it in the inbox, we will publish it as written. If multiple pieces are submitted, we will publish what we can and link back to the responses we couldn't add to the newsletter.

## Join us as we visit:

Grant 85  
Williamstown Kentucky



Sitting on Main Street, in the quaint little city of Williamstown is Grant 85. Though Williamstown is a small city, here you will learn of its oversized impact on American History. Chartered in 1827, Grant 85's first Master was Abraham Jonas. Jonas held that position for the first three years. Brother Jonas was also a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives in 1828, 1829, 1831, and 1833. In 1833 he was also elected to serve as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky.

In 1836 he moved on to Illinois, opening a general store, a carriage business and began studying law. He was Master of Columbus lodge 6 in Illinois in 1840, during which time he helped establish the Grand Lodge of Illinois, and sat as the first Grandmaster of the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

They meet the second Thursday of each month. 6:30 pm meal/ 7:30 pm business

## Lecture Slideshows

Remember the slides you were shown on your way through the various degrees? At CDR we do too, and decided to modernize and upscale the images. After some expense and a great investment in time, we present them to you. Best part, the cost is every Freemason's favorite, free! We just ask that you make a donation to Masons Helping Masons. We will help you engage your candidates and brothers, and you get to help our greatest outreach program for Masons in need. You get great looking slides, and recognition for donating, and we get the satisfaction of helping our fraternity. Just go to [cdr694.com](http://cdr694.com), look for the tab that says giving back, and download them.



Slides presented on the website are without notes, and are just the pictures themselves. If you need the notes version, we have that too, but to get that version reach out as it has the lectures built in.

As well if you see some of us out and about and we will be happy to help you then as well. [Click Here](#)



## Mark Your Calendars:

Leaving this  
dark.



Brothers I have been swamped with degree work, proficiencies, Grand Lodge, an anniversary, and the wife's birthday. I haven't reached out nor heard of much for November.

Please feel free to contact us with your event dates.

## 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.

Watch the interviews [HERE](#).



# Events far and wide



## Upcoming Events

CDR694 Regular Stated Meeting      December 13th 9am

## Notices



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