

Sandy Valley Lodge No.57

Free and Accepted Masons

Trestle Board



Most Worshipful David E. Bechtel

Grand Master of Masons in Nevada

Next Stated Communication

Saturday, December 6, 2025 @ 10am

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

October 2025 A.D. / 6025 A.L.

www.sandyvalley57.com

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



BROTHER JEFFREY E. VRABEL

FEBRUARY 10, 1991 – NOVEMBER 22, 2025

SENIOR DEACON
SANDY VALLEY LODGE NO.57

INITIATED: OCTOBER 13, 1998

PASSED: OCTOBER 26, 1998

RAISED: NOVEMBER 23, 1998

"..AND WHEN AT LAST YOUR WEARY FEET SHALL HAVE COME TO THE END OF LIFE'S TOILSOME JOURNEY, AND FROM YOUR NERVELESS GRASP SHALL DROP FOREVER THE WORKING TOOLS OF LIFE, MAY THE RECORD OF YOUR LIFE AND ACTIONS BE AS PURE AND SPOTLESS AS THIS FAIR EMBLEM WHICH I PLACE WITHIN YOUR HANDS TONIGHT; AND WHEN YOUR TREMBLING SOUL SHALL STAND NAKED AND ALONE BEFORE THE GREAT WHITE THRONE, THERE TO RECEIVE JUDGMENT FOR THE DEEDS DONE WHILE HERE IN THE BODY, MAY IT BE YOUR PORTION TO HEAR FROM HIM WHO SITTETH AS THE JUDGE SUPREME THE WELCOME WORDS: "WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT! THOU HAST BEEN FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS; I WILL MAKE THEE RULER OVER MANY THINGS! ENTER THOU INTO THE JOY OF THY LORD."

Celebrating Our Brothers



December Birthdays

Jeffry L Chambers	12/05/1941
Alfred T Oppegard, P.:M.:	12/13/1941
Glen "Bud" Wright	12/25/1963



December Masonic Birthdays

Jason R Hudgins, P.:M.:	12/17/2009
Gregory F Curtin, P.:M.:	12/22/2011

The Master's Calendar

(Subject to Change)

DECEMBER 2025.

- Dec 6th Stated Communication. Election of 2026 Officers.
Dec 14th Pahrump Lodge No.54 Installation of Officers for 2026.
Dec 20th Sandy Valley Lodge No.57 Installation of Officers for 2026.
Dec (TBD) Strongly consider arranging an Official Visit to another lodge.
**Friday AM volunteers for Sandy Valley Food Bank.*



From the East

Brothers:

As we come to the end of the year here at Sandy Valley, I wanted to thank each and every one of my Sandy Valley Brothers for their support during my year in the east. At the beginning of my year, I wrote to you about my Master's Goals for the year. While I did not get everything I wanted to done this year. With the assistance of many of you, we as a lodge had a great year.

I am proud and pleased to report that at the Nevada Grand Lodge sessions just held in Reno, Sandy Valley Lodge 57 was presented with the Silver State award. This is the third time our lodge has been presented this award. Again, getting this award was only possible through the hard work and dedication of many brothers here at Sandy Valley. As we move into future years, I encourage continued support for all future Worshipful Masters and their line officers, just as everyone gave to me this year. That way, we can continue to have the honor of being presented this award year after year. I pledge, as a soon-to-be past master of Sandy Valley 57, I will personally continue to support the lodge in any way I can. My job here is not done; it is, in my estimation, just beginning.

This has been a bittersweet year for me as your Master. We had a great year and raised several brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Others have begun that journey to become a Master Mason. We visited many lodges and had great fellowship during those visits. Most importantly, we gave back to the community of Sandy Valley by donating our time at the local food pantry and making a generous donation to the Sandy Valley Volunteer Fire Department. We, as a lodge, also gave a nice scholarship to our George O'Dell scholarship recipient at Sandy Valley High School. However, we also lost many of our Sandy Valley Brothers who laid down their working tools this year.

A big part of the theme at this year's Grand Lodge sessions in Reno was Legacy. Our very own Worshipful Brother Montana Williams, this year's Grand Orator, gave a great talk on legacy. Those brothers we lost this year are Honorary Past Master Harry Smith, Past Master Wade "Lefty" Schneiderman, Life member and Past Grand Master Most Worshipful Carl "Bud" Banks, and my Mentor and good friend, Past Master John S. Pennington Sr. We also recently lost Brother Butch Madden. Butch was a life member of Vegas 32 and a Sandy Valley Brother. I spoke to Butch's son, Jon, who informed me that Butch did not wish to have a Masonic memorial service. Butch was an active member of Zelzah Shrine and made many trips as a van driver, taking shrine kids to appointments in both Los Angeles and Pasadena. Butch's son says donations made in Butch's memory can be sent to the Shriners Children's Hospital Foundation. These brothers are the legacy of this Lodge. They are the foundation on which Sandy Valley Lodge 57 has been built. We owe it to them, as well as to all the others who helped build this great lodge, to continue honoring their dedication to the craft by building on their legacy.

It is my sad duty to report to you the tragic passing of Brother Jeffrey Vrabel, our sitting Senior Deacon. Any plans for holding a Masonic Memorial service for Brother Jeffrey will be disclosed when more information becomes available. Please join me in praying for Jeffrey and his family, friends, and many Masonic Brothers he knew.

It is my pleasure and privilege to let you know that Sandy Valley Lodge 57 is a big part of next year's Grand Lodge line. The following Members of Sandy Valley lodge were elected or appointed to Most Worshipful Grand Master David Bechtel's Grand line:

- Gregory F. Curtain, RW Junior Grand Warden,
- R. Montana Williams, W Grand Steward,
- Daniel S. Crowe, W Grand Master of Ceremonies,
- Brian E. Boles, W Grand Trustee,
- Dwain A. Rittenhouse, W Grand Trustee, and
- Michael J. Kurcab, W Grand Web Mason.



Please join me in congratulating all these brothers on this great honor.

Finally, I wish to thank my great friend and Brother, Russell Gray. As I have told many of you, many years ago, Russ asked me if I would ever consider being a Mason. I told him at that time I already had a job and did not think I would be a great Bricklayer. With his guidance and friendship, I went all the way from my initial state of ignorance about the craft to the chair of wisdom in the east. It was my honor to sit in that chair, and I hope I made you all proud.

Respectfully & Fraternally,

Michael Kearns
Worshipful Master
Sandy Valley Lodge No. 57 F.: & A.: M.:
720-425-6330 (Cell)
mrkearns25@gmail.com

The Master's Goals for 2025

RECRUITMENT.

- Work with the Sandy Valley Officers, all Sandy Valley brothers, and the Grand Lodge of Nevada on a recruitment program. It is critical that we involve our younger members in this process and give them advice on how best to promote freemasonry to their peers.
- Work with our youth group committee chairman to schedule a time to visit with the DeMolay youth as part of the month of the Grand Lodge's March youth groups. It is critical that these young men see that Masons are interested in their group and what they are working for. This will also allow us to talk to these young men and give them advice on how to best recruit members to their organization.

RETENTION.

- Work with the entertainment committee to set up at least two social events this year. Those events would be open to all brothers, their families, and any guests they wish to invite.
- I would like one of these events to be fun, such as going bowling. The other event I envision doing is one that honors all the past masters of Sandy Valley Lodge No.57. They have been a vital part of the lodge's development, and I want to honor their commitment to the lodge and Masonry.
- Work with the leadership of our brothers in Pahrump Lodge No.54 to beautify the areas of the lodge that Pahrump Lodge No.54 has given to us. For instance, post pictures of all this year's Sandy Valley officers. Also, please post photos of all our past masters to honor them.
- Most importantly, perform timely degrees for the candidates and brothers going through the various degrees. It is essential that we don't fall behind in this process. When we do, we can often lose perspective, Master Masons. My goal is that no one should wait more than two months before being elected to take the degrees or pass a proficiency before moving on to the following degree. Of course, this will take a concerted effort from the team.
- Finally, work with the brothers completing their degrees to pass their various proficiencies. We all have the responsibility to offer this assistance. However, the primary persons who should be driving this are those brothers who are first—and second-line signers.

RE-ENGAGEMENT.

Formulate a process to reach out to those members we don't see often at meetings. While their dues are vital, it is even more vital, in my opinion, to have a lodge where more members participate in the stated meetings, degree work, and social functions. Find out those members' barriers to participating in meetings and work with those brothers to find ways to eliminate those barriers.

EDUCATION, DEGREE CONFERRALS, AND CEREMONIES.

- Take part in all District 11 DGL training opportunities. Dates for these are 1/18/25, 4/19/25, 8/12/2025, and 11/15/2025. These are all great opportunities for learning and improvement. We will also need maximum participation in the Nevada Grand Lecturers workshop date to be announced.
- Work with appropriate committees to set up team members to take roles in the various degrees of masonry, especially the Master Mason degree's second section. Work with members to learn multiple roles.
- Junior Warden will open/close a meeting of Entered Apprentices and confer an EA degree. Senior Warden will open/close a meeting of Fellowcrafts and confer a Fellowcraft degree.
- Work with appropriate committees to work on our funeral degree. Do at least one practice this year of the funeral degree.
- We will continue conducting monthly education during our stated meetings. My vision is that various officers will take turns performing the monthly education. I will work with the education committee to accomplish this goal.
- We will invite a brother from one of our sister lodges to do one of the monthly educations and offer to conduct education at that lodge when we make an official visit.
- Work with the education and ritual (Hi-twelve Committee) to set up practices for opening and closing a lodge, all the various degrees, balloting, and special presentations such as the GMOV.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER MASONIC LODGES.

- We will continue our practice of official visits to other Masonic lodges. We will take that opportunity to learn best practices from our brothers at these lodges.
- Special project that I want us to be involved in. Work with the Grand Lodge of Nevada, Vegas Lodge No.32, and other lodges to do a Table Lodge during the Daughters of the Nile Supreme Session in June. Many Masons from

all over the United States will attend with their spouses. When I attended last year's sessions in Boise, Idaho, the Idaho Grand Lodge and an area lodge hosted a dinner, and the Grand Lodge officers did the second section of a Master Masons degree. I want to do the same here in Nevada.

- Additionally, work with the Entertainment Committee to try to set up a joint summer function involving as many area lodges as possible. My suggestion would be a picnic lunch and lawn games. Invite as many brothers, family members, and guests as possible. Show everyone that Masons like to have fun.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES.

- We will continue to provide food donations to the Sandy Valley Food Pantry and work with the Charity Committee to develop a plan for at least one donation this year.
- Assist the Sandy Valley food pantry by volunteering at least one Friday a month this year to help hand out food to those who need it.
- Work with the Charity Committee to consider raising funds to buy turkeys to hand out at the Sandy Valley Food Pantry in November 2025.
- Work with the Charity Committee to discuss how we can assist the Sandy Valley Activities Center. This is a center where area kids can go after school. When I asked how Sandy Valley could help, they told me we could provide recreation equipment such as soccer balls, etc.
- We will continue to work with the Scholarship Committee to award deserving students the George Odell Scholarship.

FINANCIAL SECURITY.

- Work with the Finances Committee and the Trustees to set up appropriate tax-deductible opportunities for Sandy Valley Lodge. This may be a way for members to contribute to Sandy Valley Lodge as a tax-deductible item.
- Work with the Finance Committee and the Trustees to see if there are any opportunities to invest our monies in investments that might earn us more capital. Of course, we must do this within the bounds of the Nevada Masonic Code.
- Work with Pahrump Lodge No.54 leadership to try and set up a fundraiser to assist in building maintenance, security, and beautification.

APPENDANT BODIES.

- We will continue to have the members of the Appendant Bodies Committee report on various activities occurring at those bodies.
- As stated before, participate in as many youth events as possible. Invite youth group members and appendant body leadership and members to any social events we plan.
- If possible, pick a time for appendant body leadership to visit a Stated meeting and talk to us about their various activities and opportunities.



From the West

Brethren,

I am deeply impacted by all the Brothers we have lost this year. I will share a message in January about what I have learned over the past few years as a member of this lodge. Getting to know all of you and how we can move forward in positive ways.

On the Charity Committee, Keystone only provides food on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. Please keep this in mind. I will share all my notes with the head of the 2026 Charity Committee. Thanks to Brother Justin Rittenhouse for assisting myself and Keystone Pantry

on November 21st.

Fraternally,

Carl Agbayani

Senior Warden

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

619-301-0910 (Cell)

carl.agbayani@gmail.com



From the South

Greetings from the South,

Welcome to December. Our lunch should be amazing with the dishes being brought by members. Please, if you wish to contribute a dish, do not bring cookies. Most of our brethren cannot eat them. I know it's convenient to grab them at the store, but so are vegetables or fruit. Please keep watch over each other. As we have painfully experienced, Brothers in trouble will not always reach out. Happy Holidays from the South.

Tarek Schoner

Junior Warden

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

702-684-3633 (Cell)

brothertschoner@yahoo.com

2025 Grand Oration

Provided by Sandy Valley No. 57 Worshipful Master & Masonic Education and Leadership Committee

Written and Presented by Grand Orator, Worshipful R. Montana Williams, Sandy Valley 57, Pahrump 54, Robert Burns 59

I Challenge You: Establish a Legacy of Leadership

Brethren, we didn't gather by accident, and we're not here as spectators. We're here as Brothers—men shaped by the square of conduct and guided by the compasses of character—answering an ancient call: to establish a legacy through leadership.

So, here's the real question—gently, honestly, and with purpose: What legacy will our leadership leave? Not just as men, but as Masons. What will be etched on the "Ashlars of time" because we were here?

Leadership isn't handed down by title or bloodline. In our Craft, it's earned through service, proven by action, and refined by personal growth. We don't only build temples "not made with hands." We build people. We shape characters. We steward a tradition that outlives us.

George Washington, our brother and the nation's first president, said it simply: "[T]he grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race." That's a legacy worth living for.

John C. Maxwell states: "Leadership is influence—nothing more, nothing less." For a Mason, that influence is anchored in Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth; formed by our working tools; and lifted by Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. The tools in your hands aren't just a gavel or a square—they're influence, wisdom, vision, and love. Used well, they steady lives, strengthen communities, and help shape the moral compass of a society adrift.

But here's the hinge: the world doesn't need more rulers; it needs more servants. It doesn't need more noise; it needs authentic voices of virtue. Our Craft was never designed to be a club of polite observers. It's a beacon, a forge, and a movement—and as our Grand Master reminded us this year, it begins with each of us.

The One Person You Control: You

We all started rough—full of potential, short on polish. Like the Rough Ashlar, we need labor, discipline, and light to reveal our best selves. This starts with leading ourselves first.

Leading transformational scholar James MacGregor Burns once observed, "Leadership is one of the most observed and least understood phenomena on earth." In other words, people watch you far more than they quote you—so make sure the life they see is the lesson you intend to teach.

Leadership lessons should start with our symbols, which aren't decorations; they're daily disciplines:

- The Plumb calls us to uprightness.
- The Square reminds us to act with morality.
- The Compasses teach restraint, balance, and boundaries.

Coach John Wooden put it in kitchen-table English: "Be more concerned with your character than your reputation." Character is who you are when no one's watching—and it's the soil where real leadership grows.

This is where leadership begins: reflection, ritual, and responsibility, then study, mentorship, and example. Step by step, you become the brother who quietly lifts others: choosing courage over comfort, service over self, and truth over convenience. You'll feel it at home, at work, and in the Lodge—because your life becomes the lesson. By mastering yourself, you can lead in a lodge.

Lead Your Lodge: Be Lighthouses, Not Museums

A Lodge is more than a building or an agenda. It's a school of leadership and a workshop for virtue. Wardens are raised. Masters are formed. Brethren are shaped. Inside, we confer degrees; outside, we shine light.

Here's the hard truth: a Lodge that only maintains tradition becomes a museum piece. A Lodge that lives its tradition becomes a lighthouse.

That Light can shape our communities, by:

- Mentoring youth—scholarships, school partnerships, and career guidance.
- Supporting local charities—not just with dollars, but with dependable volunteers.
- Being a model of civil discourse—practice fraternal compassion in a world of sharp edges.
- Extending relief—quietly, faithfully, consistently.

Prince Hall, the founder of the Prince Hall tradition, charged his brethren: *“Live and act as Masons, that you may die as Masons.”* That's a standard you can plan for, build toward, and measure.

The Worshipful Master and officers aren't managers of protocol; they are ambassadors of the Craft. They must lead like the Master who serves. As Jesus taught, *“If anyone desires to be first, he must be last of all and servant of all”* (Mark 9:35). That is leadership in action. This action extends to, through, and back again from our Grand Lodge.

Strengthening the Grand Lodge: Stewardship with Vision

Our Grand Lodge is the heart that circulates life through the Craft. It preserves our heritage and accelerates our future. It's not just administration; it's inspiration.

Maxwell also states real leaders *“know the way, go the way, and show the way”*. Through this concept, the Grand Lodge can act like a ladder, not as a wall—elevating others so that the whole fraternity rises.

Those ladders are extended by Credit and evolve through Climate:

- Credit: President (and Brother) Harry S. Truman said, *“It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.”* Give credit away; you'll get influence back.
- Climate: Gen. Colin Powell reminded leaders, *“Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.”* Create the conditions that enable brothers to do their best work.
- What does that look like?
- Developing leaders statewide—equipping Masters and officers for purpose-driven leadership skills.
- Building unity—bridging generational, racial, and geographic divides.
- Encouraging innovation—using modern tools to teach, connect, and engage.
- Protecting ritual excellence—preserving, teaching, and living our esoteric wisdom.

The Grand Lodge's legacy isn't measured in edicts; it's measured in the empowerment of the Craft, Lodges strengthened, and communities uplifted. This is the foundational meaning of Legacy.

What Does “Legacy” Really Mean?

It is simply what do we leave behind.

Our legacy is the imprint of our influence—not on monuments, but on minds and hearts. It's not what remains when we die; it's what we set in motion while we live.

Nelson Mandela framed it another way: *What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It's the difference we make in others' lives that gives life its significance.*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. put a servant's point on it: *“Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.”* If greatness is service, then every brother can build a legacy starting now.

From the Ashlars of personal growth...

To the trestle boards of Lodge vision...

To the blueprints of Grand Lodge leadership...

We can leave principles that others can build on. Albert Pike put a stamp on it by reminding us: *“What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others, and the world remains and is immortal.”*

Final Charge: The Builder’s Fire

Brethren, the words I have spoken aren’t an ending; they’re a cornerstone.

- Carry your apron as a reminder of responsibility, not as regalia.
- Choose to lead when it’s needed, not only when you’re asked.
- Measure your Masonic journey by lives transformed, not titles earned.

Admiral William McRaven (architect of Bin Laden capture) tells people, *“If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed.”* Simply put, start with the right thing every day, and the rest will follow.

Let character lead. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf said, *“Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character. But if you must be without one, be without the strategy.”* Character outlasts tactics.

Lead like the Master who serves.

Act like the brother who uplifts.

Speak as a Mason who knows silence and truth belong together.

Let’s ignite a generation of Masonic leaders whose names may fade—but whose impact won’t. Let our legacy be chiseled into time not with fame, but with faith; not with wealth, but with wisdom; not with power, but with purpose.

Lead in the Lodge.

Lead in your home.

Lead in your vocation.

Lead in your heart.

I close with this simple question: As I reflect on the great example given to us by the late John Samuel Pennington, Sr:

Brethren, will you answer the call to build a legacy worthy of immortality?

So, mote it be.

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Monthly Education Lecture - November 2025

*Provided by Sandy Valley No. 57 Worshipful Master & Masonic Education and Leadership Committee
Researched and presented by Brother Jeffrey Vrabel*

Free and Accepted

Brethren, today we delve into a phrase that holds profound significance within this ancient and honorable fraternity of ours: "Free and Accepted". This phrase, present in our traditions, rituals, and titles, carries both historical weight and symbolic depth, reminding us of the values that have defined our Craft for centuries.

To understand the meaning of these words, we must first journey back to the origins of our Order, to the operative stonemasons who labored on cathedrals, castles, and temples of their era. We may look back, perhaps, to the Roman Collegia, orders or associations of men engaged in similar pursuits, not unlike the labor unions of today. These craftsmen were known as free masons because they were not bound by servitude or feudal obligation. They had the liberty to travel between guilds and engage in their craft wherever their skills were needed. This freedom was a mark of honor and dignity, setting them apart from others who were restricted by societal limitations.

These Collegia became so prominent and powerful that Roman Emperors attempted to abolish the right of free association. The Colleges of Architects, however, were sanctioned even after others were forbidden. They were too valuable to the State to be abolished or made to work and meet in secret. Without architects and builders, Rome could not expand, so the colleges of Architects were permitted to regulate their own affairs and work under their own constitutions, free of restrictions which attempted to destroy the Collegia.

As in our modern Craft, three were necessary to form a College consisting of a Magister or Master, and two Wardens. There were three orders or degrees in the College which used emblems which are a part of Freemasonry; Roman sarcophagi show carvings of square, compasses, plumb, and level.

During the Middle Ages, we find two distinct classes of Masons: the Guild Masons who, like the Guild Carpenters, Weavers, or Merchants were local in character and strictly regulated by law, and the Freemasons, who traveled about from city to city as their services were needed to design and erect those marvelous churches and cathedrals which stand today inimitable in beauty.

G. W. Speth, that learned brother, held that in the Middle Ages there were two types of builders' guilds, those that were stationary in each town and those that were employed in the cathedrals and were therefore permitted to move about from place to place, or wherever cathedrals might be in course of construction. Inasmuch as cathedrals represented the highwater mark of skill and learning in that day such workmen were very superior to those that were employed on the humbler structures in the community, such as dwellings, warehouses, docks, and roads.

Other men, thoughtful but not scholarly, would see in the Speculative teachings of the Masons that road to knowledge which was otherwise hard to find. After the ancient builders' guilds began to break up and to lose their monopoly of the trade, they began to "accept" into their membership these men who had no intention of engaging in actual building, but who sought membership for social purposes, or in order to have the advantage of the rich symbolism, the ritual and the philosophy of the Order. The term "Accepted", therefore, evolved with the transition from operative masonry to speculative Masonry.

As the fraternity began welcoming men who were not literal stoneworkers but who sought moral and philosophical enlightenment, these individuals were "Accepted" into the fellowship. They embraced the principles, lessons, and allegories of Masonry, applying them to their own personal and intellectual development.

In their lodges Speculative Masonry grew side by side with their operative art. They were jealous of their Order and strict in their acceptance of Apprentices; strict too, in admitting Apprenticed to be Fellows of the Craft, requiring seven years of

labor before an Apprentice might make his Master's Piece to submit to the Master and Wardens of his lodge, when happily, he might become a Fellow and receive the Master's Word.

Gradually the "accepted" or Speculative Freemasons equaled, then outnumbered the operative craftsmen and slowly but surely the Craft came to be what it is today, and has been for more than two centuries, wholly Speculative in character. Thus, the phrase "Free and Accepted" became a bridge between past and present, linking the operative builders of stone to the speculative builders of character. Hence our title - Free and Accepted Masons, F. & A.M. The District of Columbia still uses F.A.A.M., meaning Free and Accepted Masons.

For the modern Mason, "Free and Accepted" serves as a dual reminder:

"Free" represents the freedom of thought, the liberty to explore truth without constraint, and the responsibility to govern one's own actions with wisdom and virtue. A Mason must be free in mind and spirit, unshackled by ignorance and prejudice. He must pursue knowledge, justice, and self-improvement with dedication.

"Accepted" is a testament to Brotherhood. It signifies that each Mason has been duly admitted into the fraternity, not through wealth or status, but by his character and readiness to uphold the values of the Craft. Acceptance brings with it the duty to live honorably, to respect his obligations, and to work toward the betterment of humanity.

The first Grand Lodge of Speculative Masons was established in London in 1717, but Masonry, even of the Speculative variety was very old by that date. There is no telling how old Masonry is. In any event it is ancient, and has every right to the use of that word but, in the majority of cases, this word doubtless refers to the Grand Lodge that came to be organized in England shortly after 1750.

When the first Grand Lodge was formed, it was planned that it should have jurisdiction only over a few lodges in London. As these lodges increased in number it extended its territory to include the county, and later on to include the whole country. A large number of lodges remained independent, often called St. John's lodges, many in the north of England, and others in Scotland and Ireland.

As time went on, there grew a feeling among several of these independent lodges that the new Grand Lodge was becoming guilty of making innovations in the body of Masonry, therefore, after some tension, a rival Grand Lodge was formed, and because its older sister Grand Lodge had made changes, they dubbed those "modern," and because they themselves claimed to preserve the work according to its original form, they called themselves "Ancient."

This Ancient Grand Lodge was fortunate in securing as its Grand Secretary Laurence Dermott, who had such a genius for organizing that in the course of time this newer lodge began to overshadow the older. The rivalry, often bitter enough to be described as a feud, lasted until 1813, when the first step toward a union was affected. Out of this effort at reconciliation came at last The United Grand Lodge of England.

Meanwhile the Ancients had chartered a great many lodges in the colonies of America, and these carried on the name long after American lodges had severed all relations with the Grand Lodges across the sea. In this way the word "Ancient" came into general use and "Ancient Free and Accepted" remains today imbedded in the official titles of about half the Grand Lodges in this land.

The Grand Lodges in the United States recognize each other and treat each other with respect. Members are regarded equally as Masons and as Brothers.

All the Grand Lodges in the United States are recognized by other Grand Lodges in Scotland, England, Thailand, Ireland, India, and other countries in Europe, Africa, and South America.

The Prince Hall Grand Lodge was not recognized initially by other regular Grand Lodges. The Prince Hall Grand Masonic Lodge has its origins from a lodge consisting of Black Freemasons in Boston. The lodge was started by a man named Prince Hall.

The Prince Hall Free Masonry started during the War of Independence. It started on March 6, 1775, when Prince Hall and 14 other free blacks were initiated into Lodge 441 of the Irish Constitution. The Lodge was located at Fort Independence, Boston Harbor. Lodge 441 was attached to the 38th Regiment of Foot of the British Army. Later, the Lodge received a charter from the Grand Lodge of England.

When Prince Hall died, the Lodge did not exist again. Some years later, black masons started the Prince Hall Masonic Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge began to issue charters to other black men to create subordinate lodges, and these too are now accepted.

As we reflect on the time-honored phrase Free and Accepted, let it serve as an inspiration. May we ever remain Free in our pursuit of wisdom, in our defense of liberty, and in our commitment to virtue. May we always be Accepted in heart and in deed, standing as upright men and Masons, dedicated to the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Brethren, the phrase "Free and Accepted" is more than just the title on our charters; it is the fundamental description of who we are. It is an historical bridge that spans from the operative builders of stone to the speculative builders of character. Let us uphold the legacy of those who came before us and ensure that the words "Free and Accepted" are not mere tradition, but a way of life.

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4. *The Regius Poem (or Halliwell Manuscript).* c. 1390.
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From the Treasurer's Desk

Brothers,

I am deeply saddened by the passing of our beloved Brother Jeffrey. His life was a shining example of the Masonic virtues we hold dear—charity, integrity, and brotherly love. He carried himself with quiet dignity, always willing to lend a helping hand, offer wise counsel, and share a warm smile that could brighten even the darkest days. Though his earthly journey has ended, the light he brought into our lives will never fade. His memory will remain etched in our hearts, and his influence will continue to guide us, just as the North Star guides the traveler. May we find comfort in knowing that he now rests in the eternal lodge above, where peace and harmony reign forever. Until we meet again, dear Brother—farewell, and may the Great Architect of the Universe keep you in His eternal care.

We have lost far too many Brothers this year. May their memories always be a blessing.

Whether I am asked to continue as a member of the Finance and Charity Committee, I trust that they will continue to find ways to improve our Lodge's financial health. Together with the Lodge Trustees, they should craft a new strategy to make our funds more effective. We aim to maximize our resources, ensuring greater financial stability and more efficient use of resources.

Fraternally,

Albert A Navarro II, P.:M.:

Treasurer

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

702-218-5060 (Cell)

navarroa@cox.net



From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren,

I mourn the loss of our dear Brother and friend, Jeffrey Vrabel, whose life embodied the noblest Masonic virtues—kindness, integrity, and brotherly love. His wisdom and warmth impacted us all, and his light will keep guiding us. May he rest peacefully in the eternal lodge above, embraced by the Great Architect of the Universe, until our next reunion.

On a business note, the Lodge continues to accept 2026 dues via cash, check, or our new electronic payment options.

For those who use **ZELLE**, please send payments to: payments@sandyvalley57.com.

Step-by-Step Guide to Using Zelle

1. *Check if Your Bank Supports Zelle. Most major U.S. banks and credit unions offer Zelle through their mobile apps or websites. If your bank supports Zelle, you can use it directly through their app—no need to download anything extra.*
2. *Download the Zelle App (if needed). If your bank doesn't offer Zelle, download the Zelle app from the App Store or Google Play. You'll need to link a U.S. debit card to use the app.*
3. *Enroll with Your Email or Phone Number. Sign up using your U.S. mobile number or email address. Link your bank account or debit card.*
4. *Send Money. Choose a recipient using their email or mobile number (payments@sandyvalley57.com). Enter the amount and hit send. The recipient will get a notification and can accept the money—usually within minutes.*

Things to Keep in Mind

- *There are no fees, but your bank may have limits on how much you can send.*

PAYPAL. If you prefer to use PayPal, you can scan the QR code included in this message or the code provided at the Secretary's desk at the lodge.



In November, I will send out a lodge-wide communication with the Zelle information and PayPal/Venmo QR code. Please note! If you choose to pay via PayPal, the dues amount is \$104.00. According to policy, the lodge is charged a \$3.00 fee for PayPal/Venmo transactions. This fee is non-negotiable, and the lodge cannot under any circumstances absorb or divert this expense. Zelle is free, and your total charge will remain at \$101.00 for the yearly dues.

If you wish to mail a check, please mail it to:

Ken O'Neill

527 Albacate Street
Henderson, NV 89015

I will mail your dues card to the return address listed on your check or envelope. Please note that we still have members who need to update their contact information as soon as possible.

GRANDVIEW. As a reminder, please check your GrandView accounts to ensure all your information is current and accurate. Instructions for accessing your account are provided below if you need them.

Step-by-Step Guide to Using GrandView.

From your browser, type in nvmasons.org. Once the page opens, click the resource link in the upper right-hand corner using the dropdown menu. Click on Grandview and follow the instructions listed below.

1. *Please read the following instructions; the registration link is at the end.*
2. *Enter the information carefully:*
 - a. **Lodge Number:**
Enter home/primary NEVADA lodge number only. ONLY numeric characters. For example, if you were a member of Lodge #3, enter a 3
 - b. **Member ID:**
This should be the number in the corner of your current dues card.
 - c. **Last Name:**
Enter last name (CASE SENSITIVE). Most names are capitalized in the common fashion. If your last name has multiple capitals or names, you may have to try other combinations of capitals. For example, try "Mcc" and "McC". If you have several last names, try the very last one first.
 - d. **Hit "Check Membership Status"**
3. *If successful in verifying membership, it will prompt you for an email and password set-up.*
 - a. **Email:**
Please use a personal email that you would like the Grand Lodge to use as a contact for you. DO NOT use a lodge email as "Secretary" status is granted in the system (i.e., choose an email that will stay with you, not your position.) Please note that this email will be used by the Grand Lodge and/or Lodge(s) to communicate with you. However, you may designate your preferred contact method in your profile.
 - b. **Password / Check Password:**
Choose a password of AT LEAST 8 characters. No other complications are required, but a complex password is recommended (as always).
4. *Future visits will be through the standard login portal.*
5. *Once logged in, please explore your profile and update your contact information and any other information you would like to provide your Secretary and the Grand Lodge. If you cannot change something (Degree dates, etc.), please inform the secretary of the correction.*
6. *Go to this link: [Nevada Grand View Registration Page](#)*

Questions should be directed as follows:

- Code & Masonic Law questions should be directed to the Grand Secretary.
- Basic system help can be found (once logged in) under the Help Desk tab.
- For the access code (for Brothers in specified Lodges), consult the Lodge Secretary.

Fraternally,,

Kenneth O'Neill, P.:M.:

Secretary
Sandy Valley Lodge No. 57 F.: & A.: M.:
702-237-2259 (Cell)
oneilk01@gmail.com

From the Lodge Communications Mason

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>

Respectfully,

Justin Sobota

Lodge Historian & Communication Mason
Sandy Valley Lodge No. 57 F.: & A.: M.:
702-480-2482 (Cell)
jalansobota@gmail.com

Sandy Valley No.57 Committees at a Glance

MANDATORY COMMITTEES:

Cognizance Committee:

Chairman: WB Kenneth O'Neill, P.M.
Member 2: WB Dwain Rittenhouse, P.M.
Member 3: WB Brian Boles, P.M.

Delinquency Committee:

Chairman: WB Albert Navarro, P.M.
Member 2: WB Montana Williams, P.M.
Member 3: WB Dave Sims, P.M.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Appendant Bodies Committee:

Chairman: Brother Russ Gray (Shriners)
Member 2: Brother Buzz Ingram (Youth Groups)
Member 3: WB Brett Williams, P.M. (AASR)
Member 4: Brother Cyril Bradshaw (York Rite)

By Laws Committee:

Chairman: Brother Michael Kearns
Member 2: Brother Carl Agbayani
Member 3: Brother Tarek Schoner

Membership/Marketing/Community/Communications (M2C2) Committee:

Chairman: Brother Justin Sobota (Web Master)
Member 2: WB Brian Boles, P.M.
Member 3: WB Albert Navarro, P.M. (Trestle Board)

Finances and Charity Committee:

Chairman: WB Albert Navarro, P.M.
Member 2: WB Cristian Gliga, P.M.
Member 3: Brother Carl Agbayani

Investigation/ Degree Progression Committee:

Chairman: Brother Justin Rittenhouse
Member 2: Brother Reginald Winbush
Member 3: Brother Ped Palmer

Sickness and Distress Committee:

Chairman: Brother Bill Cookston
Member 2: WB John Pennington, P.M.
Member 3: Brother Marcus Contoneru

Masonic Education Committee:

Chairman: Brother Jeffrey Vrabel
Member 2: WB Montana Williams, P.M.
Member 3: Brother Justin Rittenhouse

Ritual and Hi-Twelve (Third Degree) Committee:

Chairman: WM Michael Kearns
Vice Chairman: Brother Tarek Schoner (MM)
Member 2: Brother Daniel Young (FC)
Member 3: Brother Justin Rittenhouse (EA)
Member 4: Brother Cyril Bradshaw (Funerals)
Member 5: WB John Pennington, P.M. (DGL)

Refreshment / Entertainment Committee:

Chairman Brother Tarek Schoner
Member 2: Brother Reginald Winbush
Member 3: Brother Ped Palmer
Member 4: Brother Bill Cookston (Formal Dinner)

Instruction "Redbook" Committee:

Co-Chairman: WB Albert Navarro, P.M. & WB Brian Boles, P.M.
Vice Chairman: Brother Greg Curtain
Member 2: Brother Bill Cookston
Member 3: Brother Dennis Williams
Member 4: WB Kenneth O'Neill, P.M.
Member 5: WB Harry Smith, Honorary P.M.

Scholarship Committee:

Chairman: WB Wade Schneiderman, P.M.
Member 2: WB Troy Schneiderman, P.M.
Member 3: WB Kenneth O'Neill, P.M.
Member 4: Brother Jeffrey Vrabel

From Your Board of Trustees



Robin "Montana" Williams
Past Master 2022
One-Year Trustee
702-743-7143 (Cell)
montana.williams@gmail.com



Brian Boles
Past Master 2023
Two-Year Trustee
702-296-8653 (Cell)
brian@boleskerr.com



Brett Williams
Junior Past Master 2024
Three-Year Trustee
206-939-7767 (Cell)
emailbrettwilliams@gmail.com

On behalf of your Lodge Trustees, I would like to thank you for your trust and continued support. I would also like to use this opportunity to educate our newer members on the Powers and duties of the Board of Trustees.

Per 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 the best of our abilities, always with the benefit of the craft and lodge as their guide.

I hope to see you all in attendance this year.

Fraternally,

Robin "Montana" Williams
One-Year Trustee

Brian Boles
Two-Year Trustee

Brett Williams
Three-Year Trustee



From the Editor's Desk

Lodge Mailing & Physical Address

PHYSICAL LOCATION

281 Gemini Drive
Pahrump, Nevada 89048

(Co-located with Pahrump Lodge No.54)

LODGE SECRETARY MAILING ADDRESS

527 Albacate Street
Henderson, Nevada 89015

To Our Fellow Lodges Throughout Southern Nevada:

If you would prefer not to receive our monthly Trestle Board electronically, please notify me via the email provided below, and you will be removed from our monthly TB mailing list. Absent any request to unsubscribe, you are welcome to continue enjoying our TB.

navarroa@cox.net

Fraternally,

Albert A Navarro II, P.:M.:
Trestle Board 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*

#VEGASSTRONGER

2025 LODGE OFFICERS		PAST MASTERS	
Michael Kearns	Worshipful Master 720-425-6330	Donald Daum George W. Odell	UD 2001 2002
Carl Agbayani	Senior Warden 619-301-0910	Ted Johnson Bill Katz (Unfinished Term)	2003 2004
Tarek Schoner	Junior Warden 702-684-3633	Swannie Swenson (2004) Al Opegard	2005 2006
Albert Navarro II	Treasurer 702-218-5060	Troy Schneiderman Michael L. Rodgers	2007 2008
Kenneth O'Neill, P.M.	Secretary 702-237-2259	John Pennington Mike Barry	2009 2010
Jeffrey Vrabel	Senior Deacon 702-527-2744	Wade Schneiderman (10yr Anniversary-UD) Fred Horne (10yr Anniversary)	2011 2012
Justin Rittenhouse	Junior Deacon 702-540-7947	Mark Tavarez John Pennington	2013 2014
Russell Gray	Chaplain 303-901-7044	Michael Kurcab Dwain Rittenhouse	2015 2016
Dennis Williams	Tyler 702-596-3104	Mathew McCarthy Kenneth L. O'Neill Jr.	2017 2018
Reginald Winbush	Senior Steward 702-460-1130	Steven Benjamin Dave Sims	2019 2020
Ped Palmer	Junior Steward 702-301-1856	Albert A Navarro II (20yr Anniversary-UD) Robin "Montana" Williams (20yr Anniversary)	2021 2022
Bill Cookston	Marshall 775-253-0159	Brian Boles Brett Williams	2023 2024
Juston Sobota	Historian & Communications Mason 702-480-2482		
John Pennington Sr., P.M.	Deputy Grand Lecturer 702-355-0154		
TRUSTEES		AFFILIATED PAST MASTERS	
3-Year	Brett Willams, P.M.	David Owens	
2-Year	Brian Boles, P.M.	Fred Horne	
1-Year	Robin 'Montana' Williams, P.M.	*George Gilbert	
HONORARY MEMBERS		Terry Baker	
*Jim Cook, P.M.		Fred Robinson	
Harry Christopher, P.M.		Harold Scalzo	
Frank Merica, P.M.		Richard Hunker	
		*Clifford Wiltse	
		*Dave White	
HONORARY PAST MASTERS		Greg Curtain	
*Parke Potter	2007	*Deceased	