



Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

The Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan

To be the Fraternal Organization of choice for men in the Province of Saskatchewan



February received its name for the Latin word which means “to purify,” for in this month people purified their homes and offered sacrifices to the gods, who loved order and cleanliness.

Brethren:

January will soon be in the books even as I write this month’s musings. This is usually the time of year when we meet together to celebrate Robbie Burns’ birthday, feasting on neeps, tatties and, of course, haggis. I miss the opportunity of celebrating the “Bard” and his contribution to the brotherhood of man.

February is the month we take time to celebrate and cherish our significant others on Valentines Day. February 14th is the day where we can show appreciation to the ones we love. I would encourage you to reach out and show your indebtedness and love to your wife, partner, mother, daughter and do not forget to reach out to the widows of our Brother Masons. In recent years our Lodge has hosted a tea around Valentine’s Day and invited widows of Brother Masons. This year, a phone call or a Valentine card sent to the widows would make their day, especially in these times of isolation.

“A woman can make an average man great, and a great man average.”

Robert Burns

Chivalry: is a listing of the qualities of an ideal knight in the Middle Ages. Chivalry is a code of conduct developed eight to nine hundred years ago. Chivalry included bravery, honour, courtesy, respect for women, protection of the weak, generosity and fairness to enemies. Young men in the Middle Ages took vows of chivalry to become knights. These qualities of an ideal Knight are not unlike the qualities of an ideal Mason. However, the traditional stereotypes of chivalry depicting a knight in shiny armour rescuing a damsel in distress, or a gentleman laying down his jacket so a lady can avoid getting her shoes muddy, are not relevant today. Chivalry has evolved to reflect modern day values of gentlemanly behavior; but the underlying principles of honesty, courtesy and being resolute in the hour of danger have not changed. I prefer Scott Farrell’s modern definition of chivalry. “It is the choice to do the right things, for the right reasons, at the right times.” This definition reminds me of the line in the General Charge describing the ideal of a Freemason, which states, “because he did a good act, not for himself but for the cause of good.” The world today could use little more civility through the practice of chivalry.

“Some say that the age of chivalry is past, that the spirit of romance is dead. The age of chivalry is never past, so long as there is a wrong left unaddressed on earth.” Charles Kingsley

“Chivalry is one of the great civilizing forces, taming men and introducing social graces and nuance to what would otherwise be a brutish social world.” Heather MacDonald



Stay safe, and Happy!

MCW Bro. Dan Olmsted . Grand Master. 2020-2021