



Christmas Message

VWBro Daniel R. Van Alstine, Grand Chaplain

As I sat to write this message, I was listening to the CBC News. One of the lead items concerned sectarian violence in the country of Egypt. Over the past several days Coptic Christians have been attacked by mobs, people have been killed, and property has been destroyed. All this has taken place in the name of God.

Let me assure you that I am not singling out Muslims for criticism. Indeed, all religions have been guilty of doing the

Another Miss International Job's Daughters from Alberta

The members of Job's Daughters in Alberta are thrilled to announce that one of our girls has achieved the title of Miss International Job's Daughters, 2011–2012. Miss Brianna Richards of Bethel 23 in Calgary succeeded in the recent competition held in St. Louis, Missouri.



Miss International is an earned title. Brianna competed against 27 other girls from Australia, Canada, Brazil and the USA. As part of the competition she also received the trophy for best written test and best ritual work, a Grand Slam very seldom achieved by one girl, and she was voted Miss Congeniality by the other contestants. Brianna joins our two other Miss International girls from Alberta, Megan Semaniuk of Edmonton 2008–2009 and Anna Kryhanivska of Calgary 2009–2010.

In order to fulfill her duties over the coming year, Brianna has put university on hold while she becomes the ambassador for Job's Daughters around the world. During her year, she will travel across Canada, visit jurisdictions in the USA, and journey to Brazil and Australia. This can be a costly venture for both this jurisdiction and her family.

We hope the Alberta members of the Masonic family will show their support for this outstanding young woman as she represents Job's Daughters and all Masonic organizations.

If your Lodge would like to assist Brianna through a donation to her travel fund, cheques should be made payable to the Grand Guardian Council of Alberta with a notation to the Miss International Travel Fund and forwarded to Ms Cheryl Petruk, Grand Secretary, 15815–63 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5Y 2R8.

Follow Brianna and the JDI Supreme Team's travels and Official Visitations on Facebook. (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/2011-2012-JDI-Supreme-Team/238617739502619>)

Jackie Cutting, Past Grand Guardian of Alberta

same things throughout history. As a Christian, I have to acknowledge that the Church has treated people of other faiths with disrespect and has been guilty of many atrocities. Christian denominations have committed violence against each other over theological disputes. Once again, the justification was that they were doing God's will.

All of this is in stark contrast to the tolerance we emphasize in Masonry. I would argue that our message of brotherly love, truth, and relief is much closer to the essentials propounded by all of the world's great religions than the violence that we see being committed in God's name.

At this Christmas Season, let us remember the message of Peace and Good Will to all brought by the Heavenly Host to the shepherds outside Bethlehem, and may all members of our Craft strive to put this message into practice.

Every Blessing of the Season to you and yours.



"We wish you a Merry Christmas"

It seems that in a blink or two of the eye we have gone from summer days to Christmas Carols being played in shopping malls.

We in the Grand Lodge Office want to thank our membership for their dedication and commitment. We would not experience the successes we have without you.

On behalf of Judy and Sue, I thank you for your continued support, assistance and cooperation. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas season with family and good friends. May the year ahead be filled with great personal joy.

Jerry Kopp, Grand Secretary

Grand Lodge of Alberta Christmas Open House

The Grand Lodge staff and I extend an invitation to you, your spouse and friends to share some Christmas cheer with us at our Open House at Calgary Freemasons' Hall, 330 – 12 Ave SW, on Sunday 11 December from 13 00 h to 15 30 h. Please mark this date on your calendar. We look forward to seeing you there so we can wish you a Merry Christmas in person.

RWBro Jerry Kopp

Western Canada Conference

71st Edition — 12–14 October 2011

RWBro David Roth, Deputy Grand Master

What a lovely time of the year to be in Banff National Park, and what better reason than for three days of fellowship, food, wisdom and entertainment.

This year's Conference of the four Western Jurisdictions was held in Banff, the first time there in recent memory (at least 11 years, according to our Grand Secretary). The venue was the Banff Park Lodge, and after registration, a few beverages and introductions to our counterparts we headed over to the Balkan Restaurant on Wednesday evening for a Greek dinner, lively entertainment and great camaraderie.

Thursday morning was the beginning of the first presentations, starting with the Senior Grand Warden of British Columbia and Yukon, RWBro Don Stutt. He started off reciting the lyrics from the TV show *Cheers*. Everyone was startled to realize that those lyrics so accurately reflect why we like to go to Lodge... it's a place you like to go "where everyone knows your name." The title of his presentation was *Fellowship, the Tie that Binds*. He made a very strong case for improving the quality of fellowship at our meetings and festive boards, reminding us that it begins with a firm handshake, a big smile and a warm pat on the shoulder.

The second paper was presented by the Grand Senior Warden of Saskatchewan about the Saskatchewan Youth Leadership Camp. This is a program that the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan puts on for one week each summer for high school students going into Grades 10, 11 or 12. They are identified/recruited/selected by local Lodges who then sponsor the student and pay \$250 towards the costs. The student's family pays \$100 and Grand Lodge picks up any shortfall (though it is basically set up on a break-even basis). About 30 students attend from around the province, and even from

out of province. Interestingly, most of the students felt they were coerced by their families to go and initially did not want to be there, but by the end of the week at camp, they did not want to leave. The program has been going on for about 11 years and the GSW is responsible for running it during his year. The program is a great idea and the paper generated a lot of discussion.

Thursday afternoon was devoted to the business of organizing and setting up the Conference. This year was the first time that the Grand Treasurers were invited, along with their wives. After the business meeting, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer from Manitoba each gave a short presentation on aspects of their jobs that they thought would be of interest to the attendees. The Treasurer from Manitoba, RWBro Nico Velthuys, made a fascinating point about how much the Not-for-Profit sector in Canada contributes to the economy of the nation, and how many millions are in volunteer hours. The requirement for more stringent accounting in this sector is becoming increasingly important.

Thursday night is normally the formal banquet where everyone gets dressed up, and this year was no exception. Beautiful background piano music was provided by Rita Goodmanson, wife of this year's President, MWBro Chris Goodmanson, from Manitoba. After the dinner, a presentation was made by Bro Frank Albo, author of *The Hermetic Code — The Manitoba Legislature Building*. He made a presentation about a new book he hopes to publish next year on the influence of Masonry on architecture since the 18th Century. It was a scholarly tour de force and



very interesting to this audience. After the presentation there was a brief piece of entertainment by the Deputy Grand Masters at the expense of the new Junior Grand (Junior) Wardens, with apologies to Dr. Suess.

Friday morning the last papers were presented. The first, by RWBro Doug Webster of Manitoba, was entitled *Secrecy in Freemasonry*. He talked about the history of secrecy, the difference between a secret society and a society with secrets, and the nature of the secrets. In the discussion, it was apparent that not all of our new members know what is secret and what is not, leading to confusion; sometimes the wrong information is revealed or concealed. Another interesting observation was that we convey these "secrets" to hundreds of new masons each year, but we are retaining a small percentage. That means our secrets are out there with people who have no interest in protecting them — another good reason to be more careful about whom we admit to our beloved Craft.

The final paper on Friday morning was presented by our own Senior Grand Warden, RWBro John Cameron. His paper was entitled *A Vision of the Future*. His presentation concerned the Strategic Plan adopted by the Grand Lodge of Alberta, describing the efforts of the Grand Line to support and elaborate on the best practices and goals expressed in the Strategic Plan. He outlined a very ambitious plan to improve Lodges in the jurisdiction. He presented many very good ideas, but was cautioned by some Past Grand Masters to concentrate on a few during his year.

The Conference concluded with the installation of next year's President, MWBro Dennis Skuce (SK) and the Vice-President, RWBro David Roth (AB). Following a farewell lunch the delegates headed home, thoroughly sated with nourishment for the body, mind and soul.

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Deputy Grand Master RWBro David Roth
Senior Grand Warden RWBro John Cameron
Junior Grand Warden RWBro John Slade
Grand Secretary RWBro Jerry W. Kopp

The logo features a stylized blue and white 'M' with a triangle on top, set against a background of horizontal lines. To the right of the 'M' is the word 'ALBERTA' in blue, and below it is 'FreeMason' in a larger, blue, serif font.
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Death of a Craftsman

The legend and lessons behind a famous work of craftsmanship

John L. Cooper III, Junior Grand Warden. Grand Lodge of California, *California Freemason*, August-September 2011

In Rosslyn Chapel, in Scotland, stands a memorial to the remarkable skill of the stonemason's art. Called the Apprentice Pillar, it might also be called the Pillar of Beauty, for it is an exquisite example of freestone carving by an operative mason. The legend, which may not be as old as the pillar itself, tells of the tragic end of the craftsman who carved it, and the jealousy that caused his murder.

Crime of passion

It begins with a Master Mason who assigns an Entered Apprentice the task of carving the third, and most beautiful, of the central pillars in the chapel. He does not give the Entered Apprentice any instruction in how to carve the pillar, perhaps because he wants the Entered Apprentice to fail at the task.

The Master Mason then sets off for a foreign land, ostensibly to study a famous pillar and then bring the design back to the chapel, where he will complete the pillar that the failed Entered Apprentice could not carve. However, upon his return he discovers that the Entered Apprentice has completed the pillar, and that he has done so with a skill that the Master Mason could never hope to achieve. In his anger, the Master Mason strikes the Entered Apprentice on the forehead with a setting maul, felling him dead at his feet.

As a punishment for his crime, the other stonemasons carve a stone head representing the Master Mason along the inner wall of the chapel, with its gaze forever fixed on the Apprentice Pillar. And across from this, they carve

another head — one representing the slain Entered Apprentice with a great wound on his forehead gazing forever at the stone head of his murderer. The crime and its consequences were carved in stone for all time.

Regardless of whether this legend has any basis in fact, the beautiful Apprentice Pillar is still in Rosslyn Chapel, and the stone heads are still looking on after all these centuries. There is a Masonic allusion in this tale, but there is also a deeper Masonic significance in what the story tells us.

Lessons carved in stone

The legend is about the failure of the Master Mason to perform his prime duty of instructing his Entered Apprentice, and, instead, plotting to discredit him and claim the glory for himself. It backfires, and instead of

our remembering the great skill of the Master Mason, we remember only his betrayal. The beauty created by the Entered Apprentice is his



The Apprentice Column at Rosslyn Chapel, Scotland



The slain apprentice as preserved in stone to forever accuse his murderer.



The murderer bares his shame in perpetuity, staring at the object of his jealousy. He was hanged for his heinous crime.

lasting memorial.

The story teaches three Masonic lessons that we should not forget. First, it is the duty of every Mason to empower another Mason to succeed. Every Entered Apprentice is told that his "future moral and Masonic edifice" will be built well and truly if he stays close to the "master builder" in his Lodge — symbolically represented by the master of the Lodge. That, in turn, requires the master to teach Freemasonry to those in his charge, and particularly to a new Mason.

Second, we are taught to circumscribe our passions, and keep them within due bounds. Focused energy is a blessing; unfocused anger and rage is destructive of all societies, and especially of ours. Jealousy has no place in Freemasonry, for — as we are taught — a Mason only succeeds in an environment of those who can work together and agree.

Finally, there is another lesson that comes from this old legend of Rosslyn Chapel and its Entered Apprentice Pillar: the lesson of doing what we are expected to do in the best way that we can, regardless of the consequences. It is possible that the Entered Apprentice knew that he would be in trouble if he completed carving the pillar that the Master Mason had expected to complete himself. But he did so because he wanted to create a thing of beauty. That urge overrode any other possibility.

Give the world the best you've got

As the Entered Apprentice of old carved his pillar because it was the best that he could contribute to his beautiful chapel, so we as Masons contribute the best that we can every day to the betterment of the world around us. Regardless of the consequences, he carved his pillar anyway, and regardless of the consequences, we, too, live as Masons should anyway.

Grand Master's Itinerary

December

- 3 Sherwood No. 183, Installation; Highlands Masonic Hall, Edm
- 6 Kenilworth No. 29, Moose Supper; Red Deer Freemasons' Hall.
- 10 Ye Olde Craft No. 196, Christmas Lunch; Acacia Hall, Edm

Check www.freemasons.ab.ca for updates of the Grand Master's Schedule.

Local Students Benefit from Freemason Bursaries

MJ Rouleau, *Brooks & County Chronicle*, 10 July 2011

Four area students were each presented with a \$2,000 education bursary on 6 July 2011 by Les Payne, District Deputy Grand Master for Palliser District of the Brooks Freemasons Lodge.

Each year, 100 Masonic Higher Education Bursaries are awarded to worthy students across the province who are in financial need and are trying to pursue post secondary education. Since the program's inception in 1956 by Lodge member and educator Ross Sheppard, the Masons have handed out 2,500 bursaries, close to \$3,000,000 to students in Alberta.

"The bursaries allow the recipients to improve themselves through higher education. It allows [the students] to do things they might otherwise not be able to do — to enjoy their learning without undue hardship," says Payne.

The program is funded through unsolicited donations from Lodge members, Lodges and gifts from the public such as bequests from estate plans.

"This is one of the largest privately funded bursary programs in Alberta and the Northwest Territories. None of the money comes from fundraising," he says.

Only the Alberta government provides more funding for students through its Alexander Rutherford

scholarship program.

The twelve recipients in southern Alberta include four County of Newell area students: Xi (Lisa) Li of Brooks who is entering engineering at University of British Columbia; Bassano resident Cassandra Buck who will begin her teaching degree at the Medicine Hat College this fall, before transferring to the University of Lethbridge for her final years; Carla Chomistek from Rolling Hills who is planning a career as a food science nutritionist after graduation from the University of Alberta; and Leah Murphy from the city who has set her sights on a Psychology sciences degree from the University of Lethbridge.

The balance of the southern bursary recipients are six from Medicine Hat, and one each from Bow Island and Redcliff.

Buck, on behalf of the recipients, thanked the group of Masons who were on hand to congratulate the area winners.

"These bursaries will help us out greatly. This is very important and we're grateful to receive them from the

Masons," she says.

There are 6,400 to 6,500 Freemasons throughout in the province, with two Lodges in Medicine Hat and one each in Brooks, Bassano and Oyen which make up the Palliser District.

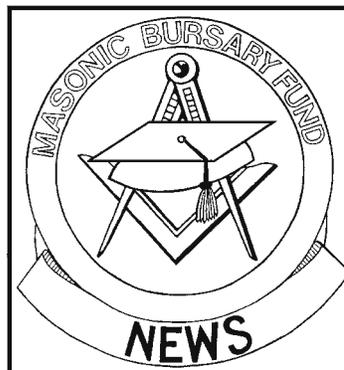
The Lodge members focus on the program's development to encourage better levels of education for students to enable them to realize meaningful careers with an award of significant assistance.

"The gift is meant to make a difference in the students' lives,

future and education. It's not meant to necessarily cover the total costs of just tuition or books or living expenses. It's there for them to continue with their goals and aspirations," says Payne.

From time-to-time the annual bursary amounts are raised in an attempt to offset the rising costs in post secondary institutions across the province, allowing the fraternity to continue to be of significant assistance to the many worthy students.

"Our highest hope is to someday be able to fund a tuition in full for the annual award recipients."



Book Review

Dictionary of Gnosis and Western Esotericism

Edited by Wouter J. Hanegraaff, Antoine Faivre, Roelof van den Broek and Jean-Pierre Brach, Leiden: Koninklijke Brill NV, The Netherlands, 2006, 1228 pp. ISBN 10:9004152318

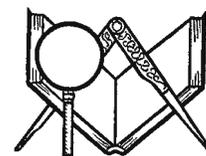
This vast and massive work is a scholarly compilation containing approximately 400 entries written by 180 leading international scholars on the complex, complete domain of Western esotericism and gnosis from late antiquity to modernity. *The Dictionary of Gnosis and Western Esotericism* provides accurate information and current historical research into an array of topics and subjects, some of which are: Freemasonry, Rosicruciana, Martinism, Alchemy, Astrology, Theosophy, Illuminism, Hermeticism, Christian Cabala, Jewish Kabbalah, Naturphilosophie, Neoplatonism, Pythagoras, Traditionalism, and the New Age movement. Further, there are articles on the lives and works of individuals who have played major historical roles

in the creation and dissemination of esoteric and gnostic currents. Each article is cross-referenced with detailed documentation and bibliographies providing an extensive avenue for the pursuit of further researches.

This volume is an extremely important contribution to historical researchers of arcane subjects. It provides comprehensive factual historical data — there is no guess work, no mystical speculation, no admixture of fact and fiction. It is a clear and concise encyclopedic reference text designed to lead the academic, and amateur, researcher away from fallacy and fanaticism towards 'state of the art' historical data and research methods.

The four editors of this volume are leading scholars and educators.

Wouter J. Hanegraaff is Professor of History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He has published extensively on modern and contemporary Western esotericism, including a book devoted to the 15th century Christian Hermetist Lodovico Lazzarelli and a monograph on the New Age movement. He is also President of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE). Antoine Faivre is a retired Professor Emeritus of History of Esoteric and Mystical Currents in Modern and Contemporary Europe at the École Pratique des Hautes Études (Sorbonne), Paris, France. Faivre was the first to define Western esotericism as a field of interdisciplinary See **Dictionary**, next page.



Dictionary, from page 4.

academic study. He is a founding member of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE). Roelof van den Broek is Professor Emeritus of History of Christianity at the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands. Jean-Pierre Brach is Professor of History of Esoteric Currents in Modern and Contemporary Europe at the École Pratique des Hautes Études (Sorbonne), Paris, France.

The Dictionary of Gnosis and Western Esotericism is a magnificent reference tool for the serious researcher of esoteric subjects. It is insightful yet not over complicated and distorted. It presents each topic in a consistent and objective manner. Frankly, there is nothing like it available, anywhere. Anyone interested in up-to-date historical information on ancient and modern esoteric and occult subjects will find this work invaluable and indispensable. It is destined to be the standard reference work on these subjects for years to come.

Bro K M Hataley
Glenbow Lodge No. 184

DDGMs, from page 6: Palliser District, Continued

Illustrious Master of Alberta Council, Cryptic Rite Masons, in 1995 and as Grand Steward of Grand Council in 2010–2011; and is a member of Diversity York Rite College. Les is also a member of The Order of the Eastern Star, where he has been Worthy Patron six times and is currently the Grand Sentinel of the Grand Chapter of Alberta.

Mighty Peace District

RWBro Russel Napier (na'peer) was born 23 June 1948 in High Prairie, Alberta, moved with his parents and siblings to McLennan, Alberta in 1953, took his grade schooling in McLennan, then high school in High Prairie, and completed his education in McLennan, where he met the love of his life. From high school he went straight to the "school of hard knocks," starting with the laying of bricks at the McLennan Mall, then off to Hay River, NWT as warehouseman for Canadian National Telecommunications. One cold winter was enough, so he returned to McLennan and into the office with Northern Alberta Railways. Then, following his high school sweetheart to Fort St. John, BC, he found a temporary relief position with the Pacific Great Eastern Railway. It was vacation relief, but the jobholder never returned, and it turned into a full position. Working from office clerk to a Manager in Operations and retiring in 2001, RWBro Napier had a hobby farm on the outskirts of Dawson Creek and loved to reconstruct old automobiles (and still drives a 1940 Plymouth).

RWBro Napier was a Rotarian, a member of the Elks and the Chamber of Commerce and joined Freemasonry in 1991. He became Worshipful Master of Peace Lodge No. 126 in Dawson Creek, BC, in 1995. He was also President of Mile Zero Shrine Club (Gizeh Shrine), active in the Royal Arch and a member of St. Andrews Preceptory No. 48. He later affiliated with Grande Prairie Lodge No. 105 and Royal Arch Wapiti Chapter No. 34 in Grande Prairie, but still holds membership in his BC Lodges.



I am Freemasonry

Ray Vaughan Denslow (1885–1960)*

I was born in antiquity, in the ancient days when men first dreamed of God.

I have been tried through the ages, and found true.

The crossroads of the world bear the imprint of my feet, and the cathedrals of all nations mark the skill of my hands.

I strive for beauty and for symmetry.

In my heart is wisdom and strength and courage for those who ask.

Upon my altars is the Book of Holy Writ, and my prayers are to the One Omnipotent God.

My sons work and pray together, without rank or discord, in the public mart and in the inner chamber.

By signs and symbols I teach the lessons of life and of death and the relationship of man with God and of man with man.

My arms are widespread to receive those of lawful age and good report who seek me of their own free will.

I accept them and teach them to use my tools in the building of men, and thereafter, find direction in their own quest for perfection so much desired and so difficult to attain.

I lift up the fallen and shelter the sick.

I hark to the orphans' cry, the widows tears, the pain of the old and destitute.

I am not church, nor party, nor school, yet my sons bear a full share of responsibility to God, to country, to neighbor and themselves.

They are freemen, tenacious of their liberties and alert to lurking danger.

At the end I commit them as each one undertakes the journey beyond the vale into the glory of everlasting life.

I ponder the sand within the glass and think how small is a single life in the eternal universe.

Always have I taught immortality and even as I raise men from darkness into light, I am a way of life.

I am Freemasonry.

*Master of Trenton Lodge No. 131, Grand Lodge of Missouri, and Missouri's Grand Master in 1931



Harry S. Truman and Ray V. Denslow. Denslow and Truman were both Past Grand Masters of Missouri and served in the line together at one point. (Ray Denslow's collection, Library of the General Grand Chapter RAM International.)

Your DDGMs 2011–2012

We are pleased to introduce to our readers the District Deputy Grand Masters serving the Craft in Alberta during the 2011–2012 term. This will be continued in the next issue of The Alberta Freemason.

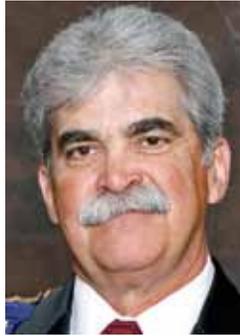
Beaverhills District

RWBro David J. Marr was born in St. Anthony, Newfoundland in 1953 and brought up in Gondola Point, New Brunswick. He is a graduate from the Saint John Institute of Technology in 1974 with a diploma in Civil Engineering Technology.

During David's early career he worked as a Quality Control Technician and a Senior Non-Destructive Testing Inspector throughout Canada. He has also done extensive international work in such places as China, Romania, Norway and South America.

David is currently employed by df Boiler Tube Industries Inc. as their Director of Quality Assurance. Previous employers include Triton Projects Inc. for five years as the QA/QC Manager and Epcor for four years as Owner's Inspector for the construction of a 600 MW coal fired power plant at Genesee. He also worked as a Senior QC Inspector for Babcock & Wilcox for 15 years, as well as at various inspection organizations throughout Canada.

Bro Marr was initiated into Sherwood Lodge No. 183 on 23 September 2002, passed to the Second Degree on 27 January 2003 and raised to a Master Mason on 24 March 2003. For the past four years he has been the Worshipful Master of Sherwood Lodge. He is currently a 32° Mason in the Scottish Rite.



Lakeland District

RWBro Samuel Ekpe was born 7 May 1961 in Nigeria. He is married to Itohowo (Ity), and they have three children. He obtained his BSc (Hons) Degree (Physics) in 1982 and MSc degree (Applied and Engineering Physics) in 1988, both from the University of Calabar, Nigeria. He was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Electrical and Computer Engineering) in 2005 at the University of Alberta. In February 2009, he was admitted to and registered as a Professional Engineer in the Province of Alberta.

Prior to moving to Canada, he lectured at the University of Uyo, Nigeria. He served as a Sessional Lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Alberta. He also served as an Application Scientist, Post Doctoral Fellow, and a Research Associate at the Centre of Excellence in Integrated Nanotools. He is also a Sessional Instructor with the University Studies of the Lakeland College in Lloydminster.

Bro Ekpe was initiated in January 1996, passed in May 1996 and raised in March 1997 in Temperance Lodge No. 892, Uyo under the Grand Lodge of Ireland. On moving to Canada, he affiliated with Norwood Lodge No. 90 and Dynamic Lodge No. 96. He served as the Worshipful Master of Dynamic Lodge



in 2004–2005 and Norwood Lodge in 2006–2007. He is also a Scottish Rite Mason, and is currently the Immediate Past Most Wise Sovereign of the Mizpah Chapter, Rose Croix.

Dinosaur District

RWBro Doug Wade was born in Drumheller on 25 June 1955. He is a jeweller, and still lives in Drumheller. He is married to Ann, and is the proud father of Ryan, Kali and Paula. RWBro Wade received the Drumheller Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year award in 1997 and the Alberta Centennial Medal in 2005. He is active in the Anglican Church Choir and the Canadian Badlands Passion Play Choir, and has participated as an amateur actor in Drumheller's Kaleidoscope Theatre.

RWBro Wade was Initiated in Symbol Lodge No. 93 in 1979 and was its Worshipful Master in 1985 and 1988. He is an Honorary Member of Hussar Lodge No. 130 and Drumheller Lodge No. 146, and served as Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge for 2006–2007. In the concordant bodies, he is a member of Eheyeh Chapter No. 26, Royal Arch Masons, and Chinook City Conclave No. 29, Red Cross of Constantine.



Palliser District

RWBro Leslie William Payne was born in Stettler, Alberta on 16 November 1943. He married Laraine in February 1964 in Athabasca, Alberta. Les and Laraine have three married children and nine grandchildren. Daughter Cindy married Wayne Slenders and they have three grown boys. Wayne, Ryan, William and Scott have all joined the Masonic Family. Son Keith is married to Joanne, and they have two girls and a boy; son Mark is married to Sheila and they have two boys in school and one special needs boy.

Les retired in 2003, after 33½ years, from the Federal Government's Canadian Food Inspection Agency as a Meat Inspector and he now has a home-based business.

Bro Payne was initiated 19 September 1973, received the Fellowcraft degree 17 October 1973 and was raised to the degree of Master Mason 21 November 1973 in Balmoral Lodge No. 185. He affiliated with Brooks Lodge No. 73, where his brother Stan was also a member, in 1976. Les was Worshipful Master of Brooks Lodge in 1981 and DDGM for what was then District 2 in 1986–1987.

He has also been active in the concordant bodies, as First Principal of Harmony Chapter, Royal Arch Masons in 1984, Grand Sword Bearer of Grand Chapter in 1985 and Grand District Superintendent of District No. 3 for 2010–11. He is a Preceptor of Crusader Preceptory No. 54, Medicine Hat, and was Provincial Grand Prior in 2005–2006; served as Thrice

See **DDGMs**, page 5.

