



Rite Words

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

160 S. Scott Avenue - Tucson, AZ 520.622.8364 - www.TucsonScottishRite.org

Volume 51, Issue 1

January / February, 2013



Meet Your 2013 Officers



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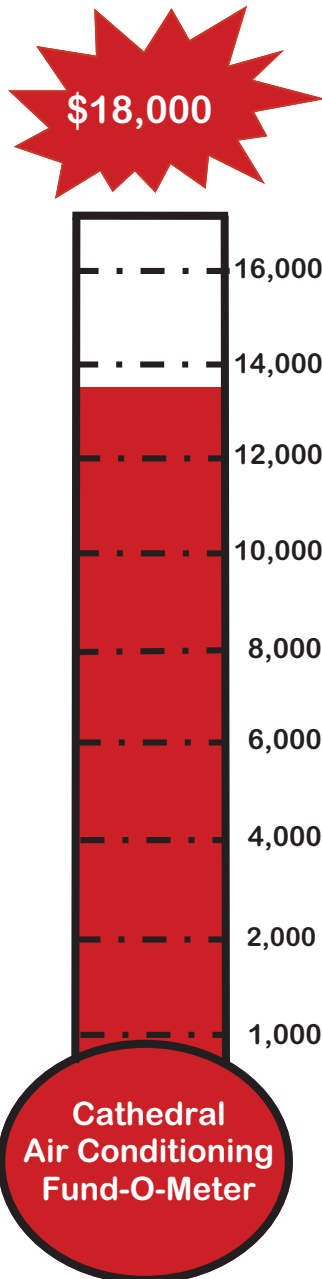
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Secretary/Treasurer	Randal S. Jager, 32°, K.·.C.·.C.·.H.·.



PLEASE . . .

WILL YOU HELP ?

We are asking each member to donate **\$25.00** to help pay for the replacement of the air conditioning system in the Red Room.

One of the 10-ton units has already been replaced, but we need to replace the other unit also. In addition, the electrical wiring, which is not up to current code, must be replaced and made "weatherproof".

We need to raise \$18,000.00

Please send your donation to:

Tucson Scottish Rite

P.O. Box 391—Tucson, AZ 85702

or

Call the office and make your donation using
a credit or debit card.

Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Thank You!

Thank You to the following members
who have donated to the air conditioning fund.

Total donations: \$13,735.00

Adobe Lodge #41
Allen, Jay R.
Amling, Russell K.
Anderson, Jr., Andrew M.
Anderson, Thomas E.
Andress, Nicholas A.
Anonymous

Atchley, J. Michael
Barnes, Sr., Frank A.
Bartee, Jr., Lawrence W.
Baser, Clifford W.
Beeson, Glen O.
Billings, G. Martin
Bishop, Michael T.

Blatt, Frederick M.
Blazewicz, Robert J.
Block, Charles B.
Boatright, Philip C.
Borders, Robert R.
Bouschor, Royal G.
Bradshaw, Harold S.

Brooks, John T.
Brubaker, Dave R.
Bugen, George C.
Bull, Gene E.
Butler, Johnny L.
Byrum, Kenneth I.

Carlton, Carl K.	Hudson, Jerrel L.	Montgomery, Arthur J.	Smith, Andrew W.
Cash, Eddie	Huser, Sr., James H.	Morgan, Gary D.	Smith, Jr., Earle
Chanez, Jose G.	Jager, Randal S.	Morgan, James A.	Smith, Edmund D.
Chapman, Thomas L.	Jarvis, Albert W.	Morgan, Jr., Tom	Spurgeon, Sidney L.
Clark, Michael J.	Jeffers, Jr., William B.	Mosher, Col. Walter L.	Steenbakker, Emmanuel M.
Cohen, Raymond	Jones, Thomas E.	Navarro, Eric	Steiner, George E.
Compston, Fredrick T.	Jordan, Ted E.	Norvelle, Melvin	Sutton, Alvin I.
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Del Cueto, Arturo S.	Koepen, Elliott F.	Pedata, Martin B.	Thomas, James G.
Dole, John S.	Kraft, Christopher H.	Pepper, Howard E.	Thornton, Charles E.
Eaton, Ronald D.	Kretschmer, William L.	Phoenix Scottish Rite	Toler, Ivan O.
Eldorado, James G.	Kucera, David W.	Picerno, Salvatore J.	Trivett, Malcom M.
Erdemir, Ahmet S.	Kucharski, Daniel T.	Piper, William T.	Turney, C.T.
Feifer, Carol	Lane, Barry F.	Pizer, Sandra	Vingino, Donald J.
Fenn, Wendell W.	Langmead, Robert F.	Platt, William E.	Voss, Jr., Arthur R.
Fish, Louis R.	Latherow, Charles A.	Plumb, Gary E.	Wahl, Charles E.
Fortner, Charles H.	Lee, Rex H.	Pronneke, Benjamin J.	Wahl, Edwin E.
Fultz, Fred H.	Leininger, Joseph E.	Ramirez, Jose S.	Wainwright, Robert D.
Gabbert, II, Howard M.	Liebert, James I.	Ranslem, Jr., Clarence	Waln, James W.
Galyon, Don E.	Liston, Earl R.	Ransom, Jr., Lawrence C.	Wayne, Ronald D.
Garfield, Todd A.	Lofquist, William E.	Ratledge, Bobby J.	Weathers, Paul
Garn, Robert E.	Lohman, Fred M.	Reed, Jr., Edwin	Wells, William W.
Gay, William D.	Loomis, Thomas R.	Richards, Ronald W.	White, William R.
Goetz, Jeffrey D.	Loomis, Thomas R.	Roberts, David G.	Williams, Walter H.
Gross, Craig L.	in memory of	Rouse, Arnold C.	Williamson, Peter G.
Guzzi, Eugene M.	Calvin B. Crisman, Jr.	Ruse, Jon B.	Wolfe, James E.
Haines, Harold E.	Mabee, Charles C.	Ryan, Davenport W.	Wood, Bruce F.
Hall, Billy G.	Manning, Mike	Sanchez, Anibal	Wood, Forrest L.
Hall, Richard G.	Martin, Frederick O.	Sanchez, Jr., Robert	Woody, John R.
Hamilton, Clinton E.	McCullough, Earl	Schauer, Donald B.	Worley, George H.
Hannon, Robert F.	McGee, Sr., Vernon	Schick, Terrence W.	Wright, Jack W.
Harrison, Harmon G.	McGinley, John L.	Schilerer, Gilbert A.	Wunder, Earl L.
Hemsworth, William D.	Meisenheimer, Robert E.	Schulz, Bernd	Zavatsky, Emerick J.
Henry, Kendall G.	Meister, Stanley L.	Sedlmayr, Floyd W.	Zaverton, Jr., Stephen
Hicks, Robert L.	Menane, Wes H.	Settlemyer, Robin E.	Zingg, Jr., John F.
Hobbs, E. David	Michael, Jr., George P.	Sharp, Col. Sam H.	
Horton, Jeffrey R.	Moline, James L.	Slipher, Earl C.	

If you have not paid

→ your 2012 dues, ←

PLEASE

take a moment and mail us your check.

Or, call the office at 520-622-8364
and pay with any credit or debit card.

Mail your dues to:
Tucson Scottish Rite
P.O. Box 391
Tucson, AZ 85702

*If you are experiencing a financial
hardship at this time, please call and let
us know. We will be glad to work out a
payment plan for you.*

DO NOT PAY YOUR DUES

★ DIRECTLY TO ★

SUPREME COUNCIL

IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

When paying your dues on-line
directly to Supreme Council, it
takes several weeks before we
receive your payment.

CORRECTION

In the November / December issue of the Rite Words, I listed the cell phone number of Bro.: Richard Grimes incorrectly.

His correct cell phone number is:

520-955-2704

My apologies, Richard.

Peggy Atchley, Editor

Personal Rep's Message

Illustrious Brother J. Michael Atchley, 33°, G.:C.:

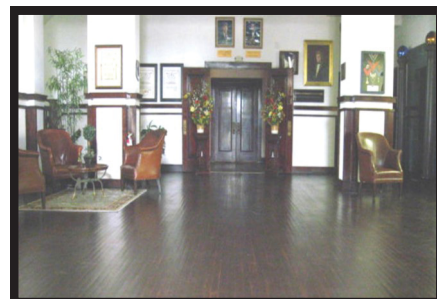
With 2013 right around the corner, it will be the 211th anniversary of the Southern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite; the 121st anniversary of the Valley of Tucson and the 98th anniversary of our Cathedral, and it just keeps getting better.

In our goal of raising \$18,000.00 for the new air conditioner and heat pump, we are at \$13,735.00. To all of you who have helped with this fundraiser a "*well done good and faithful servant*".

With the coming of the new year, we need to concentrate on recruiting new members. In Arizona, the Scottish Rite averages less than 50 new Masters of the Royal Secret while the Lodges in Arizona raise an average of 300 per year. We need to become better salesmen. Our product is our Fraternity and the things it has to offer, such as: continuing education; brotherhood which brings all the Lodges together to exemplify additional lessons in Freemasonry; the fellowship we share; sharing of ideas with those brothers from the four corners of the State and the new ideas we take back to our Lodges to help them improve. Our fraternity is one large family. Each one of us must continue to work to keep our family strong.

This year is also the year of Honours. A year we look forward to and regret at the same time. We are always proud to recognize our members for their hard work within the Fraternity and sad because there are never enough honors to go around to all who deserve them. *The most valuable honor we have is the respect we earn from our brethren for the work we do, not the color of the Prayer Cap we wear.*

With the Cathedral now open to the public for Special Events and the parking spaces being rented to the public, we are generating funds to do minor repairs, remodeling and other cosmetic improvements. Funds from Special Events being held at the Cathedral were used to hire a contractor to remove the padding and carpeting from the main lobby and refurbish the original wood flooring as well as installing an air conditioner in the ladies restroom.



Personal Rep’s Message (Continued)

We have a few couples who go above and beyond, but we need more volunteers to be able to continue preserving and upgrading our beautiful Cathedral.

The Tuesday Crew; attendants for the parking lot during the theatre season; the Rummage Room and, our Special Events, which is growing and soon will be a major source of income, all need help. We have a lot of ideas and plans, but we need your help to make them a reality.

Your time is what we are asking for!



Cochise Scottish Rite Club

Brother Thomas E Jones, 32°, Secretary / Treasurer

The Cochise Scottish Rite Club meets on a regular basis for breakfast, followed by their meeting, at Huachuca Lodge #53. Breakfast is served by the High Twelve Kitchen Crew at 8:00am. All Masons, non-masons and their families are welcome to attend their open meetings.

For further information about this active Scottish Rite Club, please contact Bro. Tom Jones, 32°.

Secretary / Treasurer
520-378-6399
tejones446@yahoo.com



Rodeo Night

February 28, 2013



Dress Code:

Cowboy / Cowgirl Hats
Jeans and Boots

Nelson C. Bledsoe Memorial Library

Bro. Kenneth Byrum, 32°, K.C.C.H., Librarian

While going through a book we received, this article fell out. As I recall, it did not have anything to do with the subject of the book, but it was interesting. I thought you might give it a minute or two to read and give thought to its meaning in today’s life.

Yesterday...Today...and Tomorrow

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry, two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension. One of these days is yesterday with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control.

All the money in the world cannot bring back yesterday. We cannot undue a single act we performed, we cannot erase a single word we said, yesterday is gone!

The other day we should not worry about is tomorrow with its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and performance. Tomorrow’s sun will rise, either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds, but it will die. Until it does, we have no stake in tomorrow for it is yet unborn.

This leaves only one day—today—any man can fight the battles of one day, it is only when you and I add the burdens of those two awful eternities—yesterday and tomorrow that we break down.

It is not the experience of today that drives men mad—it is remorse or bitterness for something that happened yesterday and the dread of what tomorrow might bring.

Let us therefore live but one day at a time.

**YESTERDAY IS A CANCELLED CHECK,
TOMORROW IS A PROMISSORY NOTE,
BUT TODAY IS CASH,
SPEND IT WISELY!**

Do we have your current email address?
If not, please send a quick note to:
patchley@TucsonScottishRite.org.

I Am The Guy Who Asked To Join Your Organization

I am the guy who paid his fees to join and who pays dues to belong. I am the guy who stood up, and in front of you, promised to be faithful and loyal. I am the guy who came to your meetings and no one paid any attention to me. I tried several times to be friends but they all had their own buddies to talk to and sit with.

I sat down several times alone, but no one paid any attention to me. I hoped very much someone would have asked me to take part in a fundraising project or something. But no one took notice of my efforts when I volunteered.

I missed a few meetings after joining because I was sick and could not be there. No one asked me at the next meeting where I had been. I felt like it didn't matter very much to others whether I was there or not. The next meeting I decided to stay home and watch TV. The following meeting I attended, but no one asked me where I was for the last meeting.

You might say I am a good guy, a good family man, who holds a good job, loves his community and his country. You know who else I am?

I AM THE GUY WHO NEVER CAME BACK!

It concerns me that everyone wonders why the organization is losing members. It concerns me to think they spend so much time looking for new members, when I was there all the time.

**All they needed to do was make me feel
needed
wanted
and welcome.**

**Stated Meeting
February 28, 2013
Dinner Menu:**
Garden Salad
Herb Roasted Baked Chicken
Oven Roasted Red Potatoes
Green Bean Almondine
Rolls and Butter
Variety of Cheesecakes

Rite Words

Valley of Tucson ~ Orient of Arizona

Articles appearing in this publication express only the private opinion or assertions of the writer and are not necessarily those of the Scottish Rite Bodies.

Articles submitted must be informative and relate to Masonry and/or be of general public interest. When possible, photographs illustrating these articles should accompany the submission. The *Rite Words* published six times annually, in January, March, May, July, September and November. **Deadline for submission of articles for the next publication is February 5, 2013.**

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Peggy Atchley

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Rite Words

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Illustrious Brother Robert F. Hannon, 33°, is the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A. in the Orient of Arizona. Illustrious Brother J. Michael Atchley, 33°, G. C., is the Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Arizona for the Valley of Tucson and Chairman of the Advisory Conference. Illustrious Brother James W. Sebastian, 33°, is the Assistant Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Arizona. for the Valley of Tucson.

Important Notice



Remember



*You will be asked to show your
2013 Dues Card
when attending Scottish Rite
meetings and events.*



Lodge of Perfection



Bro.: Stanley L. Meister, 32°, Venerable Master Elect

Best wishes to all of you for a healthy and prosperous New Year. I want to thank you for the faith and trust placed in me by electing me to serve in the East for 2013. This has been a long and circuitous route starting over four decades ago in Southern Illinois, then moving to Chicago where I have been a member for about 20 years and served as an officer in the Gourgas Chapter of Rose Croix for about nine years. After moving to Tucson in 2005, I affiliated with the Valley of Tucson which was a new experience, being part of the Southern Jurisdiction. The different customs, structure and degrees have been very interesting. When the Master Craftsman program was introduced, I signed up and found it very worthwhile and informative. It is a great self-paced program, teaching about Scottish Rite. There are six lessons in the first part with the second part being considerably more intense. I confess I have it but have not really delved into it.

Our Valley had a positive 2012 with two nice size classes at the Reunions, increased participation from the members, and continued progress in updating our beautiful Cathedral, which is sneaking up on 100 years of age. Projects are ongoing this year such as replacing the old and failed air conditioning system in the Red Room (*for which donations are still being gratefully accepted*) and many other projects for which we could use your help.

There are many ways to participate whether it is putting on a costume for a degree, learning some ritual, bringing candidates in, coming down on Tuesdays to share fellowship with the Tuesday Crew and work around the building, helping collect money at the parking lot for public events, attending our meetings and events or maybe just an extra couple of dollars from time to time.

The fellowship is great with opportunities to get to know Brothers from other areas and take part in learning more about being a better man.

Please come out when you can. When traveling, perhaps you can visit a local Valley or Scottish Rite Club or even just attend Lodge from time to time. You can really only benefit from being a member if you participate at some level.

We have had some real momentum in membership growth and participation and with your help the Valley of Tucson will continue to become stronger.

Welcome To Our Newest Masters of The Royal Secret

Brian L. Brooks Dale C. Clark
Central Arizona Lodge #14 Central Arizona Lodge #14

Leigh J. Craighton Ahmet S. Erdemir
Tucson Lodge #4 Epes Randolph Lodge #32

Anthony J. Foglia Roy E. Grimm
Flagstaff Lodge #7 Central Arizona Lodge #14

Donald K. Hack, Jr. Donald J. Hartwell
Flagstaff Lodge #7 Flagstaff Lodge #7

Sedrick E. Hicks Christopher L. Jordan
Yuma Lodge #17 Tucson Lodge #4

Michael R. Kitchen Ira Marxe
Nogales Lodge #11 Central Arizona Lodge #14

Jason D. Morrett Thomas W. Royce
Flagstaff Lodge #7 Builders Lodge #60

Sean E. Schoepflin Eric A. Slocum
Jerusalem Daylight Lodge #66 Oasis Lodge #52

Rayna D. Stanley Jason B. Stryker
Huachuca Lodge #53 Marion McDaniel Lodge #56

Roderic L. Wagoner, Jr. Zak U. Willes
Marion McDaniel Lodge #56 Glendale Lodge #23

Gerald D. Williams, Sr., ("Buck")
Williams, Grand Canyon Lodge #38

Patrick S. Zech
Marion McDaniel Lodge #56



Cathedral 50-50 Drawing

The Cathedral 50-50 drawing, which is a fundraiser for the Cathedral has grown beyond belief.

In the five months the drawing has been going, it is now up to \$2,475.00 with no winner yet. There are still two Jokers worth \$50.00 each and the elusive "8 of Hearts", which is worth one-half the value of the pot.

Come to our Stated Meetings and take a chance—you just may be the big winner!



Installation of Officers

50-Year Awards

Mason of the Year Award

Robert F. Hannon Award

Knight of the Double Eagle Awards

January 24, 2013

Dinner Menu

Caesar Salad

Homemade Lasagna with Sausage and Beef

Or

Chicken Penne Pasta Bake

Italian Vegetables

Italian Bread

Variety of Homemade Cakes to include:

Strawberry,

Oatmeal,

Key Lime and

Chocolate

Dinner will be served at 6:30pm

Make your reservation today!

520-622-8364

All Scottish Rite Masons, family members
and guests are welcome.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to Each and Every One of You !!!

Bro.: Al Jarvis, 32°

It is that time of year again to reflect upon the past year and share some of the events I feel were important in my life.

My original world tour plans were seriously derailed when I suddenly realized last year how large, spectacular and awesome China and its people are. While I made it to the Vietnam border with China, sans a visa, I was unable to cross the border without risking a Vietnam prison cell. Considering my previous vocations, I did not feel a need to visit another prison or prison cell, especially if I did not have keys and the ability to go home every night. Maybe Vietnam will be in my plans for next year!

I had originally planned to be at the Mayan ruins at Chichen Itza on December 21st to witness the end of the world. I am glad I did not go. I understand the Mayan ruins were crowded and had attracted a truly strange bunch of less than desirable folks. I most likely would not have enjoyed myself. Before my wanderings stop, I truly hope I can visit the various ruins in South and Central America. While my ancestors were crawling around a cave, somewhere in Europe, these "savages" were enjoying a fully developed civilization with complex mathematics, astrology, written language, complex construction projects, running water, sewer systems, etc.

Prior to retiring, I did some future planning and had total hip replacements on both hips. It made a world of difference as osteoarthritis resulted in both hip joints, painfully grinding bone on bone as all my cartilage had worn away. After a brief recovery time, it was time to hit the road. What a difference the new hips made. While I am not running and jumping, I sure can put the miles on while walking.

Having arrived in China in July, 2011, I have not looked back. Buying a one-way ticket the day I retired in June, 2011, was the best thing I ever did. A one-way ticket allowed me to leave soon if I did not like China or to stay as long as I wanted if I liked the place. I did have some legal obligations to attend to in March, so I returned to the States in March for two months. I completed all I set out to do in March and had April free. I checked into advancing my ticket but China Air wanted almost \$500.00 for the change. Being super cheap, I just could not do it. While sitting in Arizona talking with my best friend in Montana, we agreed it was time to visit each other after almost four years. I got a terrific deal on a flight to and from Montana so off I went. We spent a little over two weeks catching up and swapping lies. He has an alpaca ranch just outside of Roundup, MT. It was a most pleasurable vacation. I thoroughly enjoyed the company, the cool weather, his animals and a chance to walk some of the land. Montana is gorgeous, especially if you like the great big outdoors. I found a twenty acre parcel for sale which I would like to have. I made what I felt was a reasonable offer on the property but

(Continued on page 10)



Rummage Room

Sale Dates

The second Saturday of
each month.

In addition, Norma Sebastian and Linda Lane work in the Rummage Room every Tuesday between the hours of 8:00am and noon and will be happy to accept your gently used donations.

George Washington Master Mason Degree

The Tucson Scottish Rite will again be hosting the annual George Washington Master Mason Degree on Saturday, February 9, 2013. The First Section of the Degree will begin at 10:30am and will be expertly conferred by George Washington and his Brothers in Colonial attire, followed by lunch. The Second Section will be performed in Ancient costume at approximately 1:00pm. The culmination of the Master Mason Degree will be completed in formal attire by members of the Scottish Rite—Valley of Tucson. Lunch will be a nominal cost of \$7.00 per person.

George Washington was born on January 22, 1732, but **WAS actually** born on February 11, 1732 as indicated on his official birth record. He was initiated into Masonry on the evening of August 4, 1753, in Fredricksburg Lodge No. 4, all know, went on to become General and first President of the United States. He acted as Grand Master of various States and also of the United States, and acted as Grand Master of the Capital.

Such was Washington's character that he was in private as he was in public. In Masonic terms, a "living stone" who became the cornerstone of American civilization. He remains the milestone of liberty and equality. He is the gauge of countless Master Masons in their own communities.

It should be incumbent upon all Master Masons to honor the life and memory of this distinguished Man and Mason, as it may well have been that without him, we might not even be able to consider ourselves a Master Mason or hold this Degree.

If you are interested in performing on the floor or participating in the makeup, wardrobe, sound, lighting or paraphernalia areas, contact Ill. Craig Gross, 33°, at (520) 248-4815 or at cgross12@cox.net.



February 22, 1732 by the current calendar, February 11, 1732 as indicated on his birth record. He was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in 1753, while a Major in the Continental Army, and as we all know, went on to become General and first President of the United States. He acted as Grand Master of various States and also of the United States, and acted as Grand Master of the Capital.

After that, from almost the day he took his death, he became the same man in prison terms, he remained "a just and upright Master Mason. Washington was, in Masonic terms, a "living stone" who became the cornerstone of American civilization. He remains the milestone of liberty and equality. He is the gauge of countless Master Masons in their own communities.

As everyone knows, the cost of doing business continues to increase and the Scottish Rite is not immune to the escalating costs. For each candidate initiated during our Reunions, we spend \$254.00 which includes fees to Supreme Council, current years dues, 14th Degree Ring, 32 Degree Prayer Cap, Master Craftsman course, Bridge to Light, the Patent, not to mention the hundreds of delicious meals served. The candidate pays \$225.00 and if under the age of 31, \$112.50. We cannot continue at this pace.



Beginning with the Fall, 2013 Reunion, (November 1st and 2nd, 2013) the Orient of Arizona will be raising its total fee to \$300.00, regardless of age. The Spring class, (May 3rd and 4th, 2013) will remain at the current rate of \$225.00.



It should be incumbent upon each of us to diligently canvas our lodge brethren, promoting the benefits of belonging to our Scottish Rite - let's make our Spring class the largest and most successful in years. Everyone of us should have the goal of bringing in two candidates, one to replace ourselves and one to grow on - the challenge is there!

(Continued from page 8)

the owner would not budge. I thought the property would be an ideal place to put a small trailer or cabin for the summers then hightail it to warmer places for the winters.

I might visit the States in April. While there, I hope to buy a 20-24 foot travel trailer, hook it onto my truck and wander around a little. I want to look closely at coastal Washington State near Chehalis as a possible summer home area. It rarely goes above 80-85 degrees, which would suit me just fine. I do not think I would like winter there, as it is rather wet and very chilly. I still have a house in Tucson, which I could go to for the winters. No telling where I may end up.

The winters in Thailand are tank top and shorts weather as are some other places in Asia. I have a friend in Thailand now for surgical procedures. He reports that Thailand is becoming a very popular medical vacation destination for Americans and Canadians. He reports the hospitals are very modern and practice "western" medicine. Their doctors and medical staff are trained in Europe or the States. The best news is the rates are about 10% of the costs in the USA. Medicare in the USA would cost me at least 20% plus an expensive plane ticket. Thailand would cost about 10% and a cheap plane ticket. Food for thought when and if I might need future hospitalization.

I have picked the city of Guilin, Guangxi Province as my home base in China. It is among the most popular tourist areas of China. The government cleaned up whatever pollution there was, relocated the big factories to make the air clean and clear and greatly improved the water quality. Guilin has two very popular rivers and four lakes, caverns, parks, botanical gardens, aquariums, hot springs and many other attractions.

China is the same size as the States and with a 5,000-year-old civilization, has thousands of interesting places to see and experience. In my almost two years in China, I have barely scratched the surface of what I want to do, see and experience. I have been to places like Longsheng Hot Springs, Ling Qu Canal (started in 200 BC), Tianlong National Mountain Park (glass walkways along the sheer side of thousand foot high mountains), Rianmen Mountains (the idea of the "sky mountains" in the movie Avatar originated from the Karst mountains there), the Yellow Dragon Cavern system, the Ancient Phoenix City (founded around 2,000 years ago), the Great Wall of China, Chairman Mao's home in Changsha, Yangzhou (where their walking street [no vehicles allowed] has more foreigners than Chinese), the famous Li River, People's Park in Nanning, Yao Mountain and the Emperor tombs, Seven Star Park, several zoos to watch the fascinating Pandas play, and I even visited several Buddhist Temples and Christian Churches. I attended a Christian church service Christmas night. It seemed so strange to be here in a so-called atheistic communist country and seeing most stores decorated for Christmas. What really felt good was, they sold and displayed Christmas trees, not winter trees or holiday trees.

I still enjoy my semi-rock status. Besides being American, I am far taller than the average Chinese. It helps one's ego to have people frequently asking if they can have their pictures taken with you. Others, proud of knowing some English sneak a "hello" as you walk down the street. I am always treated with

the highest degree of respect. As a guest of China, the people believe I am to be treated accordingly. Sure beats New York City!

Although I now have a resident visa, I am not legally allowed to work. That suites me just fine as I have put in my time and hope I never have to work again. I do spend two hours, three nights a week, helping teach an adult English class. I also assist the English Association at the Guilin Medical University with oral English classes. It is very rewarding, as the students truly want to be there and put their all into learning.

Every Sunday morning about 100 people (including up to 10 foreigners) meet outside the Library for an English Corner. There oral English is practiced for about three hours. English is taught for four to six years in all schools. While younger people can read and write English, they have a large deficiency in speaking English. English Corner gives them an opportunity to speak with and listen to "native speakers." It is a great feeling to know you are really making a difference among students who truly desire to learn.

China will overtake the USA in the future without firing one shot. Education is almost an obsession with both parents and students. It seems parents will do anything to enable their children to get the best education. The students give it their all. High school students rarely get home before 9-10:00pm and then have hours of homework to do. They have an almost fanatical desire to excel. I am told there are more Chinese college students with a 4.0 grade point average than the total number of college students in the USA. Asians may not be smarter, but they sure have their priorities in order!

Driving here is crazy. Traffic laws mean nothing (until you have an accident) and it is common to see people driving in both directions on the other side of the yellow centerlines. Red lights and stop signs are totally ignored. Sidewalks are driven on by both scooters, motorcycles and cars/trucks. It is very scary at night because many drivers do not turn on their lights (they must think if they cannot be seen, they cannot be hit). I cannot imagine driving a motorcycle or scooter at night with no lights. That means not only you cannot see, but you cannot be seen. Intersections are ruled by the largest vehicle and biggest nerve. One or the other, or both allow you a shot at grabbing the right of way. If you are going to make a left turn in a few blocks, you might want to drive on the far left of the centerline and turn from there, rather than stay on your side of the road and make a left turn. I do not have to worry about a driver license, as one cannot get a driver license after 70 years of age. I did buy an electric scooter because no license or registration is needed for them. Quite a shock going from years on a 1500cc Harley to a 64-volt electric scooter. Actually, it is a nice change to drive at a reasonable speed rather than the 80mph+ on Arizona highways. Should I have an accident here, it may be easier to survive. The scooters are called the "silent death" as they cannot be heard. It is easy to step off a curb and be struck since a scooter may be going either direction without lights. China has the highest motor vehicle death rate of all countries.

I hope to find myself somewhere in Asia next year at this time. I hope next year you find yourself where you want to be and living out your dreams. Wishing you a long, healthy, prosperous life filled with happiness, peace and contentment. ■



2013 Calendar of Events

January 24, 2013

Installation of Officers and Annual Awards Night

January 26, 2013—Robert Burns Night

February 9, 2013—George Washington Degree

February 28, 2013—**Stated Meeting**
(Rodeo Night)

March 8-10, 2013

(Grand Lodge Leadership Retreat—Prescott, AZ)

March 28, 2013—**Stated Meeting**
(Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal)

April 25, 2013—**Stated Meeting**
(York Rite Recognition Night)

May 3-4, 2013—*(Tucson Spring Reunion)*

May 23, 2013—**Stated Meeting**
(Scottish Rite Birthday Celebration)

June 6—9, 2013—**Grand Lodge Communication**
Lake Havasu City, AZ

June 27, 2013

(Pot Luck Dinner / Game Night)

July 25, 2013

(Pot Luck Dinner / Ice Cream Social)

August 22, 2013

(Pot Luck Dinner / Game Night)

August 24—28, 2013

(2013 Biennial Session, Washington, D.C.)

September 26, 2013—**Stated Meeting**
(Past Venerable Masters' Night)

October 5, 2013

(Knights Commander Court of Honour Investiture & Thirty-Third Degree Conferral)

October 13, 2013—**Honours Brunch**
(Tanque Verde Guest Ranch)

October 24, 2013—**Stated Meeting**
(Feast of Tishri)

November 1-2, 2013—*(Tucson Fall Reunion)*

November 14, 2013—**Stated Meeting**

December 12, 2013—*(Holiday Celebration)*

2013 Special Event Bookings

January 17, 2013—Corporate Event

January 19, 2013—Masonic Special Event

January 21, 2013—Masonic Special Event

January 26, 2013—Corporate Event

February 1, 2013—Corporate Event

February 9, 2013—Masonic Special Event

February 16 -17, 2013—Corporate Event

March 2, 2013—Corporate Event

March 16, 2013—Masonic Special Event

March 22, 2013—Wedding Rehearsal

March 23, 2013—Wedding

March 27, 2013—Corporate Event

April 2-7, 2013—Corporate Event

April 12, 2013—Wedding Rehearsal

April 13, 2013—Corporate Event

April 14, 2013—Wedding

April 20, 2013—Corporate Event

April 26, 2013—Wedding Rehearsal

April 27, 2013—Wedding

May 18, 2013—Corporate Event

June 14, 2013—Wedding Rehearsal

June 15, 2013—Wedding

June 22, 2013—Corporate Event

July 12, 2013—Wedding Rehearsal

July 13, 2013—Wedding

August 23, 2013—Wedding Rehearsal

August 24, 2013—Wedding

October 19, 2013—Quinceañera

November 8, 2013—Birthday Party

November 16, 2013—Corporate Event

December 3, 2013—Corporate Event

December 7, 2013—Corporate Event

December 20, 2013—Wedding Rehearsal

December 21, 2013—Wedding

December 27, 2013—Wedding Rehearsal

December 28, 2013—Wedding

Tucson Lodge of Perfection
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We Need More Rubber Bands

A lot of us are like wheelbarrows, not much good unless pushed.
Some of us are like canoes, we need to be paddled.
Others of us are like kites, if not kept on a string, we fly away.
Some of us are like balloons, filled with air and ready to blow at any minute.
Then there are those of us who are like footballs, you never know which way we'll bounce.
Some are even like trailers, we need to be pulled to every meeting, every project.
Many of us are like neon lights, we keep going on and off.
Others of us are like rubber bands, we give all we can, stretch our time accordingly, hold things together, and bounce back to help even more.

We Need More Rubber Bands

We can find more rubber bands in the membership of the Craft. You can all be rubber bands. You can stretch your time and help out in your fraternity, even volunteering for one small task will help tremendously.

Just think about all the different things a rubber band can do and all the different sizes and colors they come in. We all have unique talents and abilities we can share.

Volunteer!
Share your talents!!
Be a Rubber Band!!!

Make-up, Stage Crew, Property, Wardrobe, Tuesday Crew, Degree Teams, Parking Lot Attendants, Rummage Room and Special Events are just a few of the areas in need of volunteers.