



FLAGSTAFF LODGE No. 7

TRESTLE BOARD

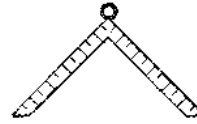
VOLUME XXIII, ISSUE I

FEBRUARY 2023

SENT TO SHAKE THE HANDS WE CANNOT REACH



From the East



By Tom Carpenter, Worshipful Master

Dear Brethren, thank you for providing me with the opportunity to serve the Lodge as Master in 2023. I am optimistic about the coming year. For the Lodge, and for me as Master, we are blessed with an Officer Line of talented and motivated men. Their enthusiasm and energy are infectious. I encourage all of you to join in our collective efforts to expand and enhance Freemasonry in our community.

With a new year before us, it is worthwhile to assess the balance in our lives and how Freemasonry affects that balance. This presumes that a good life balance is a goal to which each of us aspires.

On the last page of this issue is a “Wheel of Life” diagram. Follow the instructions on the sheet. There are blanks for eight “areas” of life. Identify eight for your life, including Freemasonry. Perhaps these areas include lifestyle, business, family, health, spirituality, mental. This is a personal assessment, so the areas, or categories, are yours to identify.

Perhaps you discover that your satisfaction with Freemasonry is high, but your lifestyle or family satisfaction is lower. What adjustments might you make to correct that imbalance?

Looking forward to seeing you in Lodge.

Fraternally,

Tom

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 Brad Ingram, SW..... John Nicolls PM
 Cal Magness PM.....Tom Hover PM
 Jason Morrett PM.....John Kains

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www.azmasons.org
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 John Welsch PM.....Grand Lecturer
 Ralph Doudna PMDDGM
 John Graham PMDDGL

Wayfarers Chapter—Widows Sons

President.....Don Hack
Vice President.....Terry McCormack

The Trestle Board is a bi-monthly publication of the Free and Accepted Masons of Flagstaff Lodge No.7. Articles are views of the author and not necessarily those of the lodge or of the Grand Lodge of Arizona. Articles may be edited for length and or content.

Lodge...928-774-2861.....www.flagstaff7.org

Trestle Board Editor.....John Kains

Grand Canyon #4 Order of Eastern Star

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Associate MatronAmanda Bailey PM
Associate PatronRalph Doudna PP
SecretaryKathy Lindstrom PM
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ConductressElisabeth Yates
Associate Conductress....Sue Hamilton PM
ChaplainLou Campas PP
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 Martha.....Mimi Syers
 ElectraJulann Johnson PM
WarderLorie Rehma
 SentinelDerald Hogeland
Trustees:

Katherine Meyer PM
 Roxanne Browne PM
 Ralph Doudna PP



Order of Eastern Star
Grand Canyon Chapter No. 4

WELCOME 2023!

The weather has changed recently due to a chilly New Year's Eve. We will welcome this year instead with a Wild West themed meeting, including a party styled potluck.



*Bro. Jeff Browne,
Worthy Patron*

This month, we would like to highlight the position of Worthy Patron. He is a steadfast guardian. He presides over our secret work and supervises chapter activity. He represents the fraternal bonds we hold with the Free and Accepted Masons. He is an advisor and a mentor to his fellow brothers and sisters. Our very own Worthy Patron is Brother Jeff Browne. He has served as Worthy Patron over a dozen times between Grand Canyon Chapter # 4 and Verde Valley Chapter # 7. He also presided as the Grand Chaplain of the Grand Chapter of Arizona Order of the Eastern Star from 2016 to 2017. His

work reflects the honor and dedication needed as a brother of Masonry and OES alike.

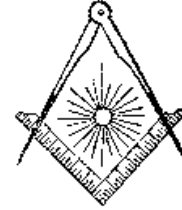
Please stay tuned for our next fundraising event at Culver's. More information will come as a date is secured.

Let us enjoy what is to come. We look forward to a new and bright future!



From the Northeast

By Bro. Justin Nelson, Senior Deacon



The Beginnings of Freemasonry: Foundation of the Premier Grand Lodge of England, Ancient Landmarks and Old Charges

When first coming into Freemasonry, one will more than likely come across the question, when did this all start? It will be even more likely that you will get various answers pending on which Brothers you ask. Most Brothers will more than likely bring up the first, or what is now known as the Premier Grand Lodge of England created in 1717, to which a different Brother may mention Anderson's Constitutions of 1723 being the outline for that Lodge. Another Brother could chime in with a reference to the Old Charges and Ancient Landmarks of our Order. While not getting a unified answer may be frustrating, the silver lining would be that you have multiple Brothers painting a picture of their knowledge of a topic that contributes to our original question: when did this all start?

Let us begin with what is now known as the Premier Grand Lodge of England and its founding. In Brother Joseph Newton's *The Builders*, he explains how the operative stone masons who were the Gothic cathedral builders and later Renaissance builders in the of the 12th through 16th centuries, had eventually come to a decline in their work of cathedral building. During the 1600s is when we start seeing the first Speculative Masons being initiated; the earliest evidence we have being Brother Elias Ashmole, who recorded in his diary October 16th, 1646, "I was made a Free Mason at Warrington in Lancashire..." This is also the time of the scientific revolution, as well as the Royal Society of London being founded in 1660, whose motto being "*Nullius in verba*" meaning 'take nobody's word for it', may have contributed to a rise in numbers of men becoming new speculative masons who would have been more inclined to dive deeper into the meanings of the symbolism and myths within the ritual rather than just carrying on with tradition.

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There were four Lodges that were in existence in London, each named for the tavern or alehouse they met in; the Crown Alehouse in Parker's Lane, off Drury Lane, the Apple Tree Tavern in Charles Street, Covent Garden (now known as Lodge of Fortitude and Old Cumberland No. 12), and the Rummer and Grapes Tavern in Channel Row, Westminster (now known as Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge No. 4). These four Lodges met at the Apple Tree Tavern in 1716 and agreed they would come together the following year and found a Grand Lodge and elect a Grand Master, a Brother not to be a governing dictator of all the Lodges, but someone who was wise and experienced enough to not just govern but also organize and create unity and order among Lodges of Freemasons.

The importance of the Premier Grand Lodge of England is that was when Freemasons agreed that this Grand Lodge should have the power to create new Lodges by means of a charter which authorizes them as a Blue Lodge that can track its lineage to the Grand Lodge of England, which would signify that it is a legitimate, or 'lawfully made Lodge', conducting the same authorized ritual. Any "lodge" that does not have a charter would be what is considered a clandestine lodge of "unlawfully made masons". Perhaps an analogy would be the individual states of America having their own state laws yet all agreeing and building upon the Constitution for the United States of America, as the foundation for their own individual State Constitutions. In 1717, on July 24th it being Saint John the Baptist Day, the four Lodges met at the Goose and Gridiron Alehouse (now known as Lodge of Antiquity No. 2), and founded what was then called the Grand Lodge of London and Westminster, which eventually was known as the Grand Lodge of England, then to what we now call the Premier Grand Lodge of England (name transitions will be explained in an upcoming article), and they elected Anthony Sayer, commoner and bookseller, as the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of London and Westminster.

You may now wonder, well 1717 historically is not that long ago; where and when do the Old Charges come into play and just what are and how old are these Ancient Landmarks? The Old Charges, are the oldest documents we have detailing various instances of Freemasonry; rules, regulations, etc. in antiquity. Fun fact about the names of the manuscripts/ Old Charges, normally historical documents are named after their authors. Masonic Manuscripts differ due to the fact that the authors of these documents are unknown, and the names of the manuscripts are named after whoever was in possession of them or who published them. Some documents are written as a poem, such as the Regius Poem,

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also known as the Regius Manuscript as well as the Halliwell Manuscript, which is 794 verses outlining the duties, responsibilities, and obligations of a Freemason, and is written in a rhyming verse, and estimated to be written in 1390. An unpopular “Old Charge” still of interest is The Avignon Decree of 1326. While this document isn’t a poem and doesn’t really outline any major details about Freemasonry or the character of a Freemason, it is however a Papal Bull issued during Pope John XXII term in 1326 which was attempting to establish the dominance of the Catholic Church and Papacy over any kind of community. To the mason, certain details stand out in the Bull: “we do pronounce the nullity, the dissolution and the disintegration of all assemblies, alliances, societies and conspiracies termed as fraternities and brotherhoods,”.

In essence, any document dated prior to the 1717 Premier Grand Lodge detailing or talking about Freemasonry, could be looked at as an “Old Charge”. However, I think if there was an urban dictionary for Freemasonry, the term Old Charge is probably more commonly used to specifically refer to documents outlining obligations, responsibilities, and conduct of Freemasons that pre date the Premier Grand Lodge of 1717, and have an obvious similarity to the Charges a Brother receives in each degree of the Blue Lodge. It is also believed, that while James Anderson didn’t create a bibliography for Anderson’s Constitutions of 1723, based off the diction of his writing, it is more than probable he was using these Old Charges to essentially create and SOP for their newly formed Grand Lodge.

*Nullius in verba -
take nobody’s word for it.*

Now exactly what the Ancient Landmarks are is slightly trickier to define. The earliest reference made to them is found in Anderson’s Constitutions. They are not defined, but there is importance placed on adhering to them. The idea of our Ancient Landmarks, as well as the term, might come from Proverbs 22:28 “Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.” In ancient times landmarks or a simple stone markers were used to set the bounds of properties, ensuring one tribe or farmer wouldn’t pass their boundary lines and become trespassers. So in a sense the Ancient Landmarks are guidelines set up by our ancient Brethren to preserve what Freemasonry is and its practices that have been preserved by the Masonic Order through the ages as well as not expanding into things that it has no business being involved with. They are essentially principles that the Old Charges were emphasizing.

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While that is good and all, why have they not been expressly recorded? Well our Brother Albert Mackey also felt that same way. In his Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, 1856 edition, he states what he felt were 25 Landmarks of Freemasonry. What he did was go through as many Old Charges and Masonic documents as possible, which was no easy task during his time, and argued they are “unwritten rules” of our Fraternity. There are Brothers who agreed with Mackey, some disagreed, and there have been Brothers after Mackey who published fewer or more landmarks in their works. From what I can see, the fewer numbers of Landmarks, the majority of Brothers will for the most part agree, the larger numbers of Landmarks, the more arguing among Brothers. Essentially it comes down to the individual Grand Lodges, and which “ancient landmarks” they adhere to. Some jurisdictions will state which Landmarks they acknowledge, some jurisdictions play it more safe and leave at something like “we adhere to the Ancient Landmarks”.

While much of our Masonic history may be a mystery to us at this point in time, it is essential to have a basic understanding of these terms. There is much more that we do not know than we do know, so giving a new Brother a ‘matter of fact’ answer to questions based around the origins of Freemasonry could deter him from being able to trust various Brothers in their knowledge of the craft, especially if he has or ends up doing further research on the topic that opposes the original answer he was given. Many new Brothers are coming into Freemasonry and are, like the rest of us, curious about the origins of our Order. We should strive to do our best to be prepared for the questions they ask. Perhaps a simple explanation of the terms, followed with an encouragement to conduct further research to shed more light on the topic may be more beneficial. And to the newer Brothers coming in, while we hope a Brother would do his very best to shed light on any question he might have, let us not forget our Brothers who were members of the Royal Society and their motto: “*Nullius in verba*” - take nobody’s word for it.

Sources:

- Albert Mackey’s “Encyclopedia of Freemasonry”, revised by William J. Hughan and Edward L. Hawkins
- Joseph Fort Newton’s “The Builders”
- <https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/anthony-sayer-first-grand-master-of-england-1717-192248>

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- <https://www.thehistorypress.co.uk/articles/freemasonry-the-first-masonic-grand-lodge/>
- <http://www.skirret.com/papers/eliasashmole-part1.html>
- <https://royalsociety.org/about-us/history/>
- <https://gnosismasonry.wordpress.com/2015/08/01/dissecting-the-1723-constitutions-of-free-masons-dispelling-revisionist-myths-2/>
- <http://theoldcharges.com/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73ntJWTIpqM> (WB Joe Martinez presentation on Old Charges and Constitutions)
- http://mason33.org/content/europa/eslovenia/rgle/RGLE_landmarks.htm

2023 Officers

Flagstaff Lodge #7 installed another fine group of officers to lead us for the coming year. Installing officers were Installing Master WB Cal Magness, Installing Chaplain WB Ralph Doudna and Installing Marshal WB Lance Brown.



First row, l-r: Senior Steward Keith Majors, Senior Deacon Justin Nelson, Senior Warden Brad Ingram, Worshipful Master Tom Carpenter, Junior Warden Derald Hogeland, Junior Deacon Jesse Calvin and Junior Steward Michael Humphrey. Back row, l-r: Secretary Jason Morrett PM, Marshal Don Hack, Chaplain Zach Nelson and Treasurer John Kains. Not pictured: Tyler Sedric Cade. (Tom Alexander Photography).

Flagstaff #7 was proud to see our own Carlos Villanueva installed as Worshipful Master at El Quixote Lodge #83 in Phoenix on January 7. Pictured are Bro. Zachary Nelson, Worshipful Bro. Cal Magness, **Worshipful Master Carlos Villanueva**, Worshipful Bro. Ralph Doudna and Bro. Timothy Retter.





The Stewards (Bros. Keith Majors and Michael Humphrey) are doing a great job of continuing the Flagstaff tradition of fine dining opportunities for our stated meeting and degree nights. Those of us partaking sincerely appreciate their efforts. Below is the menu scheduled for the rest of this year. We hope to see all of you over a plate of jambalaya (it can't be beat) on February 2.

February: Shrimp and Sausage Jambalaya, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert

March: Lasagna, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert

April: Seafood Pasta, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert

May: Stewards Off – Specialty Meal

June: Gumbo, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert

July: Cookout: Ribs, Hamburgers & Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Pecan and Apple Pie

August: Chicken Parmesan, Baked Mac & Cheese, Garlic Bread, Dessert

September: Dirty Rice, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert

October: Fish Fry, Shrimp & Grits, Garden Salad, Bread, Banana Pudding

November: Stewards Off – Specialty Meal

December: Christmas Ham, Cornbread Dressing, Baked Mac and Cheese, Roasted Asparagus, Pecan Pie



Charity

Masonic Charities of Arizona is a non-profit organization whose objective is to channel contributions from Masons, the general public and others into an endowment fund whose earnings support children's hospitals, scientific and medical research relative to catastrophic diseases, educational scholarships, and agencies organized to relieve human suffering caused by illness or poverty throughout the State of Arizona. This year, Flagstaff No. 7 was honored to present checks, on behalf of Masonic Charities of Arizona, to two local organizations. Northland Family Help Center provides safe haven, advocacy, counseling, and education to promote and restore healthy relationships and received \$3,000 this year. Threaded Together administers textile arts programs to nurture inclusive communities, cultivate agency, and develop employment pathways for people who have faced personal challenges and institutional injustices. This is its first year of participation in our program and it received \$1000.



From Left: SW Brad Ingram, Shaleen Seward, NFHC Executive Director, WM Tom Carpenter, NFHC Deputy Director Heather Marcy.



Left to right: SW Brad Ingram, Threaded Together CEO Lindsey Watson, WM Tom Carpenter.

Scholarship Assistance

Both Grand Lodge and Flagstaff Lodge #7 offer scholarship assistance for higher education. Applications for both programs may be obtained from the Lodge Secretary.

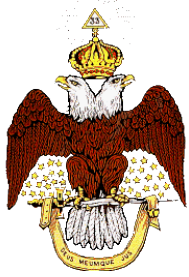
Grand Lodge applications must be received in Flagstaff #7 no later than April 1.

Eligibility for the Flagstaff #7 scholarship program requires the applicant to:

- Be a member in good standing of either Flagstaff #7 or Grand Canyon OES Chapter #4 or the child or grandchild of any such member;
- Be admitted or currently enrolled (full time) in an accredited institution of higher learning with the expectation of earning a degree or certificate;
- Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 (C+) as documented with an academic transcript;

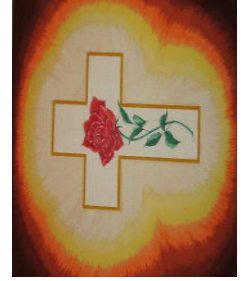
Applications will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee which will award scholarships up to \$1500 per individual.

Flagstaff #7 applications must be received in the lodge by April 15. (Post-marks by that date are not acceptable).



Northern Arizona Scottish Rite

By Lou Campas 32° K.:C.:C.:H.:



D.

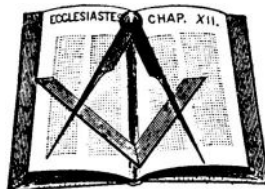
The Northern Arizona Scottish Rite Degree Team will hold a breakfast and degree practice on Sunday, January 29th at Flagstaff Lodge #7.

All Scottish Rite members, including those who just recently received the degrees, are invited to attend. There are openings in some of the degrees that Northern Arizona performs so this is the time to get involved. We have a Scottish Rite Brother who may need to undergo some surgery in the near future and may not be 100% available for the May Spring Reunion.

Brothers Anthony “Jac” Jacobino 32° K.:C.:C.:H.: and Ill. Richard McNeil 33° will be here to give instructions and guidance. Any Master Mason who wishes to expand his knowledge and inspiration in Freemasonry may request a petition to receive the Scottish Rite Degrees from the Lodge Secretary or any Scottish Rite member. The Spring Reunion will be held at the Tucson Scottish Rite Temple on Friday and Saturday, May 5th and 6th.

**Flagstaff Lodge No. 7 congratulates our brothers
on their Masonic accomplishments:**

Master Mason



**Bro. Timothy Retter
Raised January 12, 2023**

Upcoming Events

(Thursdays are typically reserved for degrees or degree practice).

Jan. 26	Trustees Meeting	6:00 pm
Feb. 2	Stated Meeting	Dinner @ 6:30, Meeting @ 7:30
Feb. 16	School of Instruction	Dinner @ 6:00, SOI @ 7:00
Feb. 23	Trustees Meeting	6:00 pm
Mar. 2	Stated Meeting	Dinner @ 6:30, Meeting @ 7:30
Mar. 23	Trustees Meeting	6:00 pm
Mar. 24-25*	Leadership Conference	
Mar. 30	Trustees Meeting	6:00 pm
Apr. 6	Stated Meeting	Dinner @ 6:30, Meeting @ 7:30
Apr. 27	Trustees Meeting	6:00 pm
May 4	Stated Meeting	Dinner @ 6:30, Meeting @ 7:30
May 5-6	Scottish Rite Reunion	Tucson
May 25	Trustees Meeting	6:00 pm
June 1-3	Grand Communication	Wild Horse Pass
June 8	Stated Meeting	Dinner @ 6:30, Meeting @ 7:30
July 6	Stated/Mason of the Year	Dinner @ 6:00, Meeting @ 7:30
July 8	Longevity Awards Luncheon	TBD
Aug. 3	Stated Meeting	Dinner @ 6:30, Meeting @ 7:30
August 19	Outdoor Degree	9:00 am
Sept. 7	Stated Meeting	Dinner @ 6:30, Meeting @ 7:30
Oct. 5	Stated Meeting	Dinner @ 6:30, Meeting @ 7:30
Nov. 2	Stated Meeting	Dinner @ 6:30, Meeting @ 7:30
Nov. 18	Clothe-a-Child	
Dec. 7	Stated Mtg./Elections	Dinner @ 6:30, Meeting @ 7:30
Dec. 16	Officer Installation	



Masonic Anniversaries



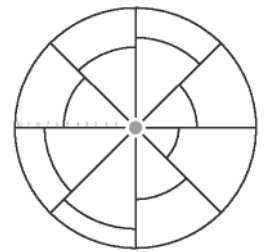
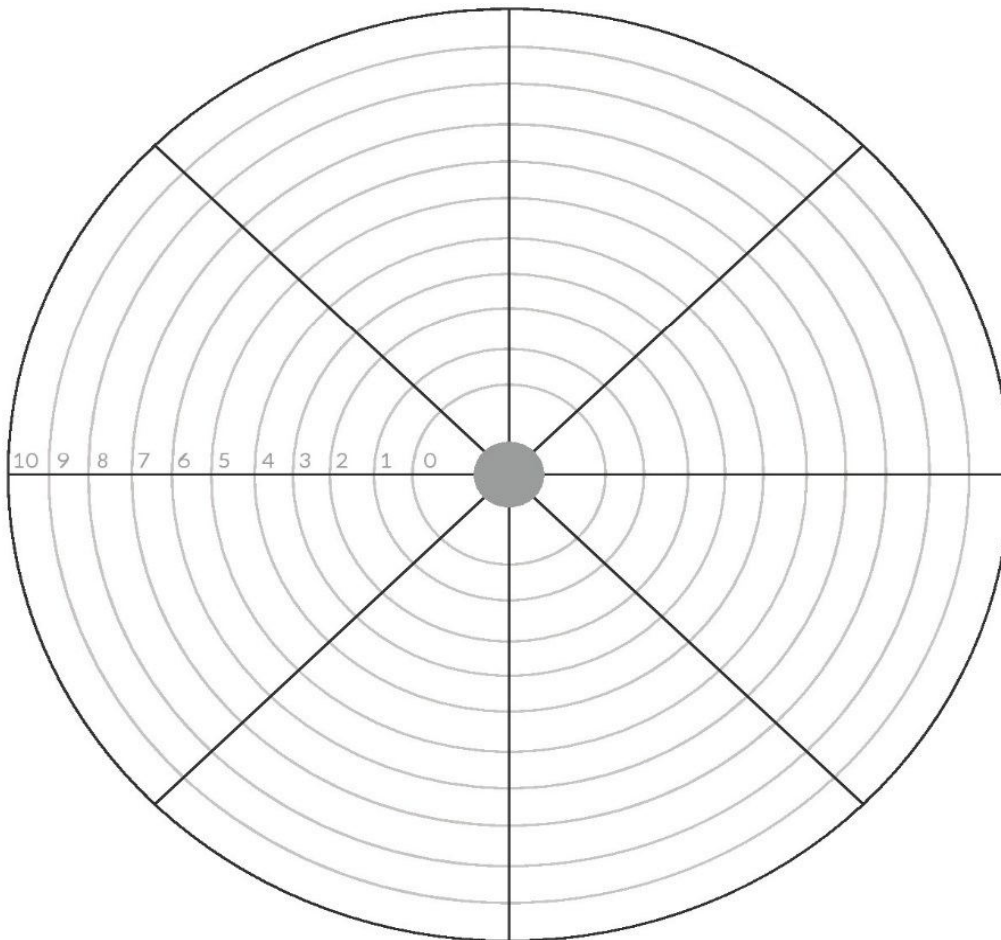
Earl McLain PM	2/1/1989	Christopher Anderson	3/2/2013
Ray Teague	2/3/1967	Eddie Cash, Sr.	3/9/1964
David Moddrelle	2/9/1995	Lee McDonald	3/10/1977
Sam Belkin	2/13/2014	Raymond Lindsey	3/11/2010
J. Sidney Saunders	2/15/1968	Lance Brown PM	3/12/2009
Ralph Doudna PM	2/18/2010	Richard Vihel PM	3/12/1992
Todd Barrett	2/19/2015	Marvin Franklin PM	3/20/1997
James Vandevier	2/19/1959	Ryan Shapiro	3/20/2014
Kevin Wright	2/20/2014	Ward Steward	3/22/1990
Bruce McDonald	2/21/2002	Rodney Kenly	3/24/1976
George Dorado	2/22/2011	James Kruse	3/25/1999
Donald Benjamin PM	2/26/2000	Glen Beeson PM	3/26/1970
James Glenn	2/26/2004	John Kains	3/27/1997
Jesse Pilcher, Jr.	2/26/1998	David Merritt	3/28/1968
Michael Byrnes	2/27/2014	James Wilson	3/28/2013
Cecil Neal III	2/27/1974	Robert Wilson	3/28/1966
Ted Gibson, Jr.	2/28/2013		



Birthdays



Warren Smith	2/3/1950	Brian Kolb	2/27/1942
Carl Sechrist	2/5/1932	Jesse Pilcher, Jr.	2/27/1945
Ronald Linebarger	2/5/1945	John Brooks	2/28/1931
David Skillern	2/10/1948	Brian Yarbrough	3/1/1971
David Merritt	2/12/1935	J. Sidney Saunders	3/6/1940
Donald Benjamin PM	2/15/1950	Eugene Bernhard	3/7/1941
Richard McNeill, Jr. PM	2/16/1946	Ward Steward	3/20/1961
Glen Beeson PM	2/18/1923	James Rexroad, Jr.	3/21/1947
Marvin Franklin PM	2/18/1957	Aaron Burr	3/23/1994
Christopher Rose	2/24/1989	Alfred Austin III	3/27/1975
William Bray PGM	2/25/1941	Victor Hawley PM	3/29/1943



Example

WHEEL OF LIFE

Follow these instructions to get your Wheel of Life ready in two minutes.

- *Identify the eight most relevant categories in your life. Every individual is unique and facing unique circumstances; hence, the most influential categories of life will vary from person to person.*
- *Label the eight sectors on the blank Wheel of Life according to the identified categories.*
- *Think about each category and assign a score to it based on the level of satisfaction you derive from that category.*
- *Each sector has been broken into ten sections, the outermost being level 10 and the section closest to the center being level 1.*
- *Color or shade the sector up to the level of satisfaction that you identified in the above step.*