



MASONIC TRIBUNE

A QUARTERLY NEWS AND INFORMATION PUBLICATION OF:
GRAND LODGE OF WASHINGTON
FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS



HEAD OF THE FAMILY 2015 - 2016

VOLUME XCVI No.1 - Fall 2015 ISSUE

IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial Note:

Time and time again we try to encourage every member of this Masonic Jurisdiction to write and contribute to this publication. We would like for our Brethren recipients of this quarterly published newsletter to receive as much current events that happen in and around their Masonic abode. We also hope to send as much information to those that read this publication outside our Masonic Jurisdiction and provide them with relevant news regarding the Fraternity.

We have entertained and published articles that convey successes in the local Lodges. I have received laudable commentaries about the effectiveness of them and I request more contributions of articles from every member of this Grand Jurisdiction. It is your newsletter and you have the right to request to publish your ideas, lessons learned, best practices, successes and, etc. Let us know if you need any assistance on how to go about writing your articles so we can publish your stories.

I hope to hear from you about your ideas, inquiries or even concerns about this newsletter. We can work together to make this publication best fit your needs, and to benefit our Grand Lodge and the Fraternity in general.

Thank you for your continued support.

Faternally,

MWB G. Santy Lascano

Chairman, GLWA Masonic Tribune

A Sub Committee of:
Public Relations Committee



g.santy@comcast.net

(Guidelines continued)

6. Video clips are acceptable. Please send me a separate email so we can arrange for the transmission of your video media footage (g.santy@comcast.net)
7. When sending your article, your email subject field should say "Masonic Tribune Winter 2015 – Your Name or Committee Name or your GL Title should be contained in the article."
8. Your article is important to us. Please help us protect its accuracy according to your intended subject.

Guidelines for [Submission of Articles](#) for the Masonic Tribune

1. Articles can be submitted in MS Word format. Please do not do too much special formatting when writing your article because your layout will be subject to change depending on which page your article will be placed in the publication itself.
2. Please always do a thorough spell check of your document especially names that are not common in the built in spell checker of software applications.
3. Please make sure you only use Arial in all your fonts in the document, as the publication body text will all be produced in Arial type font only. If you use another font, some special characters might not translate properly when converted to Arial. This typeface is pretty much Universal.
4. Include the pictures you want used in your article in the Word document layout, but also please attach the original digital photo file as a separate file in the email.
5. Make sure the name and author of the article is reflected on the bottom of the article content.

(continued, next column)



The Masonic Tribune is an official publication of Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington.

Masonic Tribune Committee:

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Article submission deadlines:

Summer Issue	First of May
Fall Issue	September 1
Winter Issue	December 1
Spring Issue	February 1



Learn & Change

These two words are my theme for this Masonic year. Doesn't seem too difficult to understand or to interpret what the words symbolize. In Masonry we are always striving to learn; ritual, Degrees, history, meaning, and educating ourselves in the role of leadership, officer responsibilities, operating a Lodge and/or temple board. These are the business and Fraternal sides of Masonic education we all are hungry to learn about. But this is not the "Learn" that I am thinking about.

How well do we know our Brothers in Lodge, in our District, in our Concordant Bodies. Do we know their families, occupation, schooling, or involvement in the community? Do we know what their likes are, why they joined our Fraternity, why they come to meetings and are involved in the Lodges activities and events? Do we know why they no longer come to Lodge, what turned them off to the Lodge and/or to Masonry. Have we moved out of our comfort zone to actually visit with our Brethren? Do we shake everyone's hands and ask them how they feel, how the wife and children or grandchildren are doing, how they are doing at their job or in retirement? Do we make an effort to communicate with everyone who no longer comes to Lodge. Do we as leaders and members of our Lodge spend time to discuss these questions? We should, so we can try to discover what our Brothers and their families like and are proud of accomplishing, in our Lodge and in our community. We also need to know what they dislike, so the Lodge can consider what is not being done. I'm not just talking about the younger, newer members but also those that have been members for a long time. Their wants will be very different as will why they joined Masonry and it will be difficult to find that balance point.

Now comes the word that drives fear thru the hearts of most Masons, "Change". We all talk about it, know it has to happen, individually contemplate what it will be, but rarely, as a whole, plan for making it happen. It is not in our comfort zone and we are all guilty of it to one Degree or another. But if we are to expand our membership we need to understand its priorities and how that changes with time and through each generation. Our forefathers were visionary and built a tremendous Fraternity for us to enjoy, but they were not afraid to make changes to preserve what they have handed over to us to manage for the proceeding generations. In 50 or 100 years what are those Masons going to say about what we have handed down to them.

We have a rare opportunity to learn and change our way of thinking and acting. We have a rich

tradition and a membership of all ages and capabilities. With the speed of technology it will be easier and faster to make change, but we need to be very careful not to make change just for the sake of saying we have changed. We must first learn and carefully decide what that change will be. We can't do that unless we take the time to communicate with all of our Brothers and their families. Remember the saying; "If momma isn't happy nobody is!" That is especially true in this fast paced life of today. If we are going to attract younger members and keep them involved then we must remember that they have families and jobs and do not have a lot of time to waste in a dull and boring Lodge that does not accomplish the reasons that enthused them to join. But also at the same time must not lose our older, stable mentors as this is a major reason younger men join.

With the books that have been written and the movies that have appeared, whether they portray Masonry in a glowing light or as a cult, it has caught the attention and interest of a generation that is hungry for guidance, direction, knowledge and self fulfillment! In short we have a tremendous opportunity to attract quality candidates. Lets figure out how to keep them!

Til next time,

MWB Donald G. Munks
Grand Master

Grand Master
MOST WORSHIPFUL Brother
Donald G. Munks





Deputy Grand Master
 RIGHT WORSHIPFUL Brother
 Jim V. Mendoza



Change – It's Part of the Journey

At his installation our Grand Master, MWB Don Munks, introduced his theme: **Learn and Change**. As Masons, we are great at learning. We learn new pieces of ritual. We learn leadership skills. We even learn a thing or two about property management. **Change**, however is a different issue – and that puzzles me.

I'm reminded of the old Masonic joke: "How many Masons does it take to change a light bulb?" "Why change it...it worked just fine in my year as Master?"

This bit of humor notwithstanding, Freemasonry, my Brothers, is all about change. We as Masons are taught that we are always undergoing the process of change via the use of our working tools as we seek to change ourselves from rough ashlars to perfect ashlars, better fit for the Builder's use. In a similar fashion, we should embrace those new ideas – those new tools – that have and will be made available to aid us in perfecting the Masonic experience our Brethren receive.

Let's be clear. There are things in our Craft that must remain unchanged: The practice of initiating, passing, and raising men in our ancient ritualistic tradition; the moral teachings of the Fraternity; and the expectation of high moral conduct from all Freemasons.

So rather than tell what we should change (that's for another article), let's talk about how to make change our friend.

Let us always remember that the Masonic experience is a journey, a journey of discovery – and change is part of that journey. I think deep down we all understand this, but admittedly we tend to get comfortable with what on the surface appears to work just fine. We become willing to accept what is because we are uneasy about other options. We get in the way of process improvements, and as a result we stagnate; and when we stagnate we lose the desire to learn. When we stop learning, we miss out on those things that allow us to transform into the better men that we so desire to become. In short, change helps us grow.

True, change takes a bit of courage, an open mind, the willingness to step out into the unknown, and the ability to be resolute when you take a misstep, because you inevitably will. Change isn't easy, but neither is Freemasonry. Maybe that's why we refer to it as work.

Change is inevitable; and the only choice that we have is to be in charge of it or let it happen by default. Notice that one of the available choices is not "get in the way of it" – another lesson learned.

Fraternally,

RWB Jim V. Mendoza
 Deputy Grand Master



Legislative Update: The Interim means it's your turn

Now that the special sessions have finished in our legislature, things have quieted down in our state government. This is the period known as the Interim. Our Senators and Representatives are now at home, in their respective legislative Districts. In fact, it's quite possible that you haven't been thinking about your state government, since it's not making many headlines in the news right now.

However, my Brothers, this is the time that you can directly communicate with your state legislators! They are right in your back yard, and for most of you, much closer than they will be next January in Olympia. Many of them have District Offices that you can contact.

This is also the time that your elected officials obtain information from their constituents, then they take that information and use it to author bills and sponsor legislation during the next Legislative Session. Therefore, if you have any issues that are state-related, now is the time for you to make your concerns known, not during the sessions in January. The best example of this is for those Lodges that have a property tax exemption, or are considering applying for one. Check the proposed policy changes on the Department of Revenue website, and make an appointment with the staff of each of your legislators.

If you don't have any issues with state policy or regulations, you can still contact your legislators. Again, this is the time that they're in your area, so invite them to come to your Lodge for a talk, or just invite them to a local restaurant in your town or city for a talk over a light lunch. Let them know who we are, what our Fraternity does, and what an impact we make in the community. Building relationships with our elected officials will strengthen our visibility in our communities, provide mutual sources of useful information, and to help them keep us in mind when they author, or sponsor, legislation during session that can influence us, either to our detriment or to our benefit. That's right, we can influence our legislature to make decisions that will benefit not only our local communities, but the entire state. That's quite a positive difference that we can, and should, make in our state.

But that influence and change can only come with hard work and communication, and building relationships with our elected officials. And the time to do that is now, my Brothers.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to assist me in this endeavor, I can be reached at Liaison@freeMason.org. Together, we can make a difference in our government.

Fraternally,
 VWB Clayton La Vigne
 Legislative Liaison



The Business Side

Our District Deputies of the Grand Master are our eyes and ears throughout the Grand Jurisdiction. Through their monthly reports we become familiar with their District's Lodges, their status, their accomplishments and if any assistance may be necessary. A concern shared by a number of our Deputies is that there are too many Lodges and Temple Corporations that have not developed their own Long Range Plans.

To those Lodges and Temple Corporations that have an active Long Range Plan, Congratulations. To those Lodges and Temple Corporations that do not have a Long Range Plan, "Now is the time". Start considering Three, Five, Seven or 10 year goals and expectations and how you plan to achieve them. All the members of your Lodge are part owners of your business and each should be encouraged to address his concerns. This will be a group effort and there will be a need to review on a yearly basis for goals met and any necessary revisions. Each of your Lodge members will be directly involved, as this will continue to be an ongoing program.

One key element when establishing a Long Range Plan is evaluating the financial state of the Lodge. Over the years, our Lodges expenses have multiplied and some Lodge's incomes have not adjusted accordingly. These same Lodges are now financially burdened. This is one of the reasons why a Long Range Plan is imperative. Financial stability is crucial to all our Lodges' future. By creating a yearly budget, each member will be aware of all income and expenses, while noting whether any adjustments are necessary. When adjustments are required, fundraisers are a consideration. If the Brethren are unable or unwilling to support this type of activity, than an increase in dues may be the only alternative. Some Lodges have not increased their membership dues in many years. A Long Range Plan, with a yearly budget would have shown if this was a prudent decision or not.

Other elements to consider in your Long Range Plan might be: improvements in your Ritual and Floor Work, attendance, community involvement, family involvement, visitations and Masonic education. Remember to include for preservation: the Ancient Landmarks, Customs and Traditions of your Lodge, for future generations to enjoy. Each Lodge's Long Range Plan will vary as to the priorities of its membership. This will be a written document to assist the Brethren in guiding all aspects of their Lodge, to insure a Bright and Flourishing tomorrow.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding a Long Range Plan, contact the Grand Lodge Long Range Planning Committee.

The health and well being of your Lodges are important to us, "Let us help you".

Fraternally,

RWB Warren R. Schoeben
 Senior Grand Warden

Washington Masonic Library and Museum

The Washington Masonic Library and Museum is co-located with the Grand Lodge Offices, and Washington Masonic Charities at 4970 Bridgeport Way W, University Place, WA. The library has in its holdings nearly 32,000 books and articles. We are pleased to announce that our entire collection is now indexed online by Library World. The collection can be browsed and searched through the user interface on our website.

Go to the Library and Museum Website, <http://waMasonicglm.org> and click on "Library" at the top. On the Library page select "Search Library World Catalog". Any Mason within the Washington Jurisdiction can check out books, in person, as needed. Current hours are M,T and W from 9am to noon weekly. During that time the Library can be reached at: 253-625-7895 or by email at: waMasonicglm@gmail.com.

Apps are available for Android and iPhone or iPad by searching "library world" in the app store, download, and point it to "Washington Masonic Library and Museum".

LibraryWorld Search for iPhone

LibraryWorld Search for Android

LibraryWorld Search for iPad

URL:

<http://opac.libraryworld.com/opac/signin?libraryname=WASHINGTON%20Masonic%20LIBRARY%20AND%20MUSEUM>

WB Todd Johnstone, Chairman
 Masonic Library and Museum

WARREN R. SCHOEBEN
 SENIOR GRAND WARDEN
 BRIGHT WORKSHIPFUL BROTHER





The Longest Journey Begins with the First Step

It is now almost three months since the closing of the 2015 Annual Communication and the beginning of the “new year” for the Grand Lodge Team. The new Grand Line of Elected Grand Lodge Officers hit the ground running, almost literally. The Sunday following the Saturday night installation and celebration, the Grand Master, as has become traditional, held his first Executive Committee meeting and kicked off the new Masonic year. As the newest member of the team, the Junior Grand Warden (that would be me) was like a sponge, soaking up the information as fast as he could. It was a bit like trying to get a drink from a fire hose, but a surprising amount soaked in.

By virtue of election to the office, the Junior Grand Warden becomes a member of two important boards. First is the Washington Masonic Charities Board of Trustees, and the second is the Grand Lodge Building Association (analogous to a Temple Board). Since I have not been exposed to the inner workings of either organization prior to election, you would expect a very steep learning curve, however having previous experience serving on the board of a non-profit, and several years on a temple board, the outline is familiar. The details are of course different but the principles are the same. I am very pleased at the professionalism and talent of the members of both organizations. I expected no less, but it is pleasing to see my expectations affirmed.

Following a bit of summer doldrums, the pace of events is picking up dramatically. Travel about the state is ramping up with a vengeance, and I will have a renewed opportunity to gain an increased level of familiarity with each of our Districts and the unique circumstances and challenges in each.

The Grand Master’s theme of “Learn and Change” is not simply an empty slogan but a clear statement of intent. It is a call to action. As we progress through the year, your Grand Lodge Team will be carefully reviewing programs and administrative structures to see that we as a Fraternity are spending our time, effort, and financial resources wisely. Where programs or systems are inefficient or not achieving the intended goals, the Grand Master and your Grand Lodge Team are committed to changing what can and should be changed. Progress will be by one step at a time, Brothers, one step at a time. What is particularly important to note is that this is not a one-time commitment. The elected line is committed to carrying through these initiatives through subsequent years.

Finally, in response to the “second question” to the JGW candidates this past year I wrote in part:

“I plan to work to ensure the future of the Fraternity one step at a time, which is how every journey begins. As a first step I intend to bend every effort to seeing that the already extensive tools for communication we have at our disposal are used correctly and fully. To the extent humanly possible, I intend to involve Lodge leadership in creating and using a “feedback loop” that confirms that messages are sent and received between Lodges and Grand Lodge – in both directions. Finally my long term goal is to involve every brother at every level in the governance of our Fraternity within bounds of the F&AM of Washington.”

I am humbly grateful to the Brethren of this Jurisdiction who have afforded me this opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way to our great Fraternity. I am determined to do my level best to ensure you don’t regret that decision.

Faithfully & Fraternaly,

RWB James H. Kendall
Junior Grand Warden

JUNIOR Grand WARDEN
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL Brother
James H. Kendall



Masonic Hams of Washington



Please register your call

Call Letters
Lodge Name/Number, City
Your Name
Email Address

List will be part of Library and Museum Website
<http://www.wamasonicglm.org/masonic-hams.html>

Contact: wamasonicglm@gmail.com



David P. Owen



Change

Several years ago MWB Sat Tashiro's motto as Grand Master was "Change-The Key to Our Future". Brothers' times are changing and although we as a Fraternity are very slow to change, it is inevitable. I agree that change just to change is a waste of resources, but change that improves the value of our Fraternity is a worthy proposition. So what are some of the changes confronting today's Masonry?

Our Grand Lodge has embraced the use of an electronic voting device for legislation and voting for the various Officers and Trustees. This will reduce considerably the time it takes to vote. In fact, it is almost 100% more efficient than hand counting, and also accurately counts proxies. However, the system of voting does not need to change. The current process is still valid.

Plastic Dues Cards are another technological advancement that will decrease costs for Lodges and introduce real time interface with the Grand Lodge database system. Currently a Brother can have a valid Dues Card and be suspended. With a plastic Dues Card the same situation can occur and potentially last longer. The advantage of a plastic Dues Cards is the member status is in real time by checking the Database. With a paper Dues Card, the only way to determine the status is to contact Grand Lodge by phone or email and since most Lodges meet at night you would not have an answer in a timely manner.

Accountability to the federal government, the famous 990 is another form of change. Why do we have to do it? One simple answer is that the government told us to. It is even more important when you consider the tax implication it might have on the Fraternity if we are suspended as a 501(c)(10). Grand Lodge requires proof that this was completed by the Lodges and if a Lodge is a member of a Masonic Corporation. Accountability is truly a form of change.

Communicating Lodge business and the Lodge Secretary Interface (LSI) is change long overdue. This is a great Masonic multiplier. It improves efficiency and enables Lodges to keep the required information about their Lodge and members current. Why use paper? I realize we need to still maintain those personal touches with members without computers, but that is not the reason not to change.

So you ask when Change is not good. From a Masonic perspective, I would say that changing our ritual every year is less than efficient. I

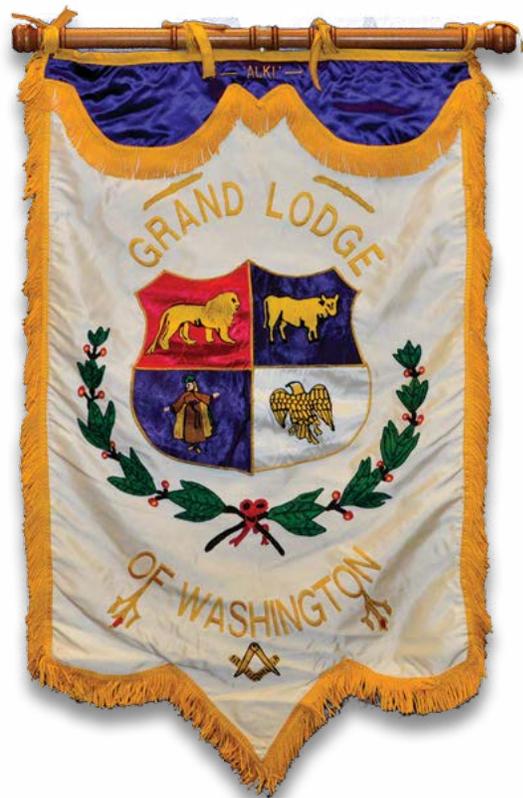
realize the intention, but these changes should be classified and done on a scheduled basis, say every third year. There is a considerable amount of waste, although we are getting better at ordering less.

There are other opportunities to implement change both at the Grand Lodge and Lodge levels. Find the good in Change and you will be amazed at how things work better. But remember change just to change is a waste.

Brothers, thanks for listening.

Fraternally,

RWB David P. Owen
 Grand Secretary



Courage is not a lack of Fear, But the ability to act while facing Fear

As I was driving into Port Angeles to get tires on my car it occurred to me just how much Masonry means to me. Arnie and I have put almost 100,000 miles on my little Red Car In two and a half years. I would guess that about 95% of that was traveling to Masonic Lodges throughout the State of Washington.

The leaves are turning and Fall is here. And just as the seasons change, so do the officers of our Lodges, because we have a chance to elect new ones to fill the chairs. Many times we just advance whoever is sitting in a chair to the next higher chair without giving much thought to how good or bad the Lodge has been while they were serving as officers of the Lodge.

District 11 is unique because we are small and much like a very big family. Like all families we have squabbles, and differences of opinion, which can cause us not to want to visit with the other family members. In fact we have Brothers who have become so offended by the actions of some of the other Brothers of their home Lodge, that they have quit going altogether. It makes me sad because I love Masonry so much. It has given me so much in the way of fellowship and friendship. I am glad, each day that I get up, to remember that I am a Master Mason. You too are entitled to this same joy.

Our family is small. We must stick together. SO-- if you are reading this message from my heart, and are sitting at home refusing to come to Lodge because there may be members, there who have made you to feel uncomfortable and unwelcome in your own home away from home, your home Lodge, then attend the annual election of officers of that Lodge and make your vote count in amending the direction that the Lodge is going. Just as in politics, when a group of people are unhappy with those in office, they go to the polls and vote them out of office. WE HAVE THE POWER OF THE BALLOT. I believe That WE ARE part of a Lodges problem if WE do not attend OUR HOME Lodge and vote OUR CONSCIENCE.

We have the power to change how OUR FAMILY BEHAVES by attending our Lodges. Make sure that we have a voice in how OUR HOME Lodge is run. Please reach out to your brother, seek his forgiveness, if you have somehow made him feel unwelcome. Check on those members of all of our Lodges, who live close to you, to see if they are well or if they need some kind of help with life, as it has been dealt to them.

This passion for Masonry goes all the way to the Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge Elected Officers. Just because a man occupies a chair does not guarantee that he should become the Master of a local Lodge, or the Grand Master of Grand Lodge for that matter.

I hope to see you in Lodge when I travel to it. This is the greatest Fraternity in the world and I am proud to be a Master Mason and so should you.

VWB Darel Maxfield
 Senior Grand Deacon



Why do we meet as Masons

What is the reason we meet? Charity? Ritual? To sharpen up our Skill of procedure and Lodge function? I don't think so. We meet because we need something that we do not get from our current society. We as Masons have, through our ritual and structure, Have created an artificial world of our own. Born out of the catalyzing events that is emblematical of the three stages of life itself. We have become actors in our production of FreeMasonry. We can only hope to replicate the type of bond that men have who pledge their lives to one another on the field of battle. Through our fraternal existence, we have created a societal structure within our four walls which teaches us how to work alongside one another and share in the good times and the bad as one band of Brothers. Charity and working with our community through the conduit of the Lodge is only a by-product of who we are as Masons. Most of us come to the door as charitable and moral individuals before ever being initiated. So why do we become FreeMasons. The reason is simple, it is the same reason that the 3M Corporation developed the post it note and the dry erase board. We are not beings with a great memory. We need to be constantly reminded that morality, friendship and charity among our Brothers is inspiration for nobler deeds, for higher thoughts, for greater achievements. We take for granted those relationships we have with Brothers twice our age and far removed from our usual spheres and associations. Yet the playing field is level within our structure. As we go back to our Lodges, amid the leaves as they begin to turn as fall approaches. Let us not forget the simple reason that we meet as Masons. We knocked at the door and this group in a strange and unfamiliar room situated due east and west, took us in and treated us as one of the members of this fraternal family. We were fed and clothed as a Mason by this family. Did I ask to become a Mason? Or did I need to become a Mason? My Brothers, we are the builders. We have been handed down the secrets to a happy life. The memory of which will last longer than the stone which lines our history. We can look back and say with pride " I helped build this". The money, investments buildings, and even our own Lodges serve only this end. We are friends and Brothers who have invented a clever excuse to meet. All the rest is only residue of this design. So, do not allow anything to stand in the way of the harmony within our Lodges. Meet because you need to see your Brothers. Talk, share a meal and learn from one another. Without this simple act. There is no foundation to support our Fraternity. If we lost it all tomorrow, in the wake of whatever horrific event is predicted to wipe clean our landscape through fire, flood, war, Emp blast or zombie apocalypse. We could walk through the rubble of what once was with no Banks, investment accounts, buildings or By laws. No aprons, jewels, bible or Charter. And no Grand Lodge.....

We would still be friends and Brothers when we met. We would still hold the secrets and know the word. Because our bond is forever, whatever may come our way. My Brothers, don't let things come between what really matters. Live and die as a Mason.....Let you're history, write our future.

VWB Capt' Thomas Bulson
 Deputy of the Grand Master
 District No.5



FreeMasonry is a Verb!

They say FreeMasonry is dying, that its glory days are long past. They say that people are just too busy for our gentle craft and worse yet, that the younger generations of today have no interest in becoming Masons. What if statements like these were really just excuses for the real problems that we face? What if the truth is that men today do come to our portals seeking the magic and mystery they hear about our Fraternity and instead what they find is a poorly attended, mismanaged organization that is neither welcoming nor fulfilling?

What men expect to happen when they first enter a Masonic temple is of course dependent on variables we have no control over. What men actually experience is a different story and not only is it something we control but it is our responsibility to control it! From the very first moment someone knocks on our door whether it be through an email, a phone call or a brief conversation in passing, it should be treated as a serious inquiry. Even if the person is never heard from again, it is our responsibility to create a serious dialogue about the craft. Why? Because if it is not serious to us, then how can we hope to bring in serious candidates from the outside world amidst its concerns?

Look around at the modern world. We have access to more types of entertainment and excitement today than could have been imagined even a few decades ago. Our progress with technology has brought us many useful things, but nothing can compare to the power of the internet. On an information and communications level, it has completely connected us across the globe to an extent never experienced before in human history. To take it a step further, many people today are equipped with smart phones that are arguably the most powerful tool man has ever carried around with him. With a few taps of the screen, you can literally see, learn and do anything, not to mention instantly communicate with countless people! If someone were so inclined, they could even (tongue in cheek) obtain the secrets of FreeMasonry!

The good news for FreeMasonry is that with all these advents of technology, mankind still grasps for something to hold on to in the darkness of his own existence. Indeed, with all our modern technology, we are still searching for meaning in our lives just as we did millennia ago. How we discover "meaning" today depends on a multitude of conditions but the energy we put into finding it constitutes our very lives. To put it simply, who we are is still very much defined by what we do.

Some men find themselves in sports or in raising a family or in their career. Others find themselves in their marriage, a hobby or wealth. For those men who can't find all that they are searching for in the material world, many are driven inward in search for something more meaningful called truth. In FreeMasonry we call this truth, "Light". When a Mason begins his search for Light, his progress is dependent on two factors. One is his direct access to men already in possession of it and two is his willingness to work for it (as the others did).

This willingness to work and the desire to improve one's work are what really distinguish a Master from an Apprentice and an Initiate from the profane. When we as Masons

actively take up this work, we make FreeMasonry a verb and continue the Great Work that truly brings glory to God and this ancient Fraternity.

While a smart phone is the most powerful tool that technology has brought us, one of the things that it cannot do for us is this work. The internet can bring candidates to the door of a Masonic Lodge, but it cannot and will not ever be able to initiate a man into true Masonic light. Only active FreeMasons can do that and as long as there are those willing to engage in this work, FreeMasonry will maintain its sacred position in the world.

Written By:
 Bro Kyle Grafstrom
 Senior Deacon, Verity Lodge, No. 59



Article was submitted through the courtesy of:

WB Zane McCune
 Grand Lecturer

On Relationships

"Don't let someone become a priority in your life, when you are just an option in theirs. Relationships are best when they are balanced."

Unknown

"Never explain yourself to anyone, because the person who likes you doesn't need it and the person who dislikes you won't believe it anyway"

Unknown

"Time is like a river You cannot touch the same water twice because the flow that has passed you by will never pass again. Enjoy every minute of your life"

Unknown

" To laugh often and Love much; to win the respect of intelligent persons and the affection of children; to earn the approbation of honest citizens and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to give of one's self; the leave the World a better place, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exultation; to know even one life that has breathe easier because you have lived... this is to have succeeded "

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Study as if you were going to live forever, live as if you were going to die tomorrow."

Maria Mitchell

"Personality can open doors, but only character can keep them open"

Elmer G. Letterman.

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Ellensburg Lodge, No. 39

Historical Society Display

Last November the Kittitas County Historical Society contacted our Lodge and asked if we would be willing to put together a little display of the history of the organization during the Ellensburg Fair and Rodeo. We agreed, of course, as we are proud of our history and felt that we had a lot of very important pieces of history that we would love to share with the public. You see our Lodge was here before Washington was a state and back when Ellensburg was spelled with and 'h'; Ellensburgh - like Pittsburgh.



When we arrived to see the display space, we found out that the little display was intended to be roughly 12' x 30'. Wow, what an opportunity! So we gathered artifacts and wrote little descriptive cards to explain what the items were, what they represented and how they fit in the history of Ellensburg, our Lodge and Freemasonry in general.



We had pieces from the 1880s right up to 2015. For example we had a picture of the installation of officers in 1965 and one for the 2015 installation. They look surprisingly similar, except for the men in the picture.

The opportunity to let the community know how Masonry has been and is part of their past and present history was awesome. We had roughly 2,500 visitors to the display. It was great exposure for the Lodge. The local newspaper also wrote a story about this display.

Patrick Stanton, Secretary
 Ellensburg Lodge, No. 39

(Story continued on Page 22)

**An open letter response to a previous article
 that was written by Bro Benjamin Witten.**

My Dear Brothers, July 3, 2015
 "You have been enjoined to remind a Brother in the most to friendly manner of his fault, to endeavor to aid his reformation, and to defend his character."

It was with great sadness that I read the letter from Brother Benjamin Witten, Senior Warden, Olympia Lodge No. 1 published in the Spring Issue of the Masonic Tribune (Volume XCV No. 3 – Page 10).

"However, other youth customs are less supported. For instance, many younger Brothers... are accepting of homosexuals... Masonic precepts prescribe that we follow our own moral compass, but they do not forbid Brothers from... being gay.... I ask that you be tolerant of another Brother's differing... views... Without tolerance, there can be no Brotherly love." (Paraphrased from the original text.)

We, as Masons, work under the Great Lights, following our Rule and Guide. We stand upon a strong moral foundation, given us in text by our Rule and Guide. There is no clearer message given from our Rule and Guide than that of the moral stance on Homosexuality. It is as impure as theft. The commission of theft is a moral choice made by the morally bankrupt. So too is Homosexuality. The saddest line quoted above is, "we follow our own moral compass". This single line sums up the fault of Brother Witten's misguided statements. No moral compass can exist if each individual may decide, on his own, what the moral right is. Every Brother promises that they accept our Rule and Guide as their moral compass, and that they will defend and protect the divine principles therein, as they foster and promote those same moral values throughout their life. To embrace "tolerance" is to sacrifice our moral fiber to placate the desires of others. We, as Masons, cannot waver in our support of the moral compass given to us by our Rule and Guide. To do so would negate any moral stance our Fraternity may claim.

I understand that Brother Witten meant well. He expresses the joy of the expanded membership in his Lodge. However, any alteration or modification of the established work is strictly forbidden for a reason. What price do we pay to expand the membership when to do so we must sacrifice the very moral foundation of our Fraternity? We become not Masons, but members of a morally bankrupt men's club.

We must maintain our moral standing, following our Rule and Guide, if we are to stand as Masons. Brother Witten, in the spirit of Brotherly Love, I, in the most kind manner, remind you of your obligation. Stand firm on your moral commitment to the Rule and Guide. I offer this letter as aid for your reformation. Please, read again those relevant passages from our Rule and Guide that state so emphatically the moral standards of the Supreme Architect of the Universe. Remember that we are to be examples of His moral compass. And, as such, are to only accept into our ranks those of like character. It was your promise as it was mine. And, if you need further aid in this matter, please contact me. I will gladly endeavor to further aid in your reformation.

Fraternally,

James Houlton, Worshipful Master
 Gavel Masonic Lodge, No. 48, F&AM



Membership Development Committee

Your Membership Development Committee has been very active during the summer months and is all geared up and ready for the ensuing Masonic Year. We hope to visit every District and as many of the Lodges in this Jurisdiction as possible before the next Grand Lodge. We feel that the message we have to pass out to the Brethren is not only very important but could prove to be the surviving factor for many Lodges. Too often we have seen new members come into our Fraternity and then disappear as quickly for what appears for us to no obvious reason. Was it a lack of interest or could it have been because we never told them enough about our Craft and what we would expect from them and what they should expect from us. In most cases it is the latter. Your committee has a solution to this problem. It is called the "Six Steps to Initiation."

This program informs the prospective member on the important points of becoming a member of a Lodge, such as what the Lodge expects of him and also explains to him what he should expect from the Lodge. The points covered in the presentation are simple points but are too often not discussed with the prospective member.

Your committee has now also come up with two more Power Point presentations for the Districts and Lodges. One is on what do we do after a member has been brought into the Craft in order to keep him and the second presentation is what are the important issues of maintaining membership in the Lodge. The second presentation is most important not just for Masons but also for the wives and family of Masons who could be greatly impacted by the loss of some of the privileges a member has so long as he remains in good standing within the Lodge. Both of these presentations are not new to Freemasonry. In fact, they came to us from the Grand Lodge of California as did the "Six Steps to Freemasonry". The reason we have these presentations is because one of the members on our committee, Worshipful Brother John Cover Spears brought them to us from California where he served on their Grand Lodge on Membership Development for a Five year period. We are most fortunate to have Bro. Spears on our committee and we are eager to spread the message to everyone on the values of the contents of the presentations.

From previous presentations last year on the "Six Steps" and the feed back that we have gathered it showed us that those who attended the presentations felt there were some valuable lessons to take to the Lodges and some who have implemented those lessons are telling us that it was indeed worth their while to listen to the presentations as they have a more eager and knowledgeable member in their Lodge.

All of the Deputies of the Grand Master have been contacted and asked to make inquires in the Lodges in their respective Districts as to who would like a presentation and to date we are receiving some invitations from the Lodges and Districts. However, if you are not aware of just what we are trying to present you can find a copy of the "Six Steps to Initiation" on

the Grand Lodge web site. Just go to the "members" section on the site. Open up "forms" then scroll down to "Education and Training" and it listed there all by itself. Have a look at what is there and if you find it interesting contact your Deputy of the Grand Master and let him know you are interested. It will be worth your while!

Bob McSween PGM, Chairman
 Membership Development Committee



The Grand Lodge of Washington Office Staff: From left – Kathleen Lau – Bookkeeper, Grand Lodge, Chantal Stevens – Event Registration & Information / Web Data Management, Lynne Blaylock – Membership / Supplies, Jane Davis – Membership / Executive Secretary and VWB Donald J. Campbell – Assistant Grand Secretary.

SUDOKU SYMBOL PUZZLE

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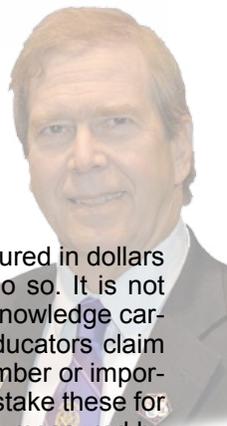
Sudoku, but like Masonry symbols (parts of the square) are substituted Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 grid contains every symbols shown below:



(Solution on page 13)

THE REAL VALUE OF AN EDUCATION

Presented at District Four, Scholarship Night
May 22, 2013



The real value of an education is not measured in dollars and cents, although statisticians try to do so. It is not measured by the quantity of information and knowledge carried around in one's head, although some educators claim so. And it is certainly not measured by the number or importance of titles you hold, although too many mistake these for value. No, the real measure of an education is measured by the development of your character, the durable moral qualities of an individual. That is what we learn in Masonry which is nothing more than education about ourselves and how we can be of service to others. But it is also true for any form of education, be it college or university, vocational or technical schools, self-learning and home schooling.

The market value of an education quite often, if not always, depends upon what you will do with it. It has been said by many authors that the more you learn the more valuable you become. It is like money in a bank. Yet it is what you do with that money and how you spend or invest it that controls the outcome of your career and your life. As Robert Joe Wallace has said in a recent Ezine article entitled The Value of an Education: "The total of your worth can only be revealed to the world by the use of your education. That use of your knowledge will become money as you reinvest it in society." We are all constantly learning things about the world and about particular jobs. If you bank that information, knowledge and know-how properly, it will generate interest and that compounded knowledge will keep growing for the rest of your life. Yet you must still reveal to the world what you have in order to be considered useful, valuable and need I say it, employable.

But what do you have to work with? Knowledge, technical skills, and physical abilities are all valuable commodities highly prized by employers and society in general. Yet moral integrity, character, the ability to get along with and to respect others are often more highly sought after attributes of a person than any knowledge or skill. Aside from your basic qualifications for a job, more and more human resources recruiters are asking interview questions designed to determine how this person will fit in with the rest of the workplace team. For one may be the brightest intellectual star in a particular field, the best performer in a decade, the second coming of Albert Einstein or Bill Gates, but be a bad actor and a despoiler of harmony in the workplace.

Mahatma Ghandi once said that the seven deadly sins of this world are: wealth without work; pleasure without conscience; knowledge without character; commerce without morality; science without humanity; worship without sacrifice and politics without principle. The real question to be asked about the value of an education is, with all your knowledge, skills and abilities, has it made you a better person?

We Masons espouse an ethic that our continuing education and research into the signs, symbols and synergy of Free-Masonry makes us better persons, better community lead-

ers and better enablers of charitable relief.

But you need not be a Mason to understand that you, with your growing knowledge of the world about you, for indeed education never stops, will sooner or later have to come to grips with your position in society as a person of upright character, as a concerned citizen in an increasingly complicated world, as a provider for yourself and your families to be, and as a patriot of your country.

How you do that will depend in part upon your upbringing, the quality of your education, the influences of your friends and peers, and the role models you choose to look up to and to learn from. As a Mason, I have found that a good start is a well-grounded belief in a Supreme Being to whom we can look up to in our hearts and minds in times of need and desperation and to whom we can give praise and glory in times of gladness and prosperity. A firm belief in a Divine Creator should also be your firm foundation and starting point – your polar star and compass of life.

After that, learn your chosen trade or work well, practice it until it gives you pleasure or at least does not annoy you on a daily basis, and continue to educate yourself after formal schooling has ended with material about yourself and about the world in which you live. Use books, articles, music, art, visual media and person to person conversations with friends and peers about important things and events. Please notice that I mentioned person to person contact and not social media contact only. Surely Facebook, Twitter, Yelp, Pinterest, Tumblr and others have their place, but the depth of the communication experience achieved by looking into the eyes of your communication partner and feeling their immediate presence as they speak or listen to you far exceeds that ephemeral presence offered by a smartphone, iPad or Skype connection.

As technology commentator Leo Gomes has said: "While modern technology has given people powerful new communication tools, it apparently has done nothing to alter the fact that most people have nothing useful to say." Just read any column of blogs.

With respect to continuing education and its importance to us, especially to our mental health, poet T.S. Eliot once said: "It is in fact a part of the function of education to help us escape, not from our own time, for we are bound by that, but from the intellectual and emotional limitations of our time." And Frederic Robertson correctly observed: "Instruction ends in the schoolroom, but education ends only with cessation of life".

You are on the cusp of your careers and have many choices to make. Most will turn out all right, but a few mistakes will be made along the way. Let me digress a moment to speak about mistakes. Albert Einstein, whom many initially thought to be an off base quack with his relativity theories, and who certainly turned out to be wrong about time travel, famously said: "Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new or different."

It is not always easy to admit we have made a mistake and far easier to blame others, to rationalize our errant behavior or to deny it. When we recognize we have done something wrong, some of us are critical of ourselves. If we are publicly corrected, reprimanded, downsized or embarrassed, most of us are hurt. However, when we are told we did something wrong or are caught doing something wrong, it need not diminish us. We need to have the self-confidence to admit the

(continued on page 16)



The MGM – Manlalakbay Na Gurong Mason (Traveling Master Masons)

There is a need for us to be creative to enjoy the benefits of our Fraternity. We need to design better ways to make our gatherings effective and enjoyable so we can experience



the real meaning of Freemasonry. To appreciate that feeling of togetherness is the key, it is something we can cherish through the years. The MGM Assembly accomplishes that each time it happens and encourages more to participate and join in its assemblies.

The MGM is an event participated by predominantly Filipino Master Masons. The occurrence of this assembly is about every two or three times a year in California. A Lodge in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of California hosts the event and is responsible for acquiring proper dispensation to organize the activity. The MGM is not an organization. It is an assembly of traveling Filipino Master Masons from different Jurisdictions. The main purpose is to promote acquaintances between Filipino Masons here and abroad and establish their Masonic network worldwide. The only criteria is that to attend the assembly one must be a Master Mason in good standing from a lawfully constituted Lodge from a recognized Masonic Jurisdiction. A current dues card is necessary to register in the event.

The activity is a three-day event. The first day takes care of the welcome fellowship and registration of the attendees, wherein attendees receive their packets that are inclusive of the official name badge for the assembly, a printed T-shirt designed specifically for the event and other informational materials. The second day is a Master Mason Degree conferral performed by a collaboration of participants coming from different parts of the world. The Degree work is in accordance with the work of the Jurisdictional scope of the location. After the Degree work and the Lodge is closed, a presentation of different excerpts of Masonic work are presented by Masons from other Jurisdictions. The third day is just to facilitate the farewell with a breakfast/brunch serve at the location of the assembly.

Announcing the request to host the event at an MGM assembly initializes the scheduled MGM event assembly. The assembly then is planned and organized by the host location and the details and platform information is provided at the MGM event preceding the scheduled assembly.

The event assembly is always very well attended. Nearly 400 Masons gather together to enjoy the camaraderie in these assemblies. A lot of acquaintances are developed and Masonic network is widened as a result of this event. The next MGM assembly will be February 12 -14, 2016 in San Diego, California it will be attended and participated by the Grand Lodge Officers of Grand Lodge of California together with visiting Masonic dignitaries from other Masonic Jurisdictions. The next assembly will be in Washington State hosted by Filipino Masons of the Pacific Northwest (Seattle and Vancouver, B.C.) and Calgary Cabletow Society. Stay tuned for more details of this event.

My most recent attendance in the MGM Assembly was quite memorable to myself. The esoteric Master Mason Degree Lecture was delivered by an excellent ritualist, MWB Ken Nagle, Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge of California. He also gave a very inspiring message to the Masons in attendance. He encouraged the Brethren to continue promoting these type assemblies which he termed and referred to as a hidden treasure. I was given the opportunity to deliver the Canadian work “Address to the

Brethren” and closed the event by delivering the Washington Masonic work “Closing Charge”. It was a very awesome experience.

MWB G. Santy Lascano
 Past Grand Master 2010 - 2011
 Grand Lodge of Washington

SUDOKU SYMBOL PUZZLE (Solution)

(Solution of puzzle from page 11)

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Why I am Running for Junior Grand Warden



Quality Leadership is the portal through which we achieve greatness; as individuals, as Brothers, and as a Fraternity. My Masonic vision is about making a difference in the Blue Lodges through engagement and fellowship with the Brethren to help them find their own engaged Masonic path. As I have traveled this road, I have been given the opportunity to participate in ever broadening relationships

through my leadership, mentoring of other Masons, especially younger Brothers, and my engagement with the philosophical aspects of the Craft that make us better men and Masons. My vision now is to move beyond my own Lodge and District, and bring these characteristics throughout the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Washington.

Turning my vision into a reality by helping our Brothers strengthen and grow their Lodges through the development of strong leadership skills, through effective Masonic mentoring, is a foundational pillar of why I want to become an officer in the Grand Line of our Fraternity. I want to be directly involved in facilitating the growth of all of our member Lodges, and most of all, I want to help Brothers acquire the vision, knowledge and skills they need to make their Lodge the best Lodge it can be, and then inspire them to find ways to make it even better. Furthermore, my personal desire has always been to learn and understand the many Masonic lessons from as many perspectives as possible, so that I am better enabled to help other Brothers make them their own. It just makes sense that we, as Brothers, make every effort to use the lessons of Masonry to provide wise Masonic counsel and mentoring on moral and ethical standards and practices and as an officer of the Grand Line, I would be able to build effective learning relationships with Lodge members throughout the Jurisdiction.

Because I believe that our strength is derived directly from the individual members of our Lodges, I have, in support of that belief, spent the last several years engaged in various Masonic education endeavors. Through this journey I have been gifted with the opportunity to work closely with different members of our craft and been provided ample opportunity to learn and grow myself. From this experience I have been left with the understanding that growing our Lodges requires that we improve our leadership development at all levels of the Fraternity.

While we have many strong leaders and growing programs, currently our programs are still focused on our existing leadership bench, which while important, ultimately will not prog-

ress us into the future. Many of today's Masons are leaders in their own right, and are ready, willing and able to be Lodge leaders in many capacities outside of the traditional line of officers. Therefore, to achieve true greatness as a Fraternity, we need to expand our focus and proactively reach out to individual Brothers in order to grow and enhance their personal leadership skills in the Fraternity. Ultimately this must be done by the discrete Lodges themselves and through my proactive Grand Lodge leadership, I would encourage and inspire Blue Lodge leadership to take an active role in involving everyone in their Lodge to achieve their individual vision, mission and goals; teaching and mentoring them to achieve effective Masonic leadership and management skills to be used throughout their lives.

This is not a simple task, nor should it be engaged upon lightly. I am talking about helping every member of our Fraternity recognize that they themselves are critical participants in the Masonic Fraternity and play an important leadership role in their Lodge. Using the platform of the Grand Lodge to inspire an environment of universal leadership imbued with the tenants of the Masonic institution, will inspire good men to greatness through high standards of morality and ethical Masonic behaviors.

It has been said that true leadership is not something you do, it's something you are and a responsibility that develops excellence in the organization. I love helping our Brothers acquire the necessary tools they need to build the best Masonic edifice they can, because I believe empowered individuals truly practice out of the Lodge those duties which they have been taught in it.

I look forward to exploring this with you in more detail as we travel this path into the future together.

Fraternally,

VWB Richard F. Beers II
PM Ashler Lodge No. 121
Bothell, Washington



Brethren:

Qur Grand Master has asked, why I want to be Junior Grand Warden? There is no simple answer that I can give.

The office of Junior Grand Warden is the first step of a journey to the office of Grand Master and assuming responsibility for our gentle craft for a year. That journey prepares the Brother for the responsibilities and duties incumbent on the Grand Master. So the question is really, why do you want to be Grand Master?

The responsibilities and obligations of the Grand Master are many. I would not seek the office if I believed I would not be able to fulfill them. I have carefully considered whether I have the character, personality, knowledge and background to be qualified to perform them. I believe that I have the necessary qualities to serve the Brothers of Washington as their Grand Master.

I have had the opportunity and honor of serving our Fraternity on the Committee for Jurisprudence for now the 13th

(continued in page 15)



(continued from page 14)

year. In this role, I have had the privilege to work closely with 13 distinguished Brothers while they served as our Grand Master. Each has had their ups and their downs. The experience has impressed on my mind a few important truths. Among these are:

- No man can do everything that needs to be done. Rather, the job of Grand Master is one where he provides direction to the Craft and, when needed, makes the tough decisions.
- The Grand Masters who have served the Craft well are those who recognize their individual limitations. They seek the wise counsel of Brothers who are knowledgeable, understand and recognize the impact of his decision on the Craft, both short-term and long-term. Then, consider all the opinions, weigh them, and the tough call.
- Those same Grand Masters have also recognized when a change of course is appropriate and have taken the appropriate actions. They are willing to admit that they made a mistake, learn from it, and move forward, without animosity toward the Brother or Brothers who express opposing opinions.
- Grand Masters have to listen to the Brothers. The only way to understand the State of the Craft is listen and learn.

Family and our personal relationship with the Supreme Architect of the Universe are our primary responsibilities. These are purely personal to each of us. We, as Masons, are uniquely qualified and need to provide leadership to our communities. We do this by providing incentives such as Bikes for Books, our Grand Lodge and individual Lodge scholarship programs, CHIPS, and other community facing activities. We need to do more. We cannot stay locked in our buildings, concerned only about ourselves. Our predecessors knew this. We need to relearn it.

Back to our Grand Master's question, I love Masonry. The values and precepts of our Fraternity are time tested and those that live by them are the best of our society. I also believe strongly in service. I have been a public servant for more than half of my life. I chose this career not for the salary, but rather to help, in a small part, our society. Also, a major consideration was the balance between work and family. Similarly, I have served my Lodge and the Grand Lodge in a variety of roles. I always sought ways to make the Fraternity better.

I am seeking the office of Junior Grand Warden because I have a strong desire to serve the Craft to the best of my abilities. I believe my knowledge and experience has prepared me for the duties and responsibilities of Grand Master. Lastly, I have the support of my family. Without this support, I would not consider taking on this important role in our Fraternity.

Thank you for considering me as a candidate for your next Junior Grand Warden.

Fraternally,

VWB Chris Coffman
 Jurisprudence Committee



Why would I want to put myself in a position to run for the position of Junior Grand Warden.



My Fraternity means a lot to me and it stands at a crossroads where the old way of doing things is not going to work anymore. The elected Grand Lodge line has, in the

past, been overseers of the Lodges and has not done much to really support them. This is now beginning to change and we are seeing Grand Lodge committees that are available to help the constituent Lodges modernize the way they do business and attract candidates. The working of the help system has to lay with the Committees as the Grand Lodge is a business that has to be run by those who are elected to govern. The Grand Master is responsible also for the makeup of our Committees and, to a great extent, governs their mission and evaluates their accomplishments. Committee structure needs much more work to meet the specific needs of the craft state wide and I believe I can be of great help in continuing to accomplish this effort.

I would like to make sure that the annual budget that is vetted and passed at the annual Grand Lodge is strictly adhered to. After all, this is what the craft has set forth as not as a guideline to expenditures but an order to be followed for these during the year. There needs to be in place a system whereby any unforeseen expenditure need is addressed by a committee created for that purpose to which is given the power to meet the need with funds controlled by the Grand Lodge. One person should never have the power to bypass the will of the Grand Lodge or to add indebtedness to it without prior consent. I would like to have the opportunity to explore this further with the inside authority it will take to decide how to deal with this issue.

Outreach Services, a part of our Washington Masonic Charities, has no method of taking care of a Mason or his widow on a long term basis who have no other avenue of meaningful existence. I would like to work to change this. Since we closed the MRC this has been a serious lacking of our duty to help one another. In many aspects of our charity we look outwards and I believe that we need to take care of our own first. This requires that I be in a position to help guide policy.

During this year I will be asking what each of you wants from your Grand Lodge so that I can be better enabled to accomplish those tasks which you feel are important to the future of your Grand Lodge. I believe that I can be that person who will help guide the future of your Grand Lodge. I also believe that the implementation of your ideas and having your support are paramount to the success of this effort.

Fraternally,

VWB Charles H Tupper
 Membership Development Committee



Why would you want to put yourself in a position to run for the position of Junior Grand Warden?

I listened to that little voice from within and made a decision to run for Junior Grand Warden in hopes of continuing what Past Grand Master Sam Roberts started last year. Our Grand Lodge Elected Officers started addressing the Fraternity's membership

problem and that caught my attention. Finally, someone was now addressing one of my two major concerns.

In my opinion our current Grand Lodge Elected Officers are headed in the right direction by addressing membership, the financial well-being of our Lodges and our Temple Boards. Grand Lodge Committees have developed programs and procedures that can be used by our Lodges to address these problems. The Fraternity is off to a good start and I want to ensure this continues into the future by serving as your next Junior Grand Warden. In my post military career, I've spent 20 plus years helping businesses succeed and grow. I believe I have the leadership and managerial skills to continue and expand upon what our Grand Lodge has started

As a candidate for Junior Grand Warden it is clear to me that there are two common factors affecting our Grand Jurisdiction. Local Lodges facing declining membership, decreasing revenues and increasing operational costs. We have local Temple Boards that are facing these same issues. I feel we need to continue taking measures that will increase our membership with good quality members. By increasing our membership we can then start to address the financial stability side of the Lodge. Membership and financial stability are inter woven.

That is one of my goals as Junior Grand Warden. We as Masons need to take this further by doing the following: We need to address retention and revitalization of our current membership. We need to educate and mentor our new Masons, just as most of us were mentored years ago. Mentoring is an ongoing process as we learn something new every day. Discover a candidate's desires; as some may be interested in Masonic history, ritual, or community involvement. By assisting new Masons in reaching their goals we will reduce NPD's and Demits. Retention and revitalization are crucial in order to grow our Fraternity.

This will not happen overnight but with a steadfast purpose we will be able to grow our membership and address the financial well-being of our Lodges. It will take the combined efforts of new and old members working towards common goals in order to stop our current decline in membership.

The future of our Fraternity is in our hands, and we have the ability plus the know how to turn things around.

Remember Vote for the Good of Masonry

Faternally,

VWB Charles Wood
 Finance Committee

(continued from page 12) **The Real Value of An Education**

error, take responsibility for it, and not shrug it off. We must learn how to forgive ourselves and to use that opportunity to learn and grow. Thereafter, we must be courageous about making changes in our behaviors, steeling ourselves to be resilient to the temptation to repeat the mistakes, and we must remember how to distinguish between right and wrong in a particular situation based on our prior incorrect choices. In Robert Frost's poem, *The Road Not taken*, the traveler may have made a mistake in taking the road less traveled, but by his choice he learned a lot more about himself and his career path than taking the road chosen by most everyone else.

In closing, let me return to the two authors I used in beginning this talk. Paraphrasing Robert Joe Wallace again: "You must become a salesperson of your talents to establish your place in society". Your real worth will always be known to you. But non-confident people will show only a small amount of what they are worth whereas confident people will show a lot more. Confident people are better salesmen of their worth and generally accomplish more by the use of their talents. The value of your education will be up to you. You decide where you want to be in society. Money doesn't really tell a person's real worth, but it does establish your standard of living and comfort level."

Add to that what Mahatma Ghandi told us: "If wealth is lost, nothing is lost; if health is lost, something is lost; if character is lost, everything is lost. The best of all things is character."

That is what we try to build in FreeMasonry and, if nothing else, what education should teach us. That is the real value of a true education.

For those who may not be familiar with Mr. Frost's poem, allow me to recite it.

The Road Not Taken
by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
 And sorry I could not travel both
 And be one traveler; long I stood
 And looked down one as far as I could
 To where it bent in the undergrowth;
 Then took the other, as just as fair,
 And having perhaps the better claim
 Because it was grassy and wanted wear,
 Though as for that the passing there
 Had worn them really about the same.
 And both that morning equally lay
 In leaves no step had trodden black.
 Oh, I marked the first one for another day!
 Yet knowing how way leads on to way
 I doubted if I should ever come back.
 I shall be telling this with a sigh
 Somewhere ages and ages hence:
 Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and I,
 I took the one less traveled by,
 And that has made all the difference.

Thank you and best wishes on your careers and lifestyles. And always remember what Mark Twain said: "Don't let schooling interfere with your education."

By Richard M. Kovak, M.A., J.D.





Why I want to be Grand Secretary?

However, I am Grand Secretary and feel it better to answer the question: Why I should remain Grand Secretary?

I am completing my 15th year as your Grand Secretary. The great thing about

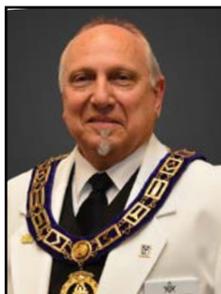
being Grand Secretary is working with all aspects of the Fraternity and the business community. I truly love my job as Grand Secretary and as you look back on the years, we've accomplished many things. I will not fill you with a list of achievements but I will say I am so thankful for the staff we've hired at the Grand Lodge office. We are at a place in our history where I feel the Grand Lodge staff has embraced many of the innovations introduced over the years. Technology is taking hold and Lodges and members are finding better ways to improve our Great Craft.

I do not want to lose sight of those Grand Lodge staff members who preceded us. Charlene, Maryann, Sanna and Marty all had important roles in the advancement of Masonry. We are now faced with a new set of challenges and the current Staff is prepared to meet the demand in an effort to make us better as an organization.

Our Office Manager-Lynne is already looking at how best to position the office and our resources to improve overall effectiveness. The other staff to include Jane, Kathleen and Chantal are all integral parts of the team creating the best solutions for our Grand Lodge, within their respective areas of responsibility.

So, to answer the question, Why Me? I believe it is not a question for me to ask but for you to ask yourself. Do I meet your expectations as Grand Secretary? There is ongoing efficiency to be gained and I will continue to work to improve the functions and effectiveness of our Grand Lodge. These actions will be highlighted in my Annual Report to the Brethren in June. I will continue to do my best for the Craft. Thank you for the trust and confidence.

RWB David P. Owen
 Grand Secretary



Question: Why do you want to be the Grand Secretary?

The Question of, "Why do you want to be the Grand Secretary?" will, out of necessity, require the over use of the words "I" and "my".

What an honor it has been to serve Masonry. Every appointed and every elected office, from Lodge Steward to Grand Master of this Jurisdiction, has been great beyond words. And in every position I always learn a few things along the way. The most important is (of course) to be a Mason Every Day and in Every Way.

I have learned that in every job one should be a custodian and a steward. Anything given to your care should be returned in as good or better condition than when you received it, treat everything as if it were your own and that it needs to last forever.

I have also learned that it is not the man that should seek the job, but the reverse. It is the job and the Brethren that will seek out the man. And if a job were to be offered and accepted, then the main goals of any position or task are to do your best, remember who you work for and to have fun. It takes a balance of these three to be effective and successful. Do this and new opportunities will seek you out.

I even learned some important Masonic lessons as a Program Manager at Boeing. Be patient. It takes time to turn out a quality product that meets the needs the first time. It takes a team. Whether leader or member, everyone has a part to play and on occasion the roles change. Be open minded. There can be more than one way to get the job done and another's idea can save time, energy and resources. Manage your resources. It can be money, time, people, tools or parts, but there will always be something in short supply. Set priorities. Concentrate on those activities that have the most benefit for the most people.

It has been my pleasure to continue the trend of making Grand Lodges a resource for the Blue Lodges and not the other way round. Over the last several years, Grand Masters have lead and supported the elected officers to re-focus Grand Lodge efforts to develop and provide new tools, training and support systems for the Lodges and Deputies; a trend that I would help to continue.

In addition to being a custodian and a steward as a Grand Lodge Officer, it is my intention to add 'servant' in the form of customer support as my motivation. I believe that the skills I have learned as a program manager, a Lodge Secretary and as an elected Grand Lodge Officer have prepared me to be an effective Grand Secretary.

MWB Sam Roberts, PGM

Famous Mason – who am I?

He is famous Mason. He was born January 20, 1930, in a hospital straddling the line between Glen Ridge and Montclair, New Jersey. His birth certificate lists Glen Ridge as his birthplace.

He is a Freemason, a member of Montclair Lodge No. 144 of New Jersey and Clear Lake Lodge No. 1417 of Texas. Also, he is a Scottish Rite Mason 33rd Degree and a Shriner.

He is of Scottish, Swedish, and German ancestry.

He has received the 2003 Humanitarian Award from Variety, the Children's Charity, which, according to the organization, "is given to an individual who has shown unusual understanding, empathy, and devotion to mankind".

He has played himself in the following films and TV: The Boy in the Plastic Bubble, The Simpsons (voice), Space Ghost Coast to Coast, Disney's Recess, Da Ali G Show, Numb3rs, In the Shadow of the Moon, Fly Me to the Moon, 30 Rock, Futurama (voice), The Big Bang Theory, and Mass Effect.

For contributions to the television industry, he was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at Hollywood and Vine. He was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame in 2007 and into the Scandinavian-American Hall of Fame.

In 1994, he was anonymously honored on a 29¢ stamp.

After graduating from Montclair High School in 1947, he turned down a full scholarship offer from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and went to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. There he graduated third in his class in 1951, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force and served as a jet fighter pilot during the Korean War. He flew 66 combat missions in F-86 Sabres and shot down two Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-15 aircraft. The June 8, 1953, issue of Life magazine featured gun camera photos taken by him of one of the Soviet pilots ejecting from the damaged aircraft.

After the war, he was assigned as an aerial gunnery instructor at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, and next was an aide to the dean of faculty at the United States Air Force Academy, which had recently begun operations in 1955. He flew F-100 Super Sabres as a flight commander at Bitburg Air Base, West Germany, in the 22nd Fighter Squadron.

In 1963 he earned a Doctor of Science Degree in from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His graduate thesis was "Line-of-sight guidance techniques for manned orbital rendezvous", the dedication of which read, "In the hopes that this work may in some way contribute to their exploration of space, this is dedicated to the crew members of this country's present and future manned space programs. If only I could join them in their exciting endeavors!" On completion of his doctorate, he was assigned to the Gemini Target Office of the Air Force Space Systems Division in Los Angeles before his selection as an astronaut. His initial application to join the astronaut corps was rejected on the basis of never having been a test pilot; that prerequisite was lifted when he re-applied and was accepted into the third astronaut class.

He has received numerous military honors: Air Force Distinguished Service Medal with cluster, Legion of Merit, Disting-

uished Flying Cross with cluster, Air Medal with two clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Outstanding Unit Award, Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction, NASA Distinguished Service Medal, NASA Exceptional Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal with one star, Korean Service Medal with two stars, Air Force Longevity Service Award with four clusters, Presidential Unit Citation (Korea), United Nations Korea Medal, Korean War Service Medal, and Air Force Master Astronaut badge.

On July 21, 1969, he became the second astronaut to walk on the Moon, keeping his record total EVA time until that was surpassed on Apollo 14. His first words on the Moon were "Beautiful view. Magnificent desolation." He even took a Masonic flag to the moon in 1969.

He has a nickname, which originated in childhood: the younger of his two elder sisters mispronounced "brother" as "buzzer", and this was shortened to Buzz. He made it his legal first name in 1988.



The Man:
 Edwin Eugene "Buzz" Aldrin Jr.
 It is an honor to call him my
 Brother!

Composed by W. Dean Markley, Masonic Tribune
 Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org>

ARLINGTON MASONIC LODGE #129

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO

"PAST MASTER'S NIGHT"

CELEBRATING ARLINGTON'S 112 PAST MASTERS

MWB DONALD G. MUNKS WILL BE JOINING US TO HONOR OUR PAST MASTERS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28th 2015

DINNER @ 6:30 PM STATED @ 7:30 PM

PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 23rd

Past Master's Night-2012-Arlington Masonic Lodge #129

RSVP to SW Bro. Kent Brown
 Cell (425) 387-2090
unkykent@live.com

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL SO BRING YOUR LADIES!!!

Zarthan Lodge No.148 "Pokémon Night"

Residing in the small town of Leavenworth, WA, are the Masons of Zarthan Lodge No.148. With a town population of only 2000 residents they celebrated the centennial of their Lodge building last year with a renewed passion for service.

Unveiling a new website (www.leavenworthMasons.org) as well as hosting an ice cream social for the community in the Lodge building was just the beginning of their efforts to continue to be more and more recognized in the community.

Continuing the tradition of Bikes-for-Books, youth sports sponsorships, Distinguished Youth Women scholarships, and being a major contributor to the annual Cascade Medical Center Foundation golf classic fundraiser event the Masons of Zarthan Lodge, No.148 continue their community outreach in many ways.

With the limited population and lack of local DeMolay Chapter the Leavenworth Masons, and their close relationship with the Cascade School District, found an opportunity to develop a youth program that would open the Lodge to children and parents on a monthly basis.

It was discovered that the popular trading card game called Pokémon was recently banned from the local elementary school due to classroom distraction, playground disputes



and even the stealing of cards by students from other students' backpacks.

"When the school administration decided to ban all play of the Pokémon trading card game we saw an opportunity to convey one of our main lessons of morality," states Aaron Simon, Junior Warden. "We obtained approval and the school District distributed flyers to all 300 students inviting kids and parents to a free "Pokémon Night" at our Lodge."

Just like any social event, the Lodge provided snacks and refreshments. But, in order to achieve their goal of conveying the message morality as well as brotherly love, relief and truth the establishment of seven rules were put into place. Spelling Pokémon the rules were: 1) Play Fair, 2) One-to-One Card Trading, 3) Keep Calm, 4) Enjoy Yourself, 5) Make New Friends, 6) Original Cards Only, 7) Never Cheat. When each child agreed to the rules they were rewarded with free Pokémon cards.

The Leavenworth Masons were happy with the evening attendance of 35 students and over 60 parents!

"The kids got to play the trading card game while the parents were able to get a glimpse of the Lodge room," says Master Ken Kozlowski. "We were able to socialize with the parents and answer questions. It was a really nice community event."

Attendees included the Principal of the school and some teachers. Parents entered their names and email addresses into a drawing for door prizes which were held every 15 minutes. The email addresses were then used to send out communication to the parents thanking them for their attendance and gaining feedback on what other community events they would like to see hosted by the Masons.

Junior Warden Aaron Simon jokes, "After holding three Pokémon Nights we are making an impression on the parents and they see that the Lodge is not as much of a mystery as they had always expected it to be. But...we still don't let the kids know what is behind the secret door to the left of the big wooden chair the West."

Without DeMolay, the Leavenworth Masons will substitute by continuing to hold community events inviting the area youth and parents to the Lodge as long as attendance continues to remain steady and parents stay engaged. Whether it is a traditional ice cream social or untraditional evening of trading Pokémon cards, they will use any opportunity to be involved in the community and display to everyone what Masonry is all about.

Leavenworth Masons
 Zarthan Lodge No.148

Submitted by Aaron Simon, Junior Warden

WALTER F. MEIER LODGE OF RESEARCH, NO. 281



MASONIC RUMMAGE SALE

Lots of people, groups and organizations, collect many items over time and eventually reach a time when they no longer have a use for them and therefore need to dispose of them. This is equally true of Freemasons and related organizations. Just look at the typical home bookshelves and cupboards, and lodge lockers.

This transfer of ownership is normally accomplished in a number of ways including, giving to charitable organizations or, for money making efforts, through Garage Sales and Rummage Sales.

With this in mind, Walter F. Meier Lodge of Research, No. 281 is planning a

MASONIC RUMMAGE SALE
on Sunday, November 8th,
at Seattle Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 1207 N 152nd Street,
Shoreline, Washington 98103.

In order to make sure that this event will be successfully supported, reservations for Tables are required by **October 19th**. In the event that there is insufficient interest/support (that is table rentals) the event would be cancelled.

Note that this sale is for **Masonic or Masonic related items ONLY**.

The event is open to all, and any Mason or masonic group/lodge and appendant body such as Eastern Star, Jobs Daughters, Rainbow Girls and DeMolay can rent a table. **Tables are available for rent for Lodges, groups and individuals at \$100 each for 8 foot and \$80 for 6 foot.**

All earnings from artifact sale belong to table renter.

If interested please contact Tom Lamb, WM, nalamb@umich.edu or 425 742 2348



Washington Masonic Charities Update

Washington Masonic Charities is working toward establishing a vision for the future. Our Board of Trustees, committee volunteers, and staff are exploring program and service opportunities that will have meaningful impact throughout the Jurisdiction for years to come, so this is a very exciting time!

A big change we are going through is to organizing our outreach effort to put the “out” in outreach. District Deputies, Masters, and Secretaries should be on the lookout for our Masonic Outreach Services staff to be making connections with Lodges throughout Washington. Washington Masonic Charities is here, in large part, to serve the needs of the Masonic family – we are here to provide information, care and support for our senior Brethren and widows. We are able to help partner with Lodges when a need arises, so please don’t hesitate to give us a call at 1 (844) 288-3531 to explore ways we can be of assistance.

FreeMasonry is a big idea living in difficult times. Our goal with Washington Masonic Charities is to find ways to assist Lodges that are struggling with adapting to changing social and economic conditions by partnering with and helping them with their charitable efforts.

One interesting trend is that there are quite a few young men becoming Masons. As I talk to these young men and ask them why they became a Mason, they consistently say, “to give back to the community; because Masons do good things.”

Washington Masonic Charities helps Masons fulfil this charitable intention through our programs and services. Our mission is “to invest in youth and education, to provide comfort and support for seniors and those in need, and to preserve and share the Masonic heritage of Washington.”

There are several ways that Washington Masonic Charities, Lodges, and individual Masons can work together to elevate Charity as our most important Virtue. Here are just a few of the ways.

- WA Masonic Charities helps Lodges improve their local charitable efforts.

1. WA Masonic Charities can provide information and training for Lodges on planning and organizing local philanthropic efforts.
2. Local Lodges and WA Masonic Charities can partner on charitable projects through Fiscal Sponsorship agreements.

- WA Masonic Charities helps seniors and those in need to be independent and have dignity.

1. Masons can volunteer to assist WA Masonic Charities Masonic Outreach Services program by acting as a Lodge liaison to help be a bridge of information between our program staff and senior Brethren and widows who need assistance to stay in their home or to make the transition to skilled care. We are truly looking for individuals in each Lodge who will help us with this.

- WA Masonic Charities improves the lives of children and young adults.

1. Masons can volunteer with the WA Safety Identification Program (formerly CHIPS) and help us to put on events that help parents keep kids safe.
2. Masons can volunteer to help connect local schools and Districts with the Model Student Assistance (a response to intervention support program that aids struggling students to improve success and to stay in school).
3. Masons can volunteer to help connect with local high schools to make sure that Juniors and Seniors are aware of the WA Masonic Charities Scholarship program.

- WA Masonic Charities shares important history with both Masons and the public.

1. Masons can volunteer to help keep the WA Masonic Library & Museum open and available for people to visit.
2. Masons can volunteer to work with the artifacts, archives, and book collections to help assure that they are available for education purposes.

Please keep us in mind when you know of someone in need, have charitable work that you need assistance with, want to get involved as a volunteer, or are interested in supporting our efforts. We will be glad to talk with you any time. I can always be reached at ken@wa-Masoniccharities.org. (253) 442-2525.



Fraternally,
Bro. Ken Gibson
Executive Director



2015 OpenAir Degree - Granite Falls, Washington

Masonic Youth Groups are the Future of our Fraternity



Over the years as a Mason, I have heard these words uttered by almost everyone one of our Grand Masters, as well as quite a few members of our Fraternity. And I must totally agree with them! In a number of years, we too will pass to the supreme Lodge above, where the Great Architect of the Universe forever presides. We will no longer be able to support our Lodges, and it will fall to other

hands to carry on our work. Hence, the absolute truth of this statement.

This last June, I started another chapter in my Masonic journey, becoming an officer of the Washington Job's Daughters Grand Guardian Council. My reasons are numerous, but I will gladly take on these additional duties to assist this worthy Masonic family organization. Once I started, I did have to wonder where our Masons were, as it appears that getting Masons to help with the local Jobie Bethels is getting tougher and tougher. Moreover, the Jobie leadership, as well as the girls themselves, are asking the question, "If we are the future of the Masons, what are they doing to help make and support the future." Unfortunately, I can't give them a good answer to this question, as I don't think there is a good answer.

I could certainly tell them about our aging membership, how so many only come to the Lodge meetings, and even then, not as regularly as we would like. I could tell them about the financial difficulties that many of the Lodges are facing, but the Jobies are facing many of the same financial difficulties in keeping their Bethels functioning, so that should be no good answer. I could also relate that many of our older members are feeling the pinch of dealing with fixed incomes and increasing inflation, but that still wouldn't answer the question, "Where are the Masons?"

Brothers, while the girls would like your financial support, I think what they would like even more is your moral support, your attendance at their meetings, your guidance in their activities, and your presence at their events. They are looking to learn from you, lessons that they will take with them through their lives, lessons that will help them to succeed. Again, unfortunately, we will give them lessons, though I suspect they will not be the ones that we want to be remembered for. They will learn that many Masons only voice the words at the top of this article, they don't really take them to heart and give not their dollars, but their time.

I am going to issue a challenge to the Brethren of this Jurisdiction! I would challenge each of you to attend a youth meeting in your area in the month of October or November. I would challenge each of the Masters of a Lodge that supports one of the youth groups, to attend one of their meetings, in-mass, and show them that they are a part of the Masonic family. I would challenge each of you, to give something charitable to our future, either by your dollars, or by your attendance, or your time to help with other activities. And if there is no youth group in your area, donate some money to the state youth organization, so that they can help support the work that is already being done.

I'm a firm believer that our Masonic Youth Groups are indeed, the future of our Fraternity! Are you a true believer, or are you just mouthing the words, because they sound good?

Fraternally,
MWB Bruce Vesper, PGM

Job's Daughters Membership

Requirements have Changed!

Job's Daughters International, one of the premier youth organizations in the world, and one that has historically based its membership on Masonic affiliation, has once again made history. Since its inception in 1920, Job's Daughters membership required a "relationship" to a Master Mason. Originally, it required a close blood relative, but through the years, in an effort to allow access to this organization by more young ladies, the requirement was expanded to include relatives by marriage, law, adoption, and other means. The result was girls asserting eligibility based on tenuous relations—some generations old without any real "relationship" as the Mason was often deceased or not even known to the applicant.

At the most recent Supreme Session of Job's Daughters International, after much debate and struggle, an amendment to the By-Laws passed that now allows, "after a diligent and exhaustive search" for a Masonic relative, petitioners to be "sponsored" by a Master Mason AND a Majority Member of Job's Daughters, who is neither the Bethel Guardian nor Associate Bethel Guardian. This is a huge change that has sweeping ramifications. Hopefully, this will allow more girls to join, and gain the benefit of being part of the Masonic family.

So, how do our Masons fit into the picture now? Well, as a Master Mason, you now have the unique opportunity to "sponsor" a deserving young lady in her membership! YOU are much more likely to have developed a relationship with this young lady—perhaps she is a neighbor or the daughter of a family friend, or a young lady you've met through your work or other volunteer opportunities. The reality is that she is now eligible to join a group dedicated to the ideals held by Master Masons throughout the world, and you can play a key role in that membership! You can cultivate that "Masonic relationship"! And, your Masonic heritage passed down through the ages—regardless of whether or not you have a daughter, granddaughter, niece or other relative.

The other advantage to this change is the ability to qualify for more grants and other scholarships available to non-profit youth organizations. Although Job's Daughters is a non-profit 501(3)(c), its past "exclusive" membership has precluded its ability to obtain some public grants. That will no longer be the case, and could significantly help the Daughters be able to participate in more activities because these activities can be subsidized with public funding.

Who do you know that would make a great Job's Daughter? Contact a Bethel in your area, or the Grand Guardian, Theresa Buchner or Associate Grand Guardian, VWB Jerry Buchner at (425) 996-8714, for more information.

Theresa Buchner
Grand Guardian
Washington IOJD



Regalia on display at fairgrounds

By Mike Johnston, Senior Writer

Those who stepped into the Heritage Center at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds this Labor Day weekend were immersed into the past rites and regalia of two local fraternal groups.

The center underneath the red covered grandstands has a different historical display each year. This year it is filled with artifacts once more widely used by the FreeMasons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

The FreeMasons were established in Ellensburg in 1882, according to local FreeMason member Shawn Clerf, and the Odd Fellows began their local Lodge in 1861, said IOOF member Tom Duke. The IOOF established its Brick Road cemetery in 1863.

Volunteers from the local FreeMason and IOOF groups were on hand at the center to answer questions, and give visitors a tour of the displays.

At the Heritage Center visitors viewed displays of ornate, colorful robes, a variety of helmets and what look like ancient head wear from the Far East and Middle East.

There were also swords, spears, daggers and other items used for props in symbolic biblical enactments. There's even the head of Goliath, used as a prop in the account of David challenging the giant.

In addition, there are historic photos of Lodge members taking part in community activities, and there are symbolic banners, flags and old-time documents reflecting each groups' founding roots.

There's also a permanent display of historical photos from Kittitas County, featuring Native Americans, early settlers and the rise of agriculture and enterprises connected to natural resources.

Port Orchard Lodge No. 98 Hosts First Annual Pirate Degree

By Br. Marcy "Tig" Dupre

The "Merry Widow" set sail on August 22nd, with Letters of Marque from the Crown, to wage a war of piracy on the high seas against enemies of the realm. The Cap'n and crew—"Sons of the Widow" were a rascally, scurvy, and above all lively bunch, and welcomed 26 new members into their Band of Brothers of the Sea.

Among the "Beggars" who were made "Buccaneers" were MWB Sam Roberts, RWB Warren Schoeben, RWB Jim Kendall, VWB Brian Gross, VWB Kelly Combs, VWB Orton Krueger, VWB Mike Pursey, VWB Chuck Compton, and VWB Brian Bigelow.

The event was further enhanced with activities for the "Sea Hags," hosted by Tammy Ryder. Tina Nau had a fortune-telling table, and a wine and cheese tasting display livened things up a bit.

After the Merry Widow returned to port, there was much feasting and fellowship in the Commons Hall below decks, along with plenty of grog (non-alcoholic) and ARRRGGH!

As the Sky Pilot exclaimed when we returned safely to port, "Arrrrr-MEN!"



Figure 3: The Crew of the Merry Widow Photo by Elmer Arter



Figure 1: The Binnacle for the Pirate Degree Photo by Dan Voorhees



Figure 2: RWB Warren Schoeben receives the Pirate Degree Photo by Elmer Arter



Figure 4: The Sea Hags discuss what all the noise upstairs is about Photo by Elmer Arter



Figure 5: Madame Nau gives MWB Sam Roberts good news for the future Photo by Darrel Womack

The Plumbline

Something that we should all keep in front of us as we travel through life is the meaning of the jewels at our elected officer's stations. They each have an important message for us as men and as Masons. The following are some thoughts on the first of these, the Jewel of the Junior Warden.

The Plumb

The Plumb is an instrument used by Operative Masons to erect perpendicular lines, and adopted in Speculative Freemasonry as one of the working tools of a Fellow Craft. It is a symbol of rectitude of conduct and inculcates that integrity of life and an undeviating course of moral uprightness which alone can distinguish the good and just man.

The Plumb always points to the center of the earth and never deviates from that point. If a man follows the dictates of this instrument he will never deviate from what is proper and true. This man shows rectitude of conduct, uprightness, equity, justice, and truth. The man who lives by the Plumb also has in his character kindness and liberality, temperance, moderation, wisdom, and he is tenacious of purpose.

In Lodges where Masonic Trials are allowed the Junior Warden, holder of the plumb, is the prosecuting attorney as it is supposed that his grasp of the meaning of the plumb will guide him in this endeavor.

Our Degrees each have a set of scriptures from the Holy Bible as circumambulations. One deals with charity, one with immortality, and one is a warning. It is probably this way as it was probably felt that a warning of what would happen to a man should he deviate from the path of truth and good should follow a message of brotherhood. This warning comes from the book of Amos.

Amos was a herdsman until God decided that he was good prophet material and sent him to prophecy in the seat of government. In the book of Amos God made seven dire promises and Amos talked him into retracting four of these but three were to be, and actually were, carried out. The Circumambulation comes during the discourse on these punishments. It is, in fact, is one of those that were carried out

(KJV Amos 7:7-8) Thus He showed me; and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand. And the Lord said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: and I will not again pass by them anymore.

What this means is that God is telling Amos that he is going to destroy the Monarchy and the buildings of the kingdom of Israel and spread the Israelite people across the face of the earth. He will not be among them any more.

The Junior Warden is responsible for the Craft when not at work and it is his province to ensure that the craft practice those virtues outside the Lodge that they are required to practice in it. In addition it is his responsibility to see that health of the Craft is looked after so that it will not interfere with the important work of becoming better men. At the same time they must, as must we all, work on, and help others to work on, those virtues which the plumb represents as we all know that we are but imperfect ashlar and that time, hard work, and perseverance will help us each to sand down the rough surface of each stone.

Bro. Cecil Walker Honored by Genesis Lodge, No 305

Charter and 50 year member of Genesis Lodge No. 305, Bro. Cecil Walker was honored by the Brethren of the Lodge at their June Stated Meeting for his service as a U. S. Marine veteran of the Iwo Jima Campaign during World War II. The members of Genesis Lodge presented him with a beautiful etched glass depiction of the epic flag raising on Iwo Jima by Five Marines and a Navy Corpsman, with the words "The solemn pride that must be yours to have made so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom," engraved below the flag raising scene. The project was commissioned by Bro. Brian Bay and created by Ms. Kathy Weeks, who along with her husband Mike were in attendance for the presentation.



WBro Tim Wiest conducted Bro. Cecil to a chair in the Lodge room and asked him to tell of his experience as a young Marine. Born in 1927 in Dayton, WA and attending school in Waitsburg he had an older brother and cousins who were Marines and in 1943 he decided (at 16 years old) to enlist. At that time they needed recruits and did not question his age. After boot training he was sent to Hawaii where the 5th Marine Division was being formed. From there he was sent to New Caledonia in preparation for the invasion of Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. Coming ashore in one of the first Higgins boats to land on the black, volcanic sand, Cecil told of how difficult it was to get across the beach. In his own words, "My Gunnery Sergeant was God, he would say go and we went. They tried to keep us in a squad, but that didn't last too long since so many men were wounded or killed." Seriously injured by an exploding artillery round he was evacuated first to Guam and then to Balboa Naval Hospital and eventually to a rehabilitation hospital in Corona, CA. Having served 3 years, Cecil was discharged in 1946, all by the time he was 19 years old.

Asked about how he became a Mason Bro. Walker said that his father-in-law, Bernard Taylor was a Past Master of Monroe Lodge and that there were men who worked with his father who were Masons. He thought that there was a difference in the way those men acted toward other people. He saw the Square and Compass and asked about it. They started explaining to him about Masonry. His friend VWB Ben Danner gave him a petition and he joined Edmonds Lodge 165. He is also a Charter member of Genesis Lodge, No. 305.

VWB Steve Pennington
 Genesis Lodge, No. 305



Directory Listing of Services

The listing below is a Directory Service to provide the Brethren with listings of Masons practitioners and service providers for different line of work and disciplines. This is in keeping with the Masonic tradition of promoting each others welfare and together be able to rejoice in each other's prosperity. This publication will continue to build-up this listing until we can establish a better and well organized format to advertise the ad placements. For now the following directory is arranged by order that the placements have been received.

Directory Listing - May 2015

Ultimate Health For Dogs

Liquid Dog Vitamins Formula

"Protect Your Dog Naturally..."

Order Directly Online at:

www.UltimateHealthForDogs.com

360.264.7526

John@UltimateHealthForDogs.com

Estate Planning and Charitable Giving

Frank Selden Law, PS

Bellevue, WA * 425.990.1021

frank@frankseldenlaw.com

www.frankseldenlaw.com

Masonic Aprons - Regalia - Embroidery

Masonic Graphics Designs and Projects

GSL Graphics, LLC - G. Santy Lascano, Proprietor

123 Alder Street, Everett WA 98303

Tel. 425.200.0594 or 425.350.5371

Email - g.santy@comcast.net



Internet Access, Domain Hosting, Website hosting

Telebyte NW Internet Services

PO Box 3162, Silverdale WA 98383

Tel. 360-613-5220

Email - info@telebyte.com

Adamson and Associates

Planning and Management Solutions

Local Government management studies

Strategic Planning, land use planning

John R. Adamson, President

Phone 253-848-0977

Ashlar Realty

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