



Sandy Valley Lodge No.57
Free and Accepted Masons

TRESTLEBOARD

Most Worshipful Michael R. Giles
Grand Master of Masons in Nevada



Next Stated Communication

Saturday, January 8, 2022 @ 9am

Location: Pahrump Lodge No. 54, 281 Gemini Drive, Pahrump, Nevada 89048

December 2021 A.D. / 6021 A.L.

www.sandyvalley57.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sandyvalleylodge57/>



From the East

Brethren,

The new year is upon us, I want to thank those who attended our Installation of Officers on 18 Dec 21, especially, our excellent installation team of MW Lou Castle, PGM; Worshipful David Bechtel, P.M.; Worshipful Phil Michaelson, P.M.; and Worshipful John Pennington, P.M. for the outstanding and memorable ceremony.

As this is my first message from the EAST, I thought I would share some of the key items I mentioned in my installation message in the first trestle board of the year:

First and foremost, to the members of Sandy Valley Lodge #57...THANK YOU...for your confidence, trust, and brotherly love. Simply put, I am your servant. I have spent my life in service to my God, my country, my community, my neighbor, my family, and recently my masonic fraternity. As I have, since being raised in 2016, I will continue to serve this fraternity with humility, practicing brotherly love, relief, and truth every day.

Unequivocally, we have been tried and tested over the last 24 months, we endured much including the loss of close Brothers: Jack Haney, Michael Bronowitz, and Worshipfuls Dave White and Fred Beamon and countless others. We had to make tough decisions in the past, most notably moving our charter and meeting location from our "beloved hanger" in Sandy Valley after 20 years to Pahrump. I want to thank our brothers of the same heart here in Pahrump for welcoming us into their home with open arms and without hesitation.

We have overcome and choose to look forward and not back, despite the tests of the past, our future is visible, and reachable, but only by rolling up our sleeves and working together. We are presented a great opportunity to take a bold step into the future and define a new standard of excellence build the foundation cemented by our charter members and our recent leadership, the men that sat in the East prior: to include George Odell, Troy and Wade Schneiderman, John Pennington, Mark Tavarez, Al Opegard, Swannie Swenson, Michael Kurcab, Dwain Rittenhouse, Matt McCarthy, Ken O'Neil, Steve Benjamin, Dave Sims, and Al Navarro (Junior) to name a few. They fashioned the mortar that built this "little lodge that could". On behalf of all the members of Sandy Valley, we thank you for getting us to this destination from which we can travel further East.

Our approach forward is simple, we (the officers) will lead by example, we will find ways to do things better, we will inspire a shared vision, we will enable us to act, and we will encourage us to be better every day. We will be transformational not transactional. We will work together and be accountable to each other.

We are entering our 20th year as a chartered lodge; we have now grown up. Whether you have been a member for 20 years or 20 days, we humbly ask you to embrace the future. This future is defined by our six strategic goals:

1. RECRUIT, RETAIN, RE-ENGAGE.
2. EXECUTE VALUE-ADDED LODGE DEGREE CONFERRAL/CERMONIAL/EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.
3. MITIGATE STAGNATION OF THE LODGE.
4. ENGAGE APPENDANT BODIES & EDUCATE MEMBERS ON APPENDENT BODIES.
5. ENHANCE THE LODGE'S FINANCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE THRU INFORMED INVESTING AND IMPROVE FUNDRAISING.
6. ESTABLISH A VISIBLE PRESENCE AT PAHRUMP MASONIC LODGE (OUR NEW HOME).

How can this progress be measured, you might ask? There is something out there that many of you may not even be aware of it is called the "Silver State Award" it is presented annually to lodges in our jurisdiction that complete requirements established by the Grand Lodge of Nevada by demonstrating competent administration, education, member self-sufficiency, leadership, Masonic youth group participation, public school support and fellowship, fun, and public service activities.

In our 20 years, Sandy Valley has never achieved this distinction, so this leadership team is throwing down the gauntlet and challenging the lodge TODAY to commit ourselves in a total team effort to be recognized as a lodge of distinction and be presented the Silver State Award at our Annual Communication next November.

Is this ambitious? Yes, it is. This is a unique opportunity to grow as a lodge and as individuals Masonically. We can't achieve this, if only a few of us are willing to roll up our sleeves, so the officers look to each of you to contribute, seek opportunities to serve, and lead. Tell the leadership team what you need, we will provide resources and guidance to help you succeed.

As we set forth on our journey forward, I offer the wisdom of Brother Ben Franklin, who said:

"Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are in the dealings with one another, sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, and helpfulness begets helpfulness: these are the wages of a Mason."

I am excited to tackle the challenges ahead, the officer team will lay out our roadmap and milestones during our **January Stated Communication on the 8th of January 2022**, so please travel over the "hump" to Pahrump to start the year off and be part of this exciting journey together.

Fraternally,

R. Montana Williams
Worshipful Master
Sandy Valley Lodge No. 57 F. & A.M.
702-743-7143 (Cell)
Montana.Williams@gmail.com



From the West

Brothers,

I am very honored and humbled to be voted in as your Senior Warden.

As I leave the South as Junior Warden I wanted to take a quick second and thank Worshipful Al Navarro for an amazing year! Not only did he lead us through some very tough decisions in securing our future and a home for our lodge, but he has also grown and progressed the lodge by leaps and bounds. Under Al's leadership we not only conferred our first Fellowcraft degree's in many years, but also our first Master Mason degree. The Future is BRIGHT - Thank you Worshipful Al (JUNIOR!!!!).

I would like to congratulate all the officers for the coming year and as we look forward to 2022 the calendar is already getting busy - we have much degree work ahead of us. Anyone interested in assisting in any of the degrees and learning a part or two please reach out to one of the officers. Don't be shy, step up.

Finally, I want to give a "Hardy Sandy Valley Welcome" to our incoming Master - R. Montana Williams. The officer installation on December 18th was well done and the speech given by our new Master was very moving, heartfelt, and motivating. I trust I speak for everyone that we are all so excited for you to set the craft at work and give us proper instruction for our labor.

Happy New Year to everyone and I hope that each of you had a very blessed holidays.

Fraternally from the South,

Brian Boles
Senior Warden
Sandy Valley Lodge No. 57 F. & A.M.
702-743-7143 (Cell)
Brian@switch.com



From the South

Brothers,

As we enter a new year, I'd like to focus on the new things: our new Brothers we've gained over the last year, as well as the new candidates and petitioners we still have in the pipeline to join the Fraternity, and the new free-born, of lawful age, and well-recommended men we encounter in our lives. Our new Lodge location; and our new level of cooperation with our valued, esteemed, and cherished Masonic brethren throughout Nevada, but in Pahrump #54 in particular. Our new ambitions of growth and achievement (such as the Silver State Award) we have set our sights on. Our new direction and momentum.

As we face forward into the new year, we should take care to do as much as our cable tows allow to help inform, advance, and counsel our newer Brothers on their paths through not just the Blue Degrees, but through the various other appendant bodies, organizations, and associations tied to our Brotherhood. We should always keep an eye out for potential candidates for the degrees – the Fraternity and our Lodge will never survive or grow as long we are not recruiting good and upright men whose association with our noble Craft would be a benefit to both themselves and the Brotherhood. Our recently increased level of engagement and cooperation with other Lodges here in Nevada is something for which we are extremely appreciative, and as we go through this year we must keep in mind “how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity” as we continue to foster tighter relations. When other Brothers, Lodges and appendant bodies around us need assistance with anything to which we can contribute, we would do well to remember how much assistance and cooperation we have received, and will continue to receive, on our journey and to pay it forward with interest!

I'm humbled to be elected an officer of this Lodge, and proud to serve you!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Brett Williams
Junior Warden
Sandy Valley Lodge No. 57 F. & A.M.
206-939-7767 (Cell)
emailbrettwilliams@gmail.com



From the Treasurer's Desk

Brothers,

Happy New Year!

I hope all of us had a joyous holiday season and I wish you and your loved ones peace, health, happiness, and prosperity in this New Year.

It is an honor for me to continue to serve our lodge as Treasurer. I would like to thank all Sandy Valley brothers who believed in me, gave me their trust and re-elected me in this position.

Congratulations to all newly installed elected and appointed officers! Congratulations Worshipful Master R. "Montana" Williams!

Looking forward to an excellent 2022!

Fraternally,

Vasile Cristian Gliga

Treasurer

Sandy Valley Lodge No. 57 F. & A.M.

626-354-9670 (Cell)

Lodge@CristianGliga.com



From the Secretary's Desk

Brothers,

Please note that Dues for 2022 are due. Bro. Carl Agbayani and I are working on getting the dues payment portal on the website and our goal is to have that done by the end of the month. Please do not wait. We still accept checks or cash (no processing fees with those).

The good news is that at this point only 32 out of 73 members owe dues. The dues provide your Lodge with the ability to provide you with the Masonic Experience you desire and deserve. Please help us help you by submitting your dues today. You can mail them to:

Sandy Valley Lodge #57
1420 Duluth Dr
Las Vegas NV 89117

A Note On Petitions:

A petition is the beginning of a Man's Journey into Masonry or, in the case of an affiliation or demit, a continuation of a Mason's Pathway to Light with a new Lodge. It is important that we have all the proper information so that we can ensure the Masonic record of every member is accurate for our Lodge and for their families.

When handing in a petition, please ensure that ALL signatures are on the petition and that the form is filled out completely.

I am looking forward to a successful year as a part of Worshipful Montana's Corps of Officers. Bro. Tarek Schoner will be assisting me with the Secretary duties and leading our efforts to achieve the Silver State award for our 20th Anniversary. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Here's to a Great Year of Health, Prosperity, and FREEDOM.

*"The safest way to make laws respected is to make them respectable."
— Frédéric Bastiat*

Sincerely & Fraternaly,
Michael J. Kurcab, P.M.
Secretary
Sandy Valley Lodge No. 57, F. & A.M.
702.613.2832 (Cell)
MKurcab357@gmail.com



From the Lodge Social Media Manager & Webmason

It is my honor and pleasure in taking over the duties as your WebMason and Social Media Manager. My responsibilities include keeping our website and social media up to date, posting announcements from the Worshipful Master and the officers of the lodge, assuring the lodge members have the ability to communicate via the lodge's social media platforms, and posting pictures and videos from our various events.

Click the links below and become a part of our digital Brotherhood through our Social Media platforms and Website at:

Lodge Website

www.sandyvalley57.com

Social Media

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sandyvalleylodge57/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sandyvalley57/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sandyvalley57>

Fraternally,

Carl Agbayani

Lodge Social Media Manager & Webmason

Sandy Valley Lodge No. 57 F. & A.M.

702-375-8709 (Cell)

Carl.Agbayani@gmail.com

Annual Masonic Education

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Monthly Education Lecture—December 2021

Provided by Sandy Valley #57 Masonic Education and Leadership Committee

WHO WAS ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, AND WHY IS HE IMPORTANT TO FREEMASONRY?

The two Saints John, St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, were the Patron Saints of Freemasonry at the formation of the Grand Lodge of England on St. John the Baptist's day June 24, 1717. Lodges and Grand Lodges in the United States generally adopted that practice, and it remains true today. The adoption of one or both as Patron Saints by individual operative Masonic Lodges predates the formation of speculative Freemasonry.

Historically the lodges in Scotland generally favored St. John the Evangelist and English lodges opted for Saint John the Baptist. It appears that speculative lodges generally adopted Saint John the Baptist. When the Grand Lodge of Scotland was formed in 1736 it overcame the potential dispute by adopting St. Andrew.

The Saints John are logical choices for a fraternity dedicated to seeking light. Their feast days occur near the summer and winter solstices (June 24 for St. John the Baptist and December 27 for St. John the Evangelist). Also, important Masonic lessons can be drawn from their exemplary lives.

HIS WRITINGS

Our ancient Brethren would have known him as the "beloved disciple" who was the author of the Gospel of John, First and Second John and the Revelation of St. John the Divine. This is the St. John the Evangelist to whom they chose to dedicate their Lodges. Even if some of the modern criticism is correct and he is, in effect, a composite of several men named John, it makes little difference. It is through these writings that we know him, and it is through these writings we find the basis for dedicating our Lodges to him. St. John is revered as an author with exceptional spiritual insight. For this reason, he is often pictured with an eagle as his symbol and is the patron saint of authors.

HIS LIFE

St. John is thought to be the youngest of the disciples and is often pictured as a very young person. He was evidently the younger brother of James. It is generally accepted that he is the only one of the 12 Disciples to have not died a violent martyr's death. Instead in 94 A.D. he was banished to the Isle of Patmos. St. John lived, by some accounts, to the age of 96, dying in the year 100. If that is correct, and Jesus' ministry took place at roughly 30 A.D., he would have been about 26 during that ministry.

He did not flee when Jesus was arrested. He apparently attended the trial by the Sanhedrin and was at the foot of the cross when Jesus was crucified. At that point he was entrusted by Jesus with the care of St. Mary, Jesus' mother.

HIS TEACHINGS

Based on his teachings and the example of his life, he is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors. Who better to be a patron saint of Freemasonry than the patron saint of love, loyalty, and friendships? In addition, he is committed to seeking the light.

- A new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.
- He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.
- He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is no occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

These quotes are offered as examples of St. John's use of light as a symbol of truth, brotherly love, and something to be sought after. All of these are concepts that can resonate with Freemasons, even if they do not accept the Christian context in which St. John presents them. They clearly would have resonated with our ancient Brethren.

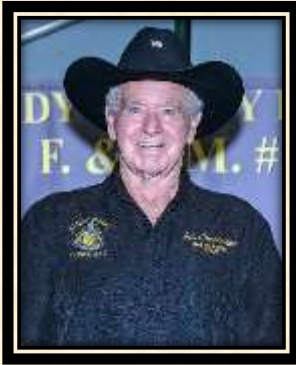
CONCLUSION

The answer to the question "Why is St. John the Evangelist important to Freemasons?" is fourfold.

1. There is a long history of Masonic Lodges being dedicated to him. One that predates speculative Masonry.
2. His feast day near the winter solstice and his appearance at the cross are natural bookends to the feast day of St. John the Baptist near the summer solstice and his role at the beginning of Jesus public ministry.
3. His example of loyalty and the focus he placed on the importance of brotherhood and seeking and living within the light in his writings is consistent with focus we place on those same attributes.
4. He is the patron saint of Love, Loyalty and Friendships. All of these are values we treasure.

The message to take from John the Evangelist is to "Apply thyself, therefore, to purity of heart, and thou shalt be like Saint John, a beloved disciple of Jesus, and shalt be filled with heavenly wisdom."

From Your Board of Trustees



John Pennington Jr
Past Master 2009 & 2014



Dave Sims
Past Master 2020



Albert A Navarro II
Junior Past Master 2021

As your Junior Past Master and on behalf of your Lodge Trustees, I would like to thank you for your trust and continued support. Additionally, I would like to use this opportunity to educate our newer members on the Powers, Duties of Board of Trustees. I accordance with Section 5.246 Powers, Duties of Board of Trustees of the Masonic Code of the Grand Lodge of Free And Accepted Masons of the State of Nevada:

1. As provided in the Nevada Revised Statutes the corporate powers of a Lodge are vested in its Board of Trustees.
2. The Board of Trustees shall:
 - (a) Have charge of all real and personal property belonging to the Lodge and shall transact all business relative thereto as provided in the Nevada Revised Statutes.
 - (b) Complete the form reports concerning audits and return the same to the Grand Secretary as required by Section 4.310.
 - (c) Perform such other duties as are required by the Constitution, regulations of the Grand Lodge and the bylaws of the Lodge.

To this end, rest assured that your Trustees will carry out these duties to best of our abilities and always with the benefit of the craft and lodge as its guide.

I hope to see you all in attendance this year.

Fraternally,

John S Pennington Sr, P.M.
One-Year Trustee
702-355-0154 (Cell)
JohnPenn@cox.net

Dave Sims, P.M.
Two-Year Trustee
702-203-0917 (Cell)
Dave.Sims@cox.net

Al Navarro II, P.M.
Three-Year Trustee
702-218-5060 (Cell)
NavarroA@cox.net

Announcements and Events

January 2022

SANDY VALLEY LODGE
F. & A.M. No. 57



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		6pm Eastern Star Communication	6am Weepah Meeting	6pm Scottish Rite Meeting 7:30pm Pahrump 54 Officers Meeting		9am Sandy Valley 57 Stated Communication
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1pm Legion of Honor Meeting		6pm Eastern Star Communication				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		6pm Shrine Stated Meeting				
30	31					

January Masonic Birthdays

Dave Owens	01/25/1992
Ray Armstrong	01/05/2008
Michael J. Kurcab, P.M.	01/05/2008

January Birthdays

Cyril D. Bradshaw	01/17/1953
William A. Hogan	01/21/1951
Richard P. Hunker, P.M.	01/12/1947
Buzz D. Ingram	01/28/1984
Michael J. Kurcab, P.M.	01/24/1977
George W. Odell, P.M.	01/12/1937
Wilton G. Swenson, P.M.	01/15/1944
Mark T. Tavarez, P.M.	01/11/1957

Clark County / Southern Nevada Pandemic Information

COVID-19 VACCINE LINKS

Clark County: https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/top_services/covid19/vaccine_information.php
Southern Nevada: <https://covid.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/vaccine/>
VA Vaccine Self-Scheduling: https://www.lasvegas.va.gov/LASVEGAS/features/Self_scheduling_vaccine_tool.asp
VA: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>

COVID-19 LINKS

Clark County: https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/top_services/covid19/all_about_covid-19.php
Southern Nevada: <https://covid.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/facts/>
VA: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

COVID-19 TESTING LINKS

Clark County: https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/top_services/covid19/testing_locations.php
Southern Nevada: <https://covid.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/testing/>
VA: <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/ss20201214-covid-19-test-basics>

MENTAL HEALTH LINKS

Clark County: https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/top_services/covid19/mental_health_.php



GENERAL HEALTH LINKS

Clark County: https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/top_services/covid19/health_safety.php
Southern Nevada: <https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/>
VA: https://www.va.gov/find-locations/facility/vha_593GG

ADDITIONAL COVID-19 LINKS

LOCAL:

<https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/coronavirus>
<https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/news-resources/press-releases/>

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/>

From the Editor's Desk

#VEGASSTRONGER

LODGE MAILING & PHYSICAL ADDRESS

PHYSICAL LOCATION: 281 Gemini Drive, Pahrump, Nevada 89048
(Co-located with Pahrump Lodge No. 54)

MAIL: Sandy Valley Lodge No. 57 F.&A.M.
WB Michael Kurcab
1420 Duluth Drive
Las Vegas Nv 89117

TO OUR FELLOW LODGE'S THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN NEVADA:

If you would prefer NOT receiving our monthly Trestle Board electronically, please notify me at the email below and you will be removed from our monthly TB mailing. Barring any requests to unsubscribe, enjoy our TB.

navarroa@cox.net

Fraternally,

Al Navarro II, P.M.
TB Editor,
Sandy Valley Lodge No. 57 F. & A.M.
702-218-5060 (Cell)
NavarroA@cox.net

"Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"
-- Isaiah 6:8

2022 LODGE OFFICERS		PAST MASTERS	
R. Montana Williams	Worshipful Master 702-743-7143	Donald Daum	UD 2001
Brian Boles	Senior Warden 702-296-8653	George W. Odell	2002
Brett Williams	Junior Warden 206-939-7767	Ted Johnson	2003
Cristian Gliga	Treasurer 626-354-9670	Bill Katz (Unfinished Term)	2004
Michael Kurcab, P.M.	Secretary 818-259-6124	Swannie Swenson (2004)	2005
Cyril Bradshaw	Chaplain 702-610-2507	Al Oppegard	2006
Michael Kearns	Senior Deacon 702-425-6330	Troy Schneiderman	2007
Carl Agbayani	Junior Deacon 702-375-8709	Michael L. Rodgers	2008
Buzz Ingram	Marshall 702-800-1388	John Pennington	2009
Charles Mallard	Senior Steward 702-430-0962	Mike Barry	2010
John Stelsel	Junior Steward	Wade Schneiderman	2011
Russell Gray	Tyler 303-901-7044	Fred Horne	2012
Tarek Schoner	Historian & Aid to the Secretary 702-684-3633	Mark Tavarez	2013
John Pennington, P.M.	Deputy Grand Lecturer 702-355-0154	John Pennington	2014
Carl Agbayani	Communications Mason 702-375-8709	Michael Kurcab	2015
		Dwain Rittenhouse	2016
		Mathew McCarthy	2017
		Kenneth L. O'Neill Jr.	2018
		Steven Benjamin	2019
		Dave Sims	2020
		Albert A Navarro II	2021
TRUSTEES		AFFILIATED PAST MASTERS	
3-Year	Albert A Navarro II, P.M.	David Owens	
2-Year	Dave Sims, P.M.	Fred Horne	
1-Year	John Pennington, P.M.	*George Gilbert	
		Terry Baker	
HONORARY MEMBERS		Fred Robinson	
	*Jim Cook, P.M.	Harold Scalzo	
	Harry Christopher, P.M.	Richard Hunker	
	Frank Merica, P.M.	*Clifford Wiltse	
		*Dave White	
HONORARY PAST MASTERS		Greg Curtain	
*Parke Potter	2007		*Deceased