



## From The East

### Greetings Brothers,

As I prepare to assume the duties of Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection for the Armed Forces Scottish Rite at Fort Leavenworth, I wanted to take this time to welcome everyone back from our summer darkness. Our first meeting in September will be on 15 September at 6:30 PM with the School of Light starting at 7:00 PM. There are a number of changes that I would like to make in order to provide all our members a meaningful, thought provoking, and inspirational experience. They are as follows:

1. We will not read the minutes in Lodge. The Secretary will send the minutes to all our members via email, and print copies for those without email to pick up at the next meeting. There is no reason to waste time reading minutes in Lodge. We will vote on accepting the minutes at each Stated Communication as presented.
2. We will not waste time running through each committee and asking if that committee has something to present. Committees who have something to present will give the Venerable Master a 3x5 card prior to the meeting with the committee information, i.e. (masonic education committee report etc.). When the VM has to run down the list of committees or ask if there are any reports it makes us look unorganized. This goes for petitions and investigating committees. The VM should know well before the meeting starts if there are any petitions or investigation committee reports.
3. Our focus is the School of Light. The Scottish Rite is the University of Freemasonry, and as such, we should provide our members with the level of education they deserve. The Scottish Rite is not a spectator sport; every member is a contributor. You do not have to be an expert, but be willing to get involved. My emphasis as the VM is to get all our members that can attend Lodge actively participating to help make this Lodge of Perfection an institution of Masonic learning. Our next topic for the School of Light will be "The Meaning of Masonry" by Walter Leslie Wilmshurst. We will focus on one chapter each month. I have included a PDF version of this text with this correspondence. Please read

Chapter one and be prepared to offer your thoughts and insights as part of a group discussion.

4. The Secretary will send out email summonses prior to each monthly meeting. Positive or negative responses are required. Knowing how many members are going to show up for any given meeting is the biggest mystery in Masonry. I hope to eliminate that guesswork. We represent the standard of personal responsibility, we should show common courtesy to our brothers and our Lodge by letting everyone know if we will be able to attend or not.

Lastly, this is our Lodge! Masonry survives and grows when the membership as a whole puts forth the effort to make the institution great. We must strive to give our members the highest quality Masonic experience possible. We will only attract high quality members invested in what Masonry stands for if we can give them a program that meets their expectations. I will do everything in my power as VM to make this happen, but I need your help. I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting and hearing your suggestions.

Fraternally,

Steven J. Humes 32°  
Venerable Master  
Lodge of Perfection  
Armed Forces Scottish Rite