

TUCSON LODGE No. 4, F. & A.M.

TUCSON, ARIZONA

W.M. HANNES J. MEYER

SEC. CRAIG L. GROSS, PM



MARK TWAIN AWARD

MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

NOVEMBER 2012

TUCSON LODGE No. 4 F.&A.M.

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November 29, 2012

Masonic Service Association of North America
8120 Fenton Street
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785

Subject: Mark Twain Masonic Awareness Award

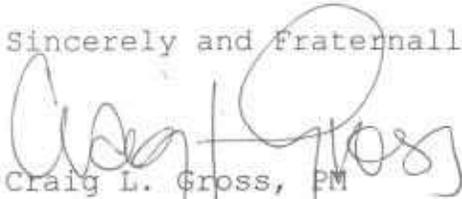
Tucson Lodge No. 4 was chartered in 1881 and has always been known as a leader in the fraternity and our community. However, as with all Lodges we have failed to maintain active participation and have allowed ourselves to decline due to lethargy and inactivity. We kept doing what we had always done and couldn't understand why we always got the same results. However, for the last few years we have been making great advances, not only in new members but also with the existing membership, by seeking out and identifying what our members want and the light that new members desire. This has occurred by creating new areas of involvement and redefining the old methods into new and exciting opportunities.

Our involvement with the Masonic Foundation for Children has created new opportunities for us to show Masonry in Action on a daily basis and to give our brothers something to be proud about. Thousands of teachers are given the tools to help our youth become useful citizens. Our Bikes for Books program helps stimulate a child's interest in reading and math. And with Teacher Grants we help create new programs in schools.

Creation of a discussion group for Masonic enlightenment came as a result of the need to address the inquiries being received through the modern media opportunities. Men were asking the questions but were not receiving the answers so we developed the class for non-masons. It has been a tremendous success. Even if they do not continue, the information is providing a positive outlook on Freemasonry.

In closing, now that we no longer do the same thing, we are obtaining different and positive results and our membership is active and growing.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,



Craig L. Gross, PM
Secretary
Tucson Lodge No. 4

Traditions of the Past and Eyes to the Future

As the world has evolved into a fast-paced and technologically driven place which allows for men as social beings to communicate with million while never shaking a hand, embracing a brother, coming together for a meal, or holding conversations of value, but rather mere sound-bites based in shock value and momentary amusement, the Masons of Tucson Lodge 4 have decided to bring the traditions of our fraternity to the forefront of our community in the hopes of generating a return to the quality relationships in which our unique organization was founded. It is with these thoughts in our mortal minds, that we have planned upon our trestle-board, begun to work our ashlar to perfection, and have come together with the wisdom our veteran Masons, our strength of conviction, and the beauty of realized brotherhood to lay our plans for expansion into a world that needs good Masons as much as it ever has (Appendix 1).

It is within the reality of our rapidly aging membership and the need for continuity of values for future generations that our decisions looking to the future as a time of Masonic blossoming that we have turned our eyes. Today we sow the seeds of brotherhood, relief, hope, and charity, for it is our goal to plan for our Spring of Revival whence good-deeds, support of our brethren, and the improvement of men in their values may be harvested for the betterment of the human condition (Appendix 2).

Within the body of this outline of our successful endeavors in planning, implementation, and the realized positive evaluation of our efforts, we will communicate our vision for the future growth of Freemasonry in our community and the manner in which it qualifies this lodge for the Mark Twain Masonic Awareness Award.

Bringing our Trestle-Board to Life

The Master of our Lodge, in conjunction with the other officers of the Lodge and long-term Master Masons met earlier this year and determined the need for planning the future of our organization. This body of knowing gentlemen determined that the future of our Fraternity would best be served by expanding the roles of current members by creating productive committees which would be comprised of Masons with specific skill sets applicable to the work needing to be done. Furthermore, this involvement would rekindle some of the fire for the Craft which may have ebbed in the coals of simple lodge business, dinners, breakfasts, etc. The creation of these committees have been the source of renewed enthusiasm about the mission that is the responsibility of all good Masons; being the Stewards of our Craft for this generation, and those to come after us. The goals of these committees were as follows: expand our membership, reduce the average age of our membership, create income generating sources of revenue (not for profit-motivated reasons, but rather to provide for Lodge self-sufficiency), increase our visibility and relevance in the community, support our appendant bodies, and increase the quality of services and support that we have traditionally provided internally. In order to address these goals with a conservative regard for fiscal obligation, our first step was to begin providing the "Prospect Candidate Discussion Group" for those who are curious about discovering Masonry for themselves to attend. These meetings are held at the lodge on a weekly basis and are conducted by no less than two Master Masons at any given time. It is a time where non-Masons may come to meet Masons, enjoy conversation with other men who share a like desire to discover more about us, ask questions about Masonry, and let us discover them for a six-month period during which time we all have the opportunity to discover if we are all "a good fit" for each other, Lodge and future Candidates alike. This activity has resulted in the creation of over a dozen Masons sturdy in character and strong in conviction to the ideals of Freemasonry. Furthermore, we have found that relocated Masons from other areas in the country and times long past have been exposed to these classes and have come to our

lodge to re-begin their careers in the Craft with fresh eye toward all that it offers. As membership has increased, so have the able-bodies capable of doing work and making Freemasonry known to more men of quality in the community.

From this meager and low-cost investment of time and dedication by a few Brothers, we have realized results that also reach into the realm of the fiscal. More funds through dues and contributions as well as more hands to do the work of our lodge have surely benefited all of us as we have begun to provide the foundation for the continuity of our fraternity. Based upon the gifts that Freemasonry has to offer the world, said continuity makes the world our beneficiaries. Our messages: brotherly love, relief, truth, ethical action, integrity amongst mankind, expansive thought, independence of good actions, and coming together as a people for regular fellowship all help to foster what is best in mankind.

The Work We Have Done

In the past year, the mission that we have taken upon ourselves is to realize the vision propounded to us by our officers, and founded in our responsibilities as citizens of the world have included the following:

Sponsorship and Support of the "Arizona Masonic Foundation for Children"—In the fall of every year, we have provided support to our educational system in Arizona as well as the teachers and students thereof. This support takes shape in the form of a sponsorship dinner, a week of discourse with educators, and solicitation of contributions from lodge members and their families to provide sorely-needed funding to students for classroom necessities. The Lodge appointed a Lodge Representative to the AMFC which is a 501©3 charitable entity. The foundation meets the need for additional child based programs that the fraternity embraces, designed to help it become even more visible and active in the community. Programs supported by the foundation act as an adjunct to the other children's oriented endeavors already adopted by the fraternity. The program supported by the Foundation is the nationally known Masonic Student Assistance Program (MSAP) also known as the Children at Risk program. The "Masonic Model Students Program" is a subcategory of targeted beneficiaries as we donate the use of our facility, provide seminar supplies, coordinate meals, and provide lodging for the keynote speaker (from the Newman-Stecker Foundation) to serve the needs of this annual educators' seminar. These functions are under the direction Lodge 4's designated coordinator. Additional information on the lodge support of these programs is provided in Appendix 3.

Annual Widow's Luncheon—An annual lodge sponsored luncheon affording the opportunity for the widows of our departed brothers to come together to share memories, find comfort in each other's commonality of loss, and remember those honorable Masons whom the world has lost. This function is coordinated by Lodge 4 (due to fiscal and personnel requirements) and is extended to other local lodges. Typically, some form of musical entertainment is provided as well as transportation to and from this social event, which concludes with the presentation of flowers to each widow. It allows our lodge to maintain contact with these widows and remind them of support that is available. In addition, our widow's committee maintains contact with our ladies throughout the year and provides both financial and physical assistance as needed to help them maintain a quality of life.

Bikes for Children Program—In conjunction with Los Ranchitos Elementary School, a local public school, we have established a program for economically disadvantaged families whereby we provide 6 to 8 bicycles a year to students of the school as incentive awards for achievement in mathematics and reading activities. This program is in its sixth year and has created a real and measurable difference in the advancement of reading and mathematics.

Teacher Classroom Grants—In conjunction with the Grand Lodge of Arizona, Tucson 4 awards two classroom grants to public school teachers to help off-set program costs for needed equipment or special class projects.

Grand Lodge Participation and Honors—Tucson Lodge 4 Was presented with the 2011-12 “Master Architect Award” as a progressive and active lodge in the State. We also have the honor of having in our membership, one Past Grand Master, a current District Deputy Grand Master, and our state’s Grand Orator. We had a substantial presence at this year’s Grand Lodge Meeting where we participated in multiple Masonic Education activities.

Monthly Fellowship Events—Comprised of monthly Fellowship Breakfasts, Social Nights (Pot Lucks & Gaming/Activities) these events serve as outreach amongst members, their families, prospective candidates, and anybody else in the community. Prospective candidates and their families are strongly encouraged to attend and become involved.

Winterhaven Community Awareness Fundraiser—An annual event where we interact with the community by having a presence adjacent to the Winterhaven community’s annual Holiday Gala which lasts for approximately two weeks. This event has provided us with community exposure, fundraising, and the opportunity to support our appendant bodies (Job’s Daughters, Evening Star, Amaranth, etc.) present where they also share in income-generating activities and present themselves to the community. Food, arts & crafts, and literature are the fixtures of our presence.

Masonic Funeral Honors & Veteran’s Services—Tucson Lodge 4 maintains 2 complete funeral teams with multiple Funeral Masters and coordinates with all local cemeteries and mortuaries for the respectful rites earned by brothers who have passed. In addition, in proximity to the VA Medical Center, we have constructed and support the maintenance of a large Masonic Monument at one our community’s central cemeteries. Furthermore, Lodge 4’s brothers comprise in excess of half of the local Military Degree Team with one of its brothers directing the Military Degree Credentials Committee. Another of our brothers has taken the lead with a few others on maintaining an active VA Hospital Visitation Program whereby comfort is provided, transportation to religious services, and the opportunity to remain active and interact with Lodge 4 brothers.

Masonic Charitable Work—We maintain an active Relief & Assistance Committee for distressed brothers, their widows, and families which supports their needs financially and through acts of labor. In addition, our library and Resource center are maintained current with materials relevant to the Masonic Services Association. Furthermore, we have established a lodge visitation program and provide assistance and support to other local lodges with their degree work as needed. Our Holiday Meal Assistance program should also be noted here as it one of the centerpieces of our winter events.

Prospective Candidate Discussion Group—The discussion group was created for the purpose of educating men who have shown an interest in the fraternity but seek more information before joining. The principal purpose, in addition to providing appropriate masonic information to discuss and analyze, was to allow us to learn more about them and give them a positive view of Masonry and the men involved. This group provides a direct connection to Masonry for those who seek more light.

Veteran’s Donation Collection Center—Quilt & Lap Blanket crafting were created by some of our appendant bodies for distribution among Veterans at the local VA Hospital Facility. Furthermore, we have established and maintain a “VA Collections & Donation Center” in the main lobby of the lodge

where all may contribute new items, gift cards, new clothing, reading materials, etc. for regular distribution among needy veterans in our local community. We also play an active part in the everyday lives of our veterans by assisting in an active volunteer program at the V.A. Hospital.

Formation of Membership Committee—A strategic committee that bears the responsibility of formulating strategies for increasing our membership as well as maintain and “recalling” existing brothers who may have fallen into a state of “Masonic-dormancy.” In addition, this committee interacts with our “Long-Range Planning Committee” to maintain an eye on the future vision and needs of the lodge.

Community Leasing of Lodge—A means of offsetting expenses as well as gaining community exposure. Currently, portions of the Lodge are sub-leased to 4 “tenants” for their use on a regular basis. Our new building’s appeal has extended the opportunities afforded here. The new location allows us to sponsor other community activities such as community yard sales, car shows, farmers markets, car washes and other similar activities.

Communications and Open Events—Tucson Lodge 4 maintains communications with its members, widows, other lodges, The Grand Lodge of Arizona, and its officers through a variety of methods. These include our monthly newsletter, “The Trestleboard”, our Facebook page, our website (tucsonlodge4.homestead.com/) which is filled with links to all things Masonic including other lodges sites, and our W.M.’s Weekly e-mail to the brothers which both reminds and informs the brethren of the work and refreshment in the immediate future as well as noting any other items to be shared for the good or general knowledge of the lodge.

Our lodge is somewhat unique in that throughout the year, we make provisions for many events that are open to non-Masons, as well as the wives and families of our Brothers. These include award nights, dedications, officer installations, et. al. These activities provide platforms for us to expand our presence in the community as well as opportunities for our brothers to do work for their fellow man and support the ideals of Freemasonry.

Realizations of Our Work and Evaluations

Tucson Lodge 4 has clearly benefitted from the planning and programing involved in the Twain Award. While we have always been an active and progressive lodge, this exercise has helped us to take a new view of the way we have always done things. Change is a difficult thing to incorporate into a volunteer type organization, but we realize now that if we don’t change to become part of the 21st century, the organization may not be around to view the 22nd. The realization is that we need to make better Masons that will proudly go out into the community and become involved in a manner that will make other men take notice and that by leading by example and precept we will increase membership in our ancient and honorable fraternity.

The newly elected Master of the lodge has already started incorporating these concepts and ideals in to the next year. A planning session is scheduled to review and discuss our previous goals and determine their success. New ideas and concepts are being formulated to expand on the existing goals and to establish new goals for the coming years.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Mission, Vision and Values

Mission, Vision and Values of Tucson Lodge No. 4 F.&A.M.

Mission:

The Mission of Tucson Masonic Lodge No. 4 is to encourage and support the advancement of Freemasonry by developing Masons who are assets to their communities.

Vision:

Freemasonry is dedicated to the Brotherhood of Men under the Fatherhood of God. Freemasonry is a respected fraternity comprised of men with high moral character and social standards who make a positive difference in their community and the lives of their fellow men. Freemasonry's singular purpose is to make good men better men.

Values:

To practice the highest moral and social standards in friendship, fellowship and charity.

To practice the virtues of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

To promote honesty, integrity, and morality.

To encourage our members to serve their faith, family and community.

To demonstrate that we are a society of upright men.

To enjoy one another's company and develop team spirit, leadership and fellowship.

To make a difference for good in the world.

Appendix 2 Lodge Committees

2012 COMMITTEES

AUDIT

JERRY FORTSON, GRAHAM DAVEY

BIKES FOR BOOKS

VINCE SANTOS, SAM STEPHENSON

BUDGET

VINCE SANTOS, MARTY JONES, JON SCHMIDT, LEIGH CREIGHTON, CRAIG GROSS, JERRY FORTSON, ONE PAST MASTER (TBD)

CANDIDATES AND MENTORS

VINCE SANTOS

DUES AND RELIEF

CRAIG GROSS, ALLEN BAILEY

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

JERRY FORTSON, MIKE SUBA, RAY SNOW

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

MARTY JONES, STEVE MURRILLO, SAM STEPHENSON

FUNERALS	JERRY HARRIS, BOB CONRAD
GRAND LODGE AWARDS	HANNES MEYER, VINCE SANTOS, CRAIG GROSS
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	JIM WADLEY, PGM
LIBRARY	BOB CONRAD, PGM
LONG RANGE PLANNING	VINCE SANTOS, MARTY JONES, JON SCHMIDT, LEIGH CREIGHTON
MARK TWAIN AWARD	HANNES MEYER, VINCE SANTOS, CRAIG GROSS
MASON OF THE YEAR	HANNES MEYER, CRAIG GROSS
MASONIC EDUCATION	NICK ANDRESS
MASONIC STUDENT ASSISTANCE	LEIGH CREIGHTON
MEMBERSHIP AND RETENTION	JON SCHMIDT, LEIGH CREIGHTON, CHRIS JORDAN, JOHN PANGELINAN
PUBLIC RELATIONS/DISCUSSION GROUP	RICH HALL, BOB CONRAD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	WES YANDELL, LEIGH CREIGHTON
RITUAL/OFFICER PROFICIENCY	ALLEN BAILEY
SICKNESS AND DISTRESS	PAUL SIMPSON, GENE WICKEY
SOCIAL FUNCTIONS	MARTY JONES, TL4 LADIES
TEMPLE USAGE	CRAIG (LYNDA) GROSS
TRESTLEBOARD/SOCIAL NETWORKING	RON HILL, JOHN PANGELINAN
V.A. HOSPITAL	BOB CONRAD
VISITATION	HANNES MEYER, VINCE SANTOS
WEBSITE	JON PROKOP, JOHN PANGELINAN
WIDOWS ASSISTANCE	PAUL SIMPSON, RICH GILREATH
YOUTH GROUPS	HANNES MEYER, RON HILL

Appendix 3 Arizona Masonic Foundation for Children (AMFC)

The lodge representative to the Arizona Masonic Foundation for Children (AMFC) is the link between the lodge and the AMFC responsible to promote the good works of the AMFC within the lodge and provide support to the AMFC. This includes providing promotional material to the lodge regarding the AMFC and distribution to newly made Master Masons; coordinating use of lodge facilities by the Masonic Student Assistance Program staff and assisting in the presentation of the program.

Newman/Stecher International, the developers of Masonic Model Student Assistance Program, conducted the program twice in 2011/2012 at Tucson Lodge #4 utilizing almost half of the building. This intervention model is offered at no cost to the schools and participants, who are asked in return for their daily attendance and commitment for the entire three days. We provide a comfortable learning environment, breakfast and lunch meals, and other assistance. The program is a highly professional, intensive three day training workshop, for Arizona educators to learn to or improve on their ability to identify, intervene with and create appropriate intervention plans for students who may be at risk. The workshop trains a core team of four to eight educators (teachers, counselors and administrators from a school building in how to intervene early and effectively with student who display patterns of behaviors that threaten their success at school and in life. Participants leave the training with a specific plan for behavioral interventions, and a system for implementing MSAP in their schools, and or incorporate worthwhile MSAP concept and practices into their current program.

The lodge supports these activities with a variety of fund raisers including dinners, raffles, skeet shoots and donations. At the annual dinner, which has had a variety of menus from French Onion soup specials, prepared by a member from France, to a "low country boil", speakers from the education community and the community at large are invited to explain the benefits of the programs. The dinner is sponsored by the lodge, advertised widely throughout the community and all attendees are invited to provide a donation. This year a 50" television set will be raffled off generating over \$1000 in donations.