



## Editorial

### RWBro Steve Kennard: *Alberta Freemason's* New Editor



Firstly I would like to wish RWBro George Tapley well as he embarks on a well-earned retirement from this position. He became part of the committee on the *Alberta Freemason* for the September issue of 2006, under the editorship of MWBro Robert E. Juthner. He took over as editor for the September issue in 2008 and has steered the course of this publication from then until now. Well done, George!

Should you meet him in Lodge, make a point of shaking his hand and thanking him for his work and dedication.

The esteemed Brethren who have served as editors before me are:

- MWBro Alexander M. Mitchell — 1935/12–1944/06
- MWBro Sam Harris — 1944/09–1957/06
- MWBro S. Carl Heckbert — 1957/09–1967/06
- MWBro W. Jack Collett — 1967/09–1984/06
- MWBro Robert L. Costigan — 1984/09–1985/06
- RWBro Norman J. Senn — 1985/09–1990/06
- WBro A. Kingsley Dean — 1990/09–1991/06
- RWBro Norman J. Senn — 1991/09–1996/06
- MWBro Robert E. Juthner — 1996/09–2008/06
- RWBro George B. Tapley — 2008/09–2019/01

A brief Masonic history for those who do not know me:

- Initiated in Per Mare Per Terram Lodge No. 9355 UGLE June 1990.
- Master of Per Mare Per Terram Lodge No. 9355 June 1997.
- Affiliated with King George Lodge No. 59 GRA March 1999.

- Appointed Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon for the Province of Devonshire UGLE February 2000.
- Master of King George Lodge No. 59 December of 2003.
- Appointed Junior Grand Deacon GLA for the Year 2015–2016.
- Elected DDGM for Phoenix District 2017–2018.

I have been going back over past editions and the saying “what is old is new again” comes to mind. As we move forward, I will bring back some things that we have done in the past and also introduce some new ideas. Brethren, I believe we need to all be part of this publication and to that end, I will be bringing forth an “Around the Province” page. This is where you can let me know of a significant event in your Lodge to ensure those who wish to visit can place it in their calendar. Additionally there will be a report section where you can send in a short report (photo especially welcome) of an event that you attended. Both of these areas will show that Freemasonry is alive and well in Alberta. I am also bringing back “Letter to the Editor” for you to put forward your questions and comments. Please make your submission fairly short, succinct, and respectful — the usual editorial guidelines apply. Also, under the “Around the Province” heading, we will publish the Grand Master’s itinerary for that month. However, you should always check the website as last minute changes may happen.

We are always looking for articles to publish. So if you have something to share send it on for us to look at. This is an Alberta publication, it is available on the Grand Lodge website and is, therefore, open for anyone to see. You may even find it picked up by another Masonic publication worldwide. From time to time we will have an editorial from a guest. If you are interested in writing one, let me know.

Submissions by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month please.

Onwards Brethren, I look forward to sitting with you in Lodge and enjoying our Freemasonry,

Steve

## Grand Masters’ Message from the 43<sup>rd</sup> Grand Masters’ Levee

MWBro Kenn Culbertson

First, thank you Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92 for hosting the 43<sup>rd</sup> New Year’s Levy in honour of the Grand Master of Alberta and the Grand Lodge Officers. Thank you Worshipful Master Johnathon Chedore and your members.

I humbly stand before you as your Grand Master and the custodian of the Office of Grand Master. It has been a short journey Masonically speaking,

that of 13 years, which has presented me with some incredible moments.

Greetings and thank you for attending. To my family who have travelled from Calgary and Morinville to be with us today, I have pleasure in introducing. First my dear wife who keeps me grounded and supported in so many ways — Phyllis. Our family from Hinton were unable to attend today; our family

from Calgary — Bobby Lucas, Patty Lucas, Anna Lucas and Evelyn Lucas; our family from their acreage near Morinville — Denis Lefebvre, Christine Lefebvre and Thomas Lefebvre who is an active DeMolay. Last but not least is my son Jeff Culbertson from Edmonton. I wish to recognize the loss in this past two weeks of my children’s mother Wendy Anne Culbertson who had been

diagnosed with cancer just two months ago. I did have the opportunity to visit her at the hospice and thank her for our two children together and share some of the memories that pictures bring back.

Since I first walked up the stairs to the entrance to this building, my life has changed dramatically. My initiation into Freemasonry led me to realize that I came to this fraternity needing what I believe most men are searching for, that is Brotherly Love, companionship from men who ask only the best that you can give. Family and work are to come first in our lives. There is a dedication to Freemasonry that begins in our hearts. Some feel it immediately. Others go years wondering what the heck is this all about. We talk about the rough stone that we ourselves are when we are initiated and the journey that comes with improving ourselves in our conduct, charity and moral thoughts. This is the symbol we strive to arrive at by which we as Masons know is called the perfect ashlar. We will never reach that point in our lives, but this means no matter where we are in our Masonic journey, there are many ways we can become better men.

We here today because all of us belong in some way to our Masonic family, whether it is the Potentate of Al Shamal Shriners, the members of DeMolay, Job's Daughters, Order of the Eastern Star or Daughters of the Nile. Our fathers, mothers, daughters or sons may be engaged in the order, so Freemasonry is all encompassing when it comes to family, should those who wish to participate do so. For others, maybe it's enjoying a ladies' night dinner, a special ladies' brunch or a barbecue with the Brethren and Sisters.

I was a member of the Northern Alberta 'G' Scale Model Railroaders for a number of years and what drew me to that was the diversity of the hobby. One could be a railway modeller to the n<sup>th</sup> degree, another member would love that the trains could be run through their yard in displays. The reason I shared



The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Grand Master's Levee was hosted by Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92 at Freemasons' Hall, Edmonton on 1 January 2019.

with most was interest in the railway equipment that I worked on for 37 years. What has this to do with Freemasonry you ask? Good Question!

Freemasonry has something for all men, whether their interests are: in history, we being the oldest continuing fraternity known to man; the challenge of life lessons that come with learning; and delivering what we as Masons call ritual, contained in our little book that many wives and family see a Brother carrying around while muttering to himself. There is also the esoteric side of Freemasonry that men spend years researching and writing papers on — these may well be called the secrets and mysteries of the order. This is the diversity in Freemasonry that welcomes all — the commonality of knowing a man for his interior self instead of the exterior presentation. Religious following of different faiths are welcomed as a belief in a Supreme Being is an important qualification for membership.

The Grand Lodge Office has made its move to our new location in Calgary's North East business zone, just off the Deerfoot Trail. On 5 February there is an open house planned from 1 to 4 p.m. for all to see our new space. An official opening of the Grand Lodge Library is also planned for the occasion.

The editor of the *Alberta Freemason* has found it necessary to resign his position for personal reasons. This does not come as a surprise as Grand Lodge has already been searching for a suitable replacement. We will deal with this in the coming weeks.

This year, I have pledged the Grand Lodge Officers to bring the positive message of Freemasonry wherever they travel. We all as Brethren in this fraternity should be charged to contribute as engaged members and continuing to build better Lodges that are vibrant and a sanctuary for us all to attend without the worry of cell phones, texts or emails so that we can and should shut out the daily grind of our world during our meetings. This will build better districts which our District Deputy Grand Masters will attest to. Then the result of this will be improving the Grand Lodge of Alberta.

We will move forward into 2019 with our eyes and hearts open to look forward to the future, be it wonderful or challenging. The most important issue is that we don't do it alone. Brethren, family and friends are there for all. We need only to reach out and ask. Should your life be one without strife or problem, look to assist one whose life maybe in need.

Provided to Freemasons of Alberta and the Northwest Territories west of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meridian who are members of

**The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M.**

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**The Alberta Freemason**

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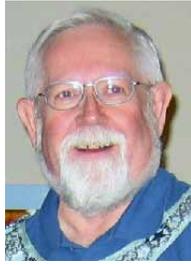
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The Editor reserves the right to accept, reject and re-write material submitted for publication. Replication rights are granted to other Masonic Jurisdictions, but acknowledgement is requested.

## Thanks George!

The following letter was sent to the Editor emeritas of The Alberta Freemason, RWBro George Tapley, on our behalf by the Grand Master.

On behalf of all of the Brethren in the jurisdiction of Alberta, I thank you for your dedication and service as editor of Alberta Freemason. During the thirteen years you have served as editor, you have seen many changes that have come to our gentle Craft and have maintained



Alberta Freemason as a steady influence that has provided critical information for the betterment of Freemasonry. Your determination to include educational documents and reports has always been welcomed and enjoyed by our Brethren.

During your term as editor you have guided us from a printed version of the

publication to distribution on the Grand Lodge website and an emailed publication — exciting changes that allow all who are able to enjoy the news of Masonry in general and of Grand Lodge in particular.

It is with gratitude that I accept your resignation as editor of *Alberta Freemason* and wish you well in all your endeavours in the future.

Sincerely, for the Brethren of Alberta,  
MWBro Kenn Culbertson  
Grand Master GRA

## Harmony Being The Strength

VWBro Garth Cochran, Calgary 23, ILOR

Harmony is the key to a democracy. Without it, there can be no peaceful coexistence, no strength of common purpose, no support of the system itself. Harmony isn't just a fancy word. It is at the very basis of life. All nature's forces and man's efforts must be in harmony for the farmer to produce a good crop. A summer's drought proves that.

As it is with nature's systems, so it is with man. When the body is healthy, it is living in a state of harmony: all parts working together for a common purpose, the healthy life of the being. But let the unruly — like cancer — gain sway and all can come to a halt.

These lessons can be extended to the institutions of man, and it says a lot for our Masonic predecessors who recognized this and passed on to us those great moral duties inculcated in our order.

So, disharmony is destructive. That much is obvious. But that isn't all that is meant by the Masonic phrase, "harmony is the strength and support..." Disharmony may be the opposite to harmony in a literal sense, but it is usually the result of the enemy of harmony... of apathy.

Apathy could be defined as a form of benign neglect. Yet it provides the breeding ground for malignant growth. Only by indifference can the cancers that plague us gain control and bring about the disharmonious state.

Apathy is often also a state of chosen ignorance. There are those who don't know or care about which hockey teams are playing for the Stanley Cup. They have chosen to be thus. That is apathy! But not the sort of apathy I speak of.

What I wish to caution against is apathy towards the processes that affect all our lives. To have harmony,

there must be open and honest communication.

Harmony, let's make it clear, is not everybody doing and thinking alike. It is everybody doing what each is best capable of while allowing others the same right. Harmony is being responsible for one's own actions and for the effect of those actions on others. Harmony, in short, is Masonry at work.

But even in Lodge, there remains apathy, most probably occasioned by the ignorances we individually pick. Some are chosen simply because we feel powerless to change things and, therefore, we leave it to others.

What, then, has this to do with Masonry? Actually, a great deal. The York Rite Master gives us direction in his charges.

First. Knowledge is attained by degrees and wisdom is sought in contemplation. We must determine where our own apathies affect the well-being of others by active consideration

of ourselves and our lives. We must learn to be patient with ourselves as such learning is a slow process.

Second. We are enjoined before leaving Lodge not to forget the duties inculcated in it. We are told that we promised at our Altar to "befriend and relieve every Brother who may need your assistance." More important, we are told to extend our general principles further, "for every human being has a claim upon your kind offices."

How many of us actually take those inculcated principles into the outer world? Do any of us contribute to the disharmony we complain of in society? Making a better world means actively seeking harmony, not just avoiding disharmony.

Harmony requires involvement; involvement leads to communication, communication is the precursor of understanding; understanding is the parent of wisdom; and wisdom illuminates truth.

By being better Masons ourselves, we can each create a better life for all. That is the lesson of Masonry.

*From 20 Years Ago*

## Letter of Wonderment

*Editor's Note: The following letter was printed in the February 1999 edition of The Grand Lodge Bulletin. Sounds like quite the evening of fellowship!*

Dear Ron and Della

I am a very busy man and much has happened.

You know I was in line for my 50-Year Jewel from Excelsior Lodge No. 80 in Daysland. It happened last night (November 5, 1998) and what an occasion it was. Harry [son] phoned and said for me to be ready at 5:00 o'clock. When I asked him what it was about he just said don't ask too many questions.

He picked me up at five and drove to the Norseman. Colin and Adrian [grandsons] were there and shortly after

in walked four Eastern Star members: Hilda, Dyann, Lois and Roxanne. That made eight for supper. We left the girls after supper and drove to Daysland. The crowd commenced to gather, 36 in all, enough brass to make a battleship. Wainwright, Edmonton, Sedgewick, Forestburg, Irma, Camrose — what a wonderful group.

Dave Ratteray who was with Harry and me when we took our 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree and joined the Al Azhar Shrine, Martin Daniels of Seed Plant era, Robert Juthner from Edmonton who played the

Glockenspiel the eight years I was in the Shrine Marching Band.

We all took part. I have been Senior Deacon for years, so took my usual office. Adrian gave two long lectures that he is good at. Colin is Chaplain and Harry is a Steward. Jim Crawford, Forestburg, acting Master and director.

They had been working on this for two years and me in the dark all the time.

The Master had me close the Bible and the three Lights and we were in Recess.

Eric Beddoes, bagpiper, piped in the four women. I was simply overcome. One of the men grabbed me or I would have gone down. My whole family in a Masonic

meeting! Adrian had been working on this for some time, as he had to have special dispensation from Grand Lodge. After circling the Lodge Room, the four women were placed at the end of the Lodge Room and I was placed between them. Someone immediately brought me a chair and chairs for the women. Dyann gave a history of the women's involvement in the Eastern Star; this certainly made history, as such has never happened before nor will it again.

I was then presented with my 50-Year Jewel. It sure marks a great place in my life. In the history of Excelsior Lodge No. 80, only two other 50-Year Jewels have been presented and both of them

in a hospital.

The girls were piped out and the Lodge was back in regular schedule and closed. The word went out for extra lunch and we had ample. The girls had lunch with us and speeches, etc., then home. What a glorious occasion!

These women were all Past Worthy Matrons of various Chapters, some of them many times. My wife, Belle, was a Past Worthy Matron of Killam Chapter No. 9.

Excelsior Lodge No. 80 was constituted in Strome in 1912.

George Nelson Cramton  
(89 years & 8 months)

## Freemasons Attract Younger Men Thanks to Less Secrecy and Social Media

By Sowaibah Hanifie, ABC News, Riverland, Australia.

In the past, the Freemasons' initiation process was highly secretive. Members had to be approached to join, had to meet certain criteria, and a guard stood outside lodge meetings to ensure only male members could attend.

Freemason Alec Ayling, in South Australia's Riverland, said it had been daunting attending his first meeting. "If you were to join, you were blindfolded before you came in and you're conducted around certain areas and had things explained, and then you're sort of brought to light," he said.

Since declining membership has led to fraternities closing, rules around membership have evolved from being secret and at times discriminatory to being advertised as welcoming people from all walks of life.

Grand Lodges in Victoria and New South Wales have pointed to social media campaigns as the success behind recruiting new members. Several have reported a 10–15 per cent increase in young people aged between 18–30 joining their group.

In the Grand Lodge of South Australia and the Northern Territory, 75 per cent of its 115 new members over the past year were in the 20–30-year-old age bracket.

Port Adelaide Freemason Cooper Andrew Allan, 22, said young people were finding a sense of purpose with the group. "Things are changing, the world is changing, and I'm looking for some stability and I'm looking for something I can latch onto and find some meaning.

Inside that Lodge room there's no phone, there's no iPad. It's very much like an enlightenment society. It's a time for peace, tranquillity and learning."

Freemasonry began in the Middle Ages when masons, or stone builders, were constructing the cathedrals and castles of Europe. The men passed on their skills to worthy apprentices through secret rituals, and referred to biblical teachings that described the construction of King Solomon's temple.

South Australia's Grand Masonic Lodge director Jack Wolstencroft said any person with a belief in a Supreme Being who was a good person could join. He explained the rituals, which were still mostly secret, were about character building. "Freemasonry teaches lessons of social and moral virtues and is based on the symbols of the trade. Where the building industry is about building a physical structure, Freemasonry is building the character of men," he said.

Freemason Ryan Mann was 32 when he joined and feels since then he has become a better person and found a sense of brotherhood. "There was this vibe, a warm feeling in the [lodge] room, a feeling I hadn't felt in long time. There was just a bunch of good men in the room," he said.

"With a tried and tested system, [it was about] making a good man better."

Mr Mann admitted his initial contact with Freemasonry had involved looking at conspiracy videos on the internet.

### A dark but influential past

Bob James, the author of a book on



Cooper Andrew Allen, 22, of Port Adelaide, Australia. (Photo: Sowaibah Hanifie.)

Australia's Freemason history, said the group did have a dark past and lodge rooms had historically excluded races, religions and sexes.

Women have been practising Freemasonry in their own orders for about a century, but Dr James said some of these groups were given legitimacy only if members had family connections to male lodges. He said there would still be some push back from conservative male organisations about women's lodges today.

"Because a lot of the spark has gone out of Freemasons generally, it's probably something you wouldn't get an argument about," he said. "But I'm sure if you scratched a few male Freemasons, you'd get a lot who would say that it's totally and must always remain male."

American Freemason expert at the

University of California, David Hackett, said the attitude of Lodges depended on members, not the belief system, and excluded groups such as African-Americans often created their own Lodges with different rules. "It depends on the time and the place and the people that are there," Mr Hackett said.

"Native Americans are members of Masonic Lodges. In fact Masonic Lodges have been very important within Native American reservations."

In Australia, some elite and influential

people have been Freemasons, including a number of prime ministers, premiers and entertainers. Dr James said the group had wielded considerable political influence, and during the early days of settlement some state leaders had been connected to Lodges in England that wanted to establish an English Masonic Empire.

"In early days in Tasmania, the people who were high up in the Freemasons at the time were also the people who were making decisions about state-level

politics, the governor of the state and that sort of thing," he said.

Mr Allan said for young people, the idea of "a society of secrets" was appealing, but they were mostly joining to find meaning in an ever-changing, globalised world.

"Obviously I can't tell you what the secrets are... but I can tell you with great confidence, it's nothing world-shaking, it's not nuclear codes or water passages or where's the magic bullet that shot JFK."

## Around the Province

### January Events

### Austrian Brother Proves Up in Calgary

Bro Alexander Kovac from Graz, Austria has been working in Calgary. When he arrived in the city, he was an Entered Apprentice. While here, he received his Second and Third Degrees in the Canadian Rite (similar to his own rite) at Concord Lodge No. 124. However, before returning to Austria on 22 January, he wanted prove up in the Third Degree.

Cutting it close, Calgary Lodge No. 23 provided the venue for the prove-up on 19 January, even though it labours in the Ancient York Rite.

Brethren from Calgary, Concord, Cornerstone No. 19 and Nanton No. 17 Lodges gathered to complete the process and send him on his way a full-fledged Master Mason. His examination was conducted by WBro John Norrish of Concord Lodge.

Bro Kovac did an excellent job of his ritual, impressing the Brethren present. He will eventually be returning to Calgary with his work and has applied to affiliate with Concord. By the way, Alexander's father, Hannes P. Kovac, is the Grand Representative to Austria from the Grand Lodge of Alberta.



(l to r): WBro Gene Johnston, WM Calgary 23; Bro Alexander Kovac from Graz, Austria; WBro John Norrish, WM Concord 124; in background, WBro Bill Ogilvie, WM Perfection 9.

### The Grand Master and DDGM Visited Yellowknife Lodge No. 162 in January.



RWBro Jared Vanoni, the DDGM of the Northern Lights District, visited Yellowknife Lodge No. 162 on 19 January 2019 for his Official Visit. He also received the Grand Master, MWBro Kenn Culbertson, who came along with him "for the ride." The Lodge has a unique altar cloth that could give someone a start — a polar bear pelt, complete with head and bared teeth.



(l to r) WBro Cameron Wilson, WM of Yellowknife Lodge No. 162, MWBro Kenn Culbertson, RWBro Jared Vanoni and VWBro Kenneth Nolan, GS.

# Congratulations Mirela Rahneva



Congratulations to Mirela Rahneva for bringing to Canada the first win in a sliding event — skeleton, bobsled or luge — this season.

Mirela is the 30-year-old daughter of Bro Stoyan Rahneva of Calgary 23, himself a gymnast of note, who brought his family from Bulgaria to Canada in 1998 for better opportunities.

On Friday 25 January, Mirela set

a track record on her second run for her win, capturing her second career World Cup skeleton gold medal at the birthplace of sliding sports, St. Moritz, Switzerland. Mirela now has six career World Cup medals.

Good luck for your next events in Lake Placid and Calgary in February 2019 that will round out the season.

## February Events

### Westlock No. 114

Thursday, 7 February

Agenda includes:

Annual Mac's Bean Supper;

Present the Athabasca District Traveling Gavel;

Visit of the Grand Master MW Bro Kenn Culbertson.

Please contact the Lodge Secretary for a seat at the table — [westlock114@gmail.com](mailto:westlock114@gmail.com)

## Grand Masters Itinerary for February

(Up to the date of publishing, check the calendar on line for updates)

### February

- 1 Fri Edmonton Chapter DeMolay; Highlands; 19 30 h
- 5 Tue **Grand Lodge Open House and Official Opening of Grand Lodge Library**; 13 00 – 16 00 h
- 5 Tue **Airdrie Wildrose No. 2001**; Regular Meeting; Crossfield; 19 30 h
- 6 Wed **Redwood Lodge No. 193**; Regular Meeting; Highlands; 19 30 h
- 7 Thur **Westlock Lodge No. 114**; Regular Meeting and Max Beans Dinner; 20 00 h
- 9 Sat **Athabasca District**; Traveling Haggis Dinner; Waskatenau; 17 00 h
- 11 Mon **Evergreen Lodge No. 166**; Regular Meeting; FMH Edmonton; 19 30 h
- 12 Tue **Patricia Lodge No. 91**; Regular Meeting, Festive Board; FMH Edmonton; 18 30 h
- 13 Wed **Mystic West No. 101**; Regular Meeting; FMH Edmonton; 19 30 h
- 14 Thur **Drayton Valley No. 182**; Regular Meeting and Crazy Tie Night; 19 30 h
- 16 to 20 **Conference of Grand Masters**; Rapid City, South Dakota

