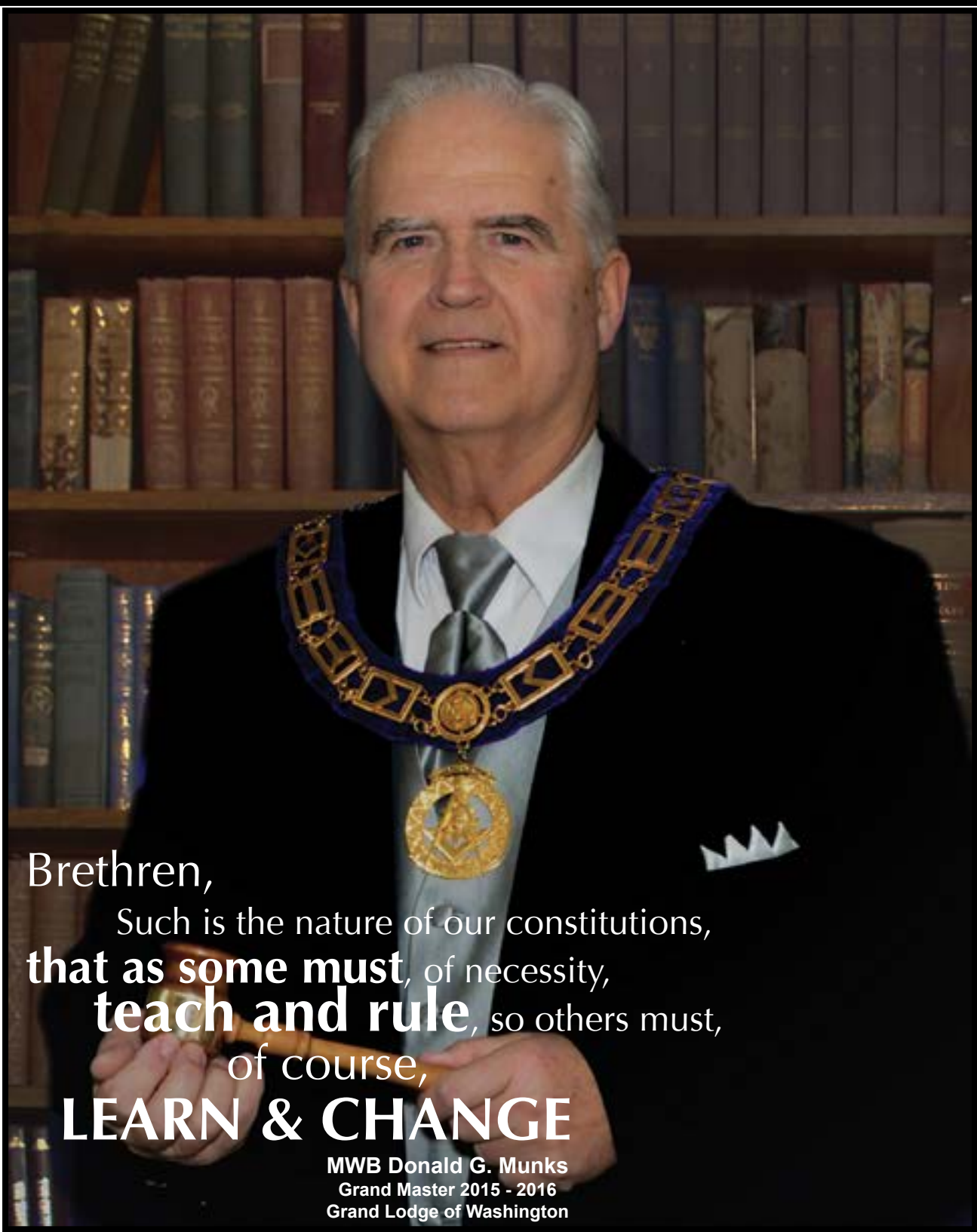




MASONIC TRIBUNE

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



Brethren,

Such is the nature of our constitutions,
that as some must, of necessity,
teach and rule, so others must,
of course,

LEARN & CHANGE

MWB Donald G. Munks
Grand Master 2015 - 2016
Grand Lodge of Washington

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)



Editorial Note:

Installation season is over and we are in the process of preparing for the next series of them to come. I managed to attend a number of installations and had quite a few variations on how my experience went along. The number one comment I would like to make is that very seldom do we now get a chance to witness a traditional Masonic installation program and ritual. The respect for the traditional manner the installation is performed seems to have been fading away.

A Lodge installation has a pattern and like a cooking recipe, one can add to it, but cannot subtract any ingredient prescribed in the recipe or else it will no longer be the original creation. We learn through many years of experience that the tradition is what binds us together. There are certain traditions that whenever we deviate from its normal way, it is very obvious that it becomes improper. To change for the better is good judgment always, but attention to detail is required for the execution. So there are ways on how to institute changes provided that the transformations do not break the tradition.

Respect, protocol, decorum, solemnity and ritual originality are some of the key points of a well-organized Masonic Lodge installation of officers. The respect and recognition of dignitaries present during the ceremony is first and foremost. It is a must and should not be overlooked. Protocol being followed or exercised gives the event a mark of distinction. It uplifts the honor we dedicate to the order. Proper decorum and solemnity displays our devotion to the craft and lastly, ritual originality is to show that we honor and respect the Fraternity and its traditions.

Faternally,

MWB G. Santy Lascano
Chairman, GLWA Masonic Tribune

(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 Summer 2016 – 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.

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

Masonic Tribune Committee:

[MWB G. Santy Lascano, Chairman](#)

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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

I have talked a lot about "Learn & Change" in my previous six months, learning about our Lodge Brothers wants, needs, and ambitions, but now I want to address something new. Our Grand Lodge, yours and mine, is always striving to be available to help Lodges and Temple Associations. One of these ways is with the diversity we have established in the kinds of Grand Lodge Committees that we have created within this Jurisdiction. I didn't invent these committees, that occurred a long time ago and they were all approved at an Annual Communication by us. They represent ways to improve our Jurisdiction and their committee members are dedicated to helping all Lodges and/or Temple Associations with their expertise. These Brothers are not on these committees for the name tag and recognition but genuinely want to help in any way that they can. But here is the problem, as the old wise saying goes, "You can lead a horse to water but you cannot force them to drink." These committees can only be helpful if they are asked. Have you taken the time to look at the Grand Lodge website to see what committees we have? What they have to offer changes with the times and what we have gleaned from the successes of other Jurisdictions. Maybe Brothers from your Lodge were a part of some of these committees years ago to help with problems or uncertainty they were having and it did not help the Lodge, but guess what, we have learned & changed and maybe this time is exactly what your Lodge needs. Try it, it can't hurt!

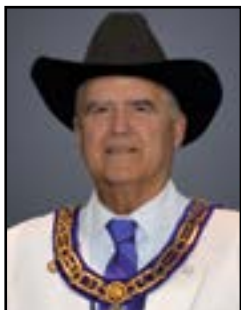
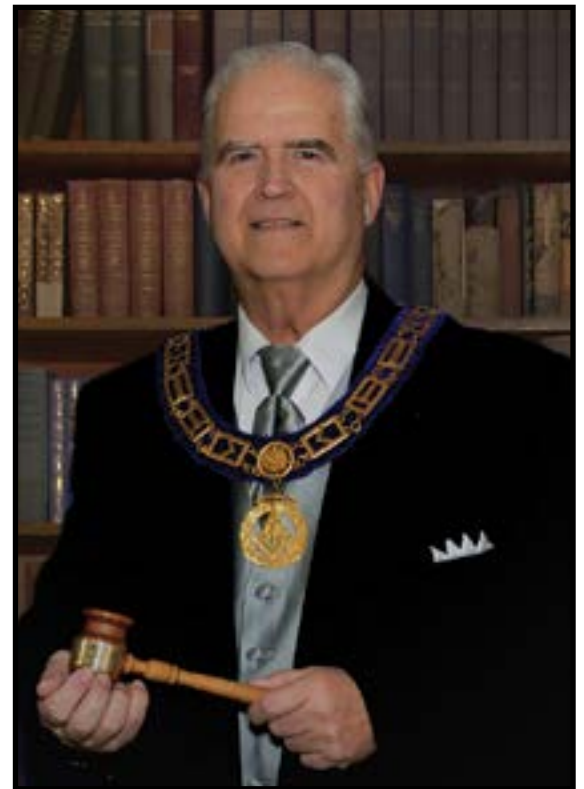
As I and the other Elected Grand Lodge Officers travel around the Jurisdiction and attend the Deputy of the Grand Masters District meetings we are receiving fantastic welcomes and see very interesting programs and presentations. We are not only hearing from the Deputy what his impression of what his Lodges are doing but hearing also from the Worshipful Masters what their Lodge is accomplishing and being involved in, both within the Lodge and in the community. I am being honest in saying that most Lodges are seeing an increase in members and an enthusiasm amongst their Brethren. The Lodges that are gaining are doing so because they are an important part of their community yet are staying focused on the important relationships within their Lodge. They have websites and send out Trestle Board reports on monthly happenings, activities, birthdays, and news about their Brothers. They also include interesting articles and facts that are educational. One Deputy, VWB Tom Bulson sang his Deputy's report and put on an excellent performance. One Deputy, VWB David Colbeth, asked the Masonic Youth Groups in his District to create entertainment, which in-

cluded musical recitals, belay, choreographed dancing, singing, a musical skit, and some youth ritual. In all the Deputy's District meetings have been fun, educational, and energetic. We have had several with well over a hundred Brothers, family with their children, concordant and appendant bodies, friends and guests.

Lastly, I want to talk about family. Not just about our personal family but also about our Masonic family. These are very important factors in why we joined this Fraternity. I hold my personal family very dear to my heart as I'm sure you do to, but my Masonic family is also very important to me. We need to be open and involved with both and we need to make sure that we communicate what we are doing and accomplishing to and with them. They need to feel that they are important and that we want them involved with us. We want them to feel the same great feeling of achievement as we do about our accomplishments as Masons, husbands, fathers, grandfathers, and men. Having your family at the Deputy's District meeting allows them to hear from others all of the great things you are doing and how proud and gratified the Brothers are with what you have been involved in with your Lodge.

Til next time,

MWB Donald G. Munks
Grand Master





...ever changing as it flows

During his tenure as Grand Master, MWB Gale Kenney often quoted the pre-Socratic Greek philosopher, Heraclitus: "No man ever steps into the same river twice, for it is not the same river and he is not the same man". The quote was a reminder that change is the only constant in life, and we as a Fraternity must be willing to accept change in order to thrive. That said, making effective change can be a delicate balancing act. If we are not mindful change can be devastating.

I'm reminded of this truth whenever I walk into a JC Penney. For those not in the know Penney's, seduced by the success that Ron Johnson had at Apple and Target, and trying to revive a struggling brand, hired Ron Johnson as their new CEO. Johnson immediately revamped Penney's brand with an always-low-prices, but-never-on-sale marketing message that confused customers. Remodeling stores and deploying new technology at a rapid clip sounded good in theory, but in reality, it left stores looking messy and sales clerks struggling to operate point-of-sale systems. Guess what happened to the customers?

Johnson was ousted, and the CEO that he was hired to replace was brought back and immediately reinstated the same strategy that led to his ouster in the first place. Johnson may have gone too fast too soon, but it doesn't change the fact that JC Penney was and is a retailer with problems that still need to be fixed. The old/new CEO's flat out resistance to at least looking at how to make some of the new ideas work was and is a lesson in futility, and does nothing for the customer – current or prospective.

We see the same thing in Lodge. Some are so tired of the way things are that they just want to flip the boat and institute their own ideas at the exclusion of others. When reality doesn't meet expectation, we fall back into old habits. However, just like JC Penney, the problems still remain. You know what else happens? People find other things to do with their time.

Whether it be the Lodge or a venerable retailer, you've got to let those who you serve lead the way when it comes to implementing change. When analysts reviewed Johnson's tenure at Penney's they found that not once did he conduct customer surveys, listen to feedback, or otherwise learn what Penney's core customers wanted. It's great to have an idea of what you want to do, but listening only to yourself doesn't make you Steve Jobs – it might just make you Don Quixote. Remember, assuming you know all the answers is dangerous. General Colin Powell put it best: "Don't let your ego get too

close to your position, so that if your position gets shot down, your ego doesn't go with it."

So what's the lesson to be learned? It is easier to lose your existing Brethren than it is to gain new ones. Implementing change is an enormous challenge. It takes time and success is never certain. However, the chances of achieving success are increased when your Brethren are vested in your success. They need to participate in the process. Such involvement will create an increased level of understanding and a belief that any change that is put forth is a good idea and not simply change for change's sake.

So what's the solution? General Dwight Eisenhower said "Extremes to the right and to the left of any dispute are always wrong." At the end of the day, we all really want the same things for our respective Lodges. The only disagreements that we have are about how these noble objectives are to be achieved and by whom the task of achieving them is best executed. So you can either stand your ground and adopt an "I'm in charge here" sort of attitude; or you can seek the more inclusive middle ground by including insight and counsel from the Brethren that you are supposed to serve. Either way, the river is still going to flow – you just don't want it to engulf you.

Fraternally,

RWB Jim V. Mendoza
Deputy Grand Master



Deputy Grand Master
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL Brothers
Jim V. Mendoza





Moving Forward

The objective of Freemasonry is to help men better themselves through the application of our teachings. We are in search of that light, which will guide and assist each of us on our journey. As a Master Mason, it is up to each Brother to decide the amount of participation he will have in his Lodge (within the length of his Cable Tow). Whether in the officers line or as an active participant on the sidelines, being knowledgeable of the guidelines by which we work is extremely important.

With the Installation of Officers being completed, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate each of you!! As these new officers settle into their Stations and Places in Lodge, being skilled in their positions will provide them with the confidence needed to enjoy a successful and memorable year.

One of the important benefits of Freemasonry to younger members is access to the older generations' wisdom and guidance. Through the mentoring process, knowledge is shared with our newest Brothers. As mentors, we need to be Good Role Models. We need the desire to help and the ability to listen, in order to assist our Brothers during their journey. By sharing our skills, experiences and insights we will be able to recognize and address the accomplishments of our Brethren. We may also find, during our mentoring process, that wisdom has been gained by the mentor. The newer Mason may have a different way of looking at our Ritual or a different interpretation that we may not have considered. The communication between the mentor and newer Mason has now taken on a newer meaning through the theme of our Grand Master (MWB Donald Munks), "Learn & Change". It is important to listen and be open to new ideas. We are all Brothers sharing the wisdom of equality, meeting on the Level.

Through Masonry we are provided with the tools and training for our journey which may lead us over rough and rugged roads. By overcoming one obstacle, we can gain the tools to help us overcome the next. Our destinations will be similar, although our routes may differ.

Wages go to those that have shared their wisdom with me through the years. I greatly appreciate all your time and commitment. Special wages to those that have laid down their tools, when called home by the Supreme Architect. To the Brothers that continue to extend their hand and whisper good council, thank you!

Please remember there are resources and Brethren available to assist those in need. Just Ask!!

Nothing Further In The West At This Time.

Fraternally,

RWB Warren R. Schoeben
Senior Grand Warden



SENIOR Grand WARDEN
RIGHT WORKSHIPFUL Brothers
Warren R. Schoeben

**“Matter”**

It was a big day. The Graduation Ceremony marking the end of their High School years and the beginning of the next step in their journeys to adulthood. “Matter!” the young man said in his address. The young can be so earnest and serious it is almost painful. That does not mean that his was not a serious message that resonated with all the audience, and not just his classmates. “Matter” he said.

He said “Matter. Not just to your friends and family, but to your future coworkers, your neighbors, and to those in need around you. Matter. Do something important with your life. You don’t need to become a doctor or a president or a McDonald’s manager to be something. You only need to matter in the life of someone else.”

And so he, with that statement, really hit on the heart of it, and what it means to be a Mason. You only need to matter in the life of someone else. We as Masons have a truly unique opportunity to find a way to matter, in a good way, in other people’s lives. We have so many that we don’t seem to know where to start. We have programs and projects aplenty that allow us to do many good works. We can contribute to necessary relief in the form of money and time, help a Brothers or widow in distress because of a personal or natural calamity, perform mundane and routine tasks about the Lodge room and temple, provide encouragement and wise counsel to a Brothers in need of emotional support, or just be a regular participant in our Lodges. If we don’t start, we will never achieve the good things we can and should achieve together.

The Valedictorian closed his remarks with “Be someone who Matters. Live for something greater than yourself. Be a light in this dark world. Heal the sick. Comfort the poor. Do something meaningful and purposeful with your life. Love others, regardless of their differences, their imperfections, their quirks. Don’t let anything stop you from caring about the world around you. Be someone who matters to others, but most importantly, who matters to God.” Wise words indeed, from a young man of nineteen.

As we travel our great Jurisdiction to attend District Meetings, we hear Lodge Worshipful Masters talk about their Lodges successes and their trials. I am struck at how much I learn at each meeting. Programs that are going well, events that are community based, extending our Masonic helping hand into the communities in a recognizable way. All contribute to raising public awareness of who we are and what we do. This is a never-ending goal we should keep in mind.

We of course are not out for public “attaboys” but we are certainly making known that Masons are valued (if under appreciated) members of our various communities. What I see is Masons who matter.

Matter. Matter to someone without thought of reward or recognition. It’s what we do.

Faithfully & Fraternally,

RWB James H. Kendall
Junior Grand Warden



JUNIOR Grand WARDEN
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL Brothers
James H. Kendall





Grand SECRETARY
 RIGHT WORSHIPFUL Brothers

David P. Owen



Plastic Dues Cards

Brethren the plastic dues cards are a great idea but we have work to do to make them better. The elected Grand Lodge Officers have agreed that each Lodge should have the right to issue their dues cards to their members. So instead of only one card from your Home Lodge every Lodge will issue a card.

It should not be a decision by Grand Lodge to issue one dues card, but each Lodge should issue a card. This will alleviate several problems such as: your Home Lodge consolidates with another Lodge, a Life Member who's membership is purchased by a Lodge and he demits, or membership in a Lodge is terminated, the Secretary is late in mailing out Lodge Dues Cards.

Next year Grand Lodge is planning to reissue the plastic dues cards at no cost to the Lodges. The new card will also have the 800 number on it for those without a QR code reader to confirm good standing. The QR reader will not have the Square and Compass embedded in the code, which will reduce the problem reading it.

Thank you for your patience.

Fraternally,

RWB David P. Owen
 Grand Secretary



Amateur (Ham) Radio Classes

As we look to our communities to see how we can be of benefit, one possible area is emergency communications. Nearly every county has some form of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications. In Federal Way Thornton F. McElroy Lodge, No. 302 partners with the Federal Way Amateur Radio Club to provide classes free of charge to assist people in obtaining their Radio License.

Now that code is not required the pass rate for these classes is over 90%. In 2015 the classes we supported graduated 54 new licensed Hams. Once licensed, these Hams can participate in providing communications for local events, walks, 5K and Marathon runs, and of course local and regional emergencies. In the process the attendees have discovered the Lodge, which many never knew existed and some Lodge members now have newly minted licenses. In January the agreement for "no-cost" facility use was renewed for another year. Temple Board trustees feel it is a win-win situation.

Statewide the Washington Masonic Library and Museum is collecting names and Call Letters of all Masonic Hams and has a page dedicated to bringing that group together. If you are a Masonic Ham send you call sign and Lodge number to: wamasonicgllm@gmail.com to get listed. <http://www.wamasonicgllm.org/masonic-hams.html>

Todd Johnstone
 Chairman
 Thornton F. McElroy Temple Association Inc.

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.wamasonicgllm.org/masonic-hams.html>

Contact: wamasonicgllm@gmail.com



Plan Your Work & Work Your Plan

Your Grand Lodge Long Range Planning Committee has had requests from several Lodges for help in developing individual Long Range Plans for Lodges. During the course of the last few months the members of the Grand Lodge Long Range Planning Committee have been preparing a whitepaper to assist the Lodges with Long Range Planning.

Long Range Planning is simple and can be easily tailored to the needs of each Lodge. The concept is defining the Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives using a series of steps as an outline. Several catch-phrases help the team work through the Long Range Plan; VMGO (Vision, Mission, Goals, Objectives), the 6 P's, SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) and these are explained in the whitepaper as an aid to planning and execution.

The "Vision" is where you want to be, the "Mission" is how your team will get to the "Vision", the "Goals" are the deliverables or changes you will attain to enact your "Vision" and the "Objectives" are the steps along the way where you can measure your progress. This sounds simple, and it is, the results are worth the effort.

The four phases are 1) Organizing the team, 2) Research what your team needs for resources and working tools, 3) taking action on your research and 4) terminating the plan. The final termination phase includes turning the project into a sustaining mode.

The need for thorough planning is often overlooked or minimized, Whether mowing your lawn and running out of gas when almost done, or the 787 Dreamliner being two years late for first flight, the results of inadequate planning are too soon visible. Project managers are taught the 6 "P's"; Proper Pre-Planning Prevents Poor Performance and this is true.

A copy of the whitepaper can be obtained by reaching out to a member of the Long Range Planning Committee. WB Bud Hyett, cehyett@msn.com, VWB Steve Wandel, wandelsa@msn.com, WB John Novak jenovak53@yahoo.com or A. Gary O'Leary – Chairman, olearytg2@frontier.com. The LRP Committee stands ready to help guide the Lodge in their preparation of their LRP.

The time to begin the work is now; remember, the Long Range Planning Committee stands ready to help your team 'Plan Your Work and Work Your Plan'.

Fraternal Regards

WB A. Gary O'Leary
Chairman
Long Range Planning



My Brothers STAY ENGAGED in your Fraternity.

I have been thinking about our District in terms of how small we are and how unique we are as "Peninsula Masons". We only have Five Lodges, three of them with very few names on the roles as Masons but we seem to be able to hold our own" when it comes to providing support to each other, for the most part at least. I give great credit to the core values and work ethic of those Masons, who came before us, those who established our Lodges. They set the standard for our Peninsula Lodges. They came to the aid of a Brother, and his family, when times were tough and logging income was down. Thinking about this I remembered a portion of the charge to the Senior Warden given at installation.

"And although distinctions among men are essentially necessary to preserve subordination no eminence of station should make us forget that we are Brothers, and that he who is placed on the lowest spoke of fortunes wheel may be entitled to our regard".

We have a duty to each other to be as kind and gentle as we can be. Some of us have, for one reason or another, created issues within our Lodges that have left some of our members feeling estranged. They have stopped coming to Lodge. They may become negative in their comments about Masonry. If we are to create more robust Lodges we must reach out to them. Try to settle those festering arguments and disagreements. Let them know that they are missed, not for the money but for the friendship.

I often ask myself what can we do? How can we become part of the solution, instead of part of the problem? My solution is simple. STAY ENGAGED IN THE Fraternity. I have a great passion for this Fraternity. I have great affection for all of you. I come from a long line of strong Masons who helped to found Mt. Olympus Lodge, No. 298. This is my HOME Lodge. I am there every meeting. I welcome one and all of my Masonic Brothers

VWB Arnie Finley and I serve as the Grand Deacons this year. We travel throughout the Grand Jurisdiction. We have become familiar faces at all of the District meetings. In the future, after this year as Grand Senior Deacon is over I may try to find another job in Grand Lodge. I will stay ENGAGED in the Fraternity. The more that I travel the more engaged in the Craft I become.

If any of the Brothers who read this message would like to "Tag along" when Arnie and I travel, and we have room, you are welcome to come with us. .

The point that I am trying to make is that no matter what our titles may be, no matter what committee we may be on, no matter what level we may rise to within the Fraternity, we are all Brothers. We all took the same obligation. We must "meet upon the level and part upon the square".

Above all else STAY ENGAGED. Promote the Craft, and our unique Peninsula Lodges. There is strength in numbers. Let us all come together as Brothers. May God smile upon you and your household for He most certainly has smiled upon mine .



VWB Darel Maxfield
Senior Grand Deacon



Transformation with 2020 Vision

Freemasonry in the United States can formally trace its history back to the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1717, but we know for sure that Masonic Lodges existed before then because we have documents, such as The Regius Poem from 1390, as well as written Lodge minutes from The Lodge of Edinburgh dated back to 1600 when the operative Lodge began to admit non-operative Masons. Symbolically we are told that Freemasonry has existed since 'time immemorial' and this, of course, leads us to speculate about the spring from which Freemasonry came forth. But knowing all this, can we imagine that the Lodge experience was the same back then as it is now? Of course not. We know, for example, that Lodges used to draw out their tracing boards on the floor in chalk so they could be taught from and then erased at the conclusion of their meetings. This practice gave way to floor cloths which could be used again after simply rolling them up. These were used for many years, but later evolved into upright tracing boards, then slideshows, and even – in the 21st century – a DVD in some Lodges. How we experience Freemasonry changes over time.

But what sometimes creeps into our collective conversation is that Freemasonry is some constant of the universe and this is really a misnomer because nothing could be further from the truth. And I think we, as a Lodge, should contemplate the difference between the philosophy of Freemasonry from the practice of Freemasonry. When I say practice I'm not referring to the ritual work, I'm referring to the Lodge experience; those moments we engage in so that we can perfect concepts like faith, hope and charity; or and temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice.

Brotherly love, relief and truth become the cornerstones which form the Masonic edifice that represents the Masonic life. Like any well-built cornerstone, these do not shift and its these broad concepts which comprise the timeless wisdom of all ages. Passed on to us, it is now the Freemasons who are the stewards of this knowledge and who must pass it on to those who are worthy, those who seek light and truth.

But this is quite different than the practice of Freemasonry. What I mean to say is that the Lodge experience is constructed around how we practice the virtues we learn about, they aren't the virtues in and of themselves. To make any assumption that the day to day practice of Freemasonry should never change is like saying we've always done it this way, and we're never ever, ever going to change. The fact is, the world is changing around us all the time and ironically, change IS the only constant in the world.

Even the word "change" is difficult for some of us to embrace. Because really when we think of change, the part we have trouble with is the disruption in causes. Change disrupts the way of life we know, and ultimately, I think, this is what we are actually uncomfortable with. Pause for a moment and think about how the digital age has, for some time now, been disrupting our way of life. Let me share with you some interesting news I recently read:

The world's largest taxi company (Uber), owns no taxis.

The world's largest accommodations company (Airbnb), owns no real estate.

The world's largest phone companies (Skype, WeChat) own no telecommunications infrastructure.

The world's most valuable retailer (Alibaba) owns no inventory.

The world's most popular media owner (Facebook) creates no content.

The world's largest movie house (Netflix) owns no theaters.

And the world's largest software vendors (Google, Apple) don't write any of the apps.

And like those individuals who have difficulty with change, some Lodges may also grapple with the changing practice of Freemasonry, and while others still may even ask how should Freemasonry respond to this "Evolve or Dissolve" reality?

I would suggest the answer is actually quite germane to Freemasons the world over. We transform.

You see, transformation is exactly what we do. It is a desire to transform ourselves which led to you to seek admission into this Fraternity. And you're being here tonight is evidence of the transformation process in motion. From darkness to light, transformation occurs. From Degree to Degree, we learn new lessons and transform to a better life. From a rough ashlar into a perfect ashlar, we are trying to transform to a more virtuous version of ourselves through the very lessons that Freemasonry shares with those who seek it.

If you are one of the thousands who have a difficult time with change, shift gears and think of it as a transformation process. Transformation sounds like taking the next step in a never ending cycle of improvement. And like each of us individually, this Lodge will continue to transform how we practice Freemasonry with a focus on creating a quality Masonic experience for all. An organization with a feedback loop for improvement.

Think of it as 2020 Vision ... what would your Lodge look like in a few years from now if you continually ask yourselves, how can we improve this aspect over here or that aspect over there? And without the threat of feeling like the way it was done before was somehow less than perfect. I would suggest this is the very definition of subduing your passion so you can improve yourself in Masonry; perfecting this never-ending process of transformation for both the individual and the Lodge without ego getting in the way.

And this is exactly what I am challenging your Lodge to do over the next four years by the year 2020.

I am challenging each one of you to consider how you could contribute to your Lodges Trestle Board of plans for improving the experience for all. From your initiation process, ritual work, conferral team planning, Masonic education, your benevolence work, the social activities, even your physical building itself and the long term financial stability of the Lodge. Transformation is not just an individual goal, but a collective goal for the Lodge as well.

God Bless and let us now set to work.

WB Zane P. McCune
 Grand Lecturer

He is the founder of The Masonic Experience, a place where ideas and best practices can be shared in an ongoing effort to foster and improve the quality and meaning of your Lodge experience. (facebook.com/groups/TheMasonicExperience)



Are we giving the wrong First Impression?

I am relatively new to the Craft and have listened intently to the concerns regarding the future of the Fraternity. I first knocked on the door of the Lodge on August 13, 2013 in Centralia Lodge, No. 63. One of the things that always strikes me is the manner in which the First Degree Lecture is given.

The lecture tells us that the reason we are placed in the North East corner after completing the time honored ceremony of Initiation is, "...to receive your first instructions upon what to build your future Moral and Masonic edifice". As a craftsman who has worked in the construction industry for most of my life to me this wording refers to the entire First Degree Lecture as the Foundation of our Masonic Journey.

I am constantly amazed at how little importance seems to be given to this all important foundation in many Lodges I visit. Any edifice without a proper foundation is going to have problems later on if not complete failure. I find it curious therefore that so many Brothers are puzzled by the problem of retention.



As I watch the lecture given I see the first impression the new EA receives is that one person is giving the lecture and other Brothers are giving the lecture little attention or even conversing while it is being given. The idea that the craft is a spectator activity and not a speculative activity is implied. In my opinion this is a poor first impression.

The question this raises to me for the candidate is, "If they don't feel it is important, why should I regard it as important?"

At first, committing a 25 minute lecture to memory seemed to be a daunting undertaking as most new members also find it. As a result few even attempt it. I have worked on it anyway. The endeavor has made me realize how much important information is contained in it.

My thought is that the piece that a candidate should be asked to memorize as part of the "Six Steps to Initiation Program" is the first part of the First Degree Lecture to the point of "Freemasonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols." An explanation of what this means and asking him if he would be willing to recite this piece after the ceremony to start the lecture or at the least read it I think would be a huge step in setting the foundation of his being a participant.

I would like to suggest that the remainder of the lecture be divided among the First Degree officers with them each memorizing five minutes of it. Not only would this give the lecture six different voices and thereby make it more interesting, provide Five prompters, and teach those officers vital instruction but would give the new member a model of participation to emulate.

BRO Franklyn Gallup
Senior Warden
Tenino Lodge, No. 86

Legislative Update: The 2016 Legislative

Session

The winter's slowly giving way to spring, and the 2016 Legislative Session will soon be coming to a close. Yes, a 60-day session can go by very quickly, and yet numerous. The process by which a bill becomes a law is complex and involves many steps. Much like the methods that we use during our Annual Communication to amend our Masonic Code and our Standard Work, the methods set down in our state's constitution make our laws very difficult to amend and alter. This is to assure us that any change to our constitution is important enough to be understood and favored by the population of our state, for the betterment of the citizenry in general. Therefore, it is much more likely that a bill will fail to become a law than it will pass. There are several websites, including the legislature's own site, that you can visit to read how the process works.

Remember, communicating with our Legislature is a team effort. If you wish to speak with your elected officials about an issue in your area, keep in mind that you are representing not only yourself and your Lodge, but also the Fraternity as a whole. And if you do find an issue that our state legislature is addressing, again, be sure to inform the Grand Lodge elected officers and me about the situation. It is important that we are all on the same page. When a bill is lobbied for or against, it needs to be followed through the process until it reaches its final disposition. This might include further communication with the Legislative staff on the Capitol Campus, as well as testimony before committee hearings. However, this cannot happen unless we have knowledge of the situation. I can be contacted at Liaison@freemason-wa.org.

One such bill that would greatly affect us is a house bill that would ban consumer fireworks in our state for the summer of this year, then expire. The negative impact this would have on our fund-raising efforts is quite substantial, and these concerns were communicated to the appropriate legislators. As of this writing, the disposition of the bill is still pending. Also pending is the next hearing at the Department of Revenue concerning the Property tax exemption, which is anticipated to be held this spring. If your Lodge currently uses this exemption, let me know.

Our Grand Lodge elected officers have been talking of our legislative efforts during the several District meetings throughout our Jurisdiction, and some of you have contacted me expressing interest in becoming involved and assisting. Others have already performed some groundwork that has helped our presence with the tax-exemption ruling. And we've had a Senator speak at one of our Lodges! I would like to thank each of you for your interest and your efforts, as we continue to get more involved with our elected officials throughout the state. And if you'd like to get involved and haven't contacted me yet, it's quite likely that there is something you can do to help, so don't be afraid to contact either me or one of our Grand Lodge officers. Remember, it takes all of us, together, to make a difference in our communities, our counties, and in our state.

Fraternally,

VWB Clayton La Vigne
Legislative Liaison

Ilwaco Masonic Lodge Hits a Home Run With “Excellence in Citizenship” Program

Ilwaco, Washington, is best known as a premier destination for salmon fishermen, but one Saturday in April, the buzz is “Excellence in Citizenship” and gourmet Hot Fudge Sundaes at the Masonic Lodge. That is when Occident Lodge, No. 99 (now, Occident 48) presents the awards to 26 area students from four schools.

Excellence in Citizenship shines the spotlight on a boy and a girl student in each grade from four through eight who best display the qualities of outstanding citizenship. It may turn out that some of those selected for this honor are not the academic elite, for the main requirement is not top grades – it is about the positive impact these students have on those around them. That includes consideration for others, making good decisions, kindness, positive attitude, influencing peers to do the right thing, etc. Frequently, they are also excellent students.

“School officials know the program inspires students, their families and their teachers. It gives them a chance to say ‘Thank-you for being a great person,’” explained VWB Michael A. Carmel, District No. 18 Deputy and event chairman in recent years. “We place the entire responsibility for selection in the hands of faculty, and they give the program a ‘thumbs-up.’ That is one reason we get such good support from the school officials. Another reason is we make the event memorable and fun. We go the whole route to make those hot fudge sundaes as good as they can be. Everything is top quality – the best fudge, gourmet ice cream and all the trimmings after the ‘formal’ ceremony. My favorite part is weeks before the event when I call the parents to tell them their child has been selected for the award. Some parents, and sometimes they are grandparents or adoptive parents have told me about very difficult times, and how these wonderful kids have demonstrated amazing resilience and goodness. One awardee made the special effort to tell me that he would not have gotten this award last year because he was going in the wrong direction, but he had decided, at 13, to turn his life around. He was all smiles, and very proud.”

The certificates are designed and laser-printed on parchment card stock by members of the Lodge. They included the embossed secretary’s seal for Occident Lodge on gold circles and are signed by the presenters. The students from each school posed for a group photograph for the newspapers, and the parents were invited to take their own pictures using the set-up for the media after official pictures.

The local newspaper always gives excellent support with a story and photos of all the students, dedicating about 50 square inches of space to the event. Parents and children gave repeated thanks to Lodge members for their sponsorship.

Cost to the Lodge for the event was less than \$150! The rewards – priceless!

Occident Lodge, No. 99’s Menu for Outstanding Citizenship Award

1. Date: The program should be held the weekend after Spring Break, unless there is a local scheduling conflict. Advise your District Deputy of your plans.

2. Communication: Prepare a letter to school principal explaining the Lodge would like to reward students who display good character and citizenship qualities with recognition, certificates and an event to which their entire extended family and faculty are invited. Send this letter at least three weeks in advance and give a deadline that expires at least two days before the start of Spring Break.

3. Speakers: Find a local celebrity who will speak on the subject of citizenship. Fire and police chiefs, local heroes, athletes, authors, etc. Make the speaker take a serious oath to speak for 15 minutes or less

4. Schools: When you request the list from the school, clearly explain that you need parents’ names and phone numbers with emails if possible. Should school policy not allow that, prepare a letter for the children to carry home. The letter should explain the program and give RSVP information.

5. List of Honorees: For your own use and to assist the presenter, print a large-type list of honorees arranged by school and grade. Use a copy of this when taking photos to arrange the children and to note where each child is when taking the picture. Ask parents how to pronounce unusual names and verify spelling.

6. Certificates: Occident Lodge, No. 99 found several templates in Microsoft Publisher that could be modified to suit the purpose. We added the motto “Shine Your Light on Others.” An official signature adds legitimacy to the award. Emboss this with the secretary’s seal.

7. Sundaes: Hand-dip a high quality ice.

8. Photos: Arrange children from each school by grade and place them as close to one another as possible. After each “official” photo, invite parents to step into the center aisle to take their own pictures.

9. Newspapers: Send the article and pictures with a list of all honorees by school and a second photo id list.

10. Personal Touch: It pays off to call every family to make sure they understand the award and to establish some rapport. This is very rewarding for the caller. Parents love to share their happiness about the likability of their kids.



VWB Walter Twidwell and Pacific County Sheriff Scott Johnson flank the 2015 awardees from Ilwaco Middle School.



VWB Walter Twidwell and Pacific County Sheriff Scott Johnson flank the awardees from Naselle-Grays River School

Installation Remarks

Having previously occupied this office a few times, I'm pleased to note the changes seen in our Lodge, which I believe to be reflected in Freemasonry as a whole. I'm also touched with a bit of "blue" as I recognize that even great men one day go to their long home.

We continue to add members, both bright shining examples of boys becoming young men in our community and more mature (though still youthful) men seeking to give even more of themselves to this community and their families by seeking light and gaining wisdom while at labor in these allegorical stone quarries with their Brothers. These men have stepped up and joined our ranks, gaining all the rights and privileges thereof, learning and growing by sharing knowledge and efforts with those who came before them. These men have become so dear to me, so treasured. I saw my Masonic mentor pass just a few years back...I've seen many of my dearest Brothers' health fail and know that God will one day call them to his breast...yet I am filled with gratitude to each of these men for their service and wisdom, they have taught me to give to the new Brothers the same love and respect that I received when I first knelt for my obligation before that very altar. Our numbers would have been decimated but for Grace providing us with vessels to continue to carry the torch of human goodness forward into the dark unknown. Look around you at these men, clothed in aprons to protect their vestments as they labor to rend rock from the ground and hew, over time, a perfect ashlar of their lives. ...these men, my Brothers, are the future of Freemasonry. They carry the soft whispers of countless Brothers that have come before them, and one day their whispers will be carried forth by those not yet with us. These whispers carry truth, kindness, and dignity...charity, loyalty, and respect...honor, knowledge, and humility.

This year the Master's focus will be on the tenet of teaching. Every Brothers in this room was at one time an Entered Apprentice. They came before a Lodge, and prostrate, asked to be taught. The Entered Apprentice is one who most earnestly seeks knowledge and Masters from who they can learn. Some of these men have risen through the ranks to a Fellowcraft, and then, with increased knowledge and wisdom, to become a Master Mason. Every Master Mason is expected to demonstrate through his personal actions, the qualities ascribed to Freemasonry. We are also expected to share our knowledge with other Masons so that they may go on to build great things and to lift up those around them. Yet while this sounds like a glorious purpose, we must also remember that every Freemason, even (as I'm sure he will agree) our MWB, remains that same kneeling Entered Apprentice hungry for light, for no man is ever truly done learning. This year Brothers, let us take to heart every chance to teach our young laborers, to share with those of equal rank, to seek knowledge from those around us, and to remain teachable while we teach. Let us take the secrets of Freemasonry, whispered to us from behind, and yell them forward into the darkness before us, blowing back the veil of shadow and advancing what is right and just.

WB Frank Schumacher IV
 Worshipful Master
 Falls City Lodge, No.66

YOUTH COMMITTEE

The Youth Committee is dedicated to the support of the three youth groups in the Masonic Family. For the girls there are the Rainbow Girls and the Job's Daughters, and for the boys there is DeMolay. It should be remembered that many of the members of these groups go on to become members of Eastern Star, Amaranth and yes, Masons.

These youth groups provide essential training in public speaking and leadership vital in today's world. They are the leaders of tomorrow not only in business and politics but also in our Masonic community. Having learned to do ritual and preside over meetings they are well prepared to move onward in their Masonic careers.

The members of the Youth Committee all have connections with one or more of these youth groups unabashedly support and promote them. We do this by reminding our members in Lodge that the youth are there and need our support. That seeing Masons at their meetings makes them feel good knowing that they have this support. There is something sad and lonely about being the only Mason at a meeting knowing that you are there because you are an advisor and that if you were not there the young men or women would not be able to hold their meeting. SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!!!!

The Youth Committee also supports the youth groups financially by holding different fundraisers. In the past there has been the Grand Master's Golf Tournament. MWB Don Munks this year decided that he would rather do something entirely different so he donated half a beef (cut, wrapped and delivered) for a drawing to support the youth groups. Members of the Youth Committee and various Grand Lodge Team members have books of tickets available for a \$5.00 donation per ticket. The drawing will be held on Friday, June 10th at the Fellowship Dinner (pay no attention to the date on the tickets). The Committee is also looking to the future in an effort to find an enduring fundraiser that can become an annual event.



VWB Paul F. Steinsiek, Chairman
 Youth Committee

SUDOKU SYMBOL PUZZLE (Solution)

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(Solution of puzzle from page 11)



Junior Grand Warden Candidates



Given the opportunity, what is the one aspect of Freemasonry in Washington that you would put forth to be changed? Why?

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

Masonry is an institution having for its foundation the practice of the social and moral virtues. And while I value the existing structure of our craft, if I could change one aspect of Freemasonry in Washington it would be to increase the inspiration, support and encouragement of my Brothers to embrace their Masonic journey in such a way as to fully conduce the growth and preservation of their corporeal and mental faculties in their fullest energy.

The great French philosopher Henri Bergson said this about change, "To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly." Bergson spoke of the transformative property of change, which our Grand Master succinctly summarized as "Learn & Change". We Masons must be open to the transformative experience of change as we divest our hearts and consciences of all the vices and superfluities of this life if we want to become better men.

In a sense one could argue that this transformation already happens since each Brother must travel his own path of enlightenment; wherever that personal journey may lead. However, as I travel the Jurisdiction and listen to the Brothers stories, I hear a consistent message that our membership is not active enough, or that attendance at Lodge meetings and events is at a low percentage of the Lodges overall membership.

Our Brothers came to our portal seeking something more in their lives, and the type of change I would strive to achieve is to ensure that every man who steps upon the Masonic path becomes the living embodiment of our fundamental Masonic values.

Our ritual leads us in this direction, and perhaps this is why we practice the social and moral virtues. For practice is an active engagement and not only demonstrates our commitment to learning, but also embeds the idea of participating to become something more into the foundations of our consciousness.

My proposed change would lead to the embodiment of our principles by ensuring that every Brother is able to successfully take something that is, in essence, experiential in nature and make it a part of themselves. It would ensure that Brothers would want to dwell together in harmony and our membership engagement would increase. This lived experience would support our transformation into better men.

I have personally gained so much from being an active part of our Fraternity, and cannot think of a more fitting change to our craft than ensuring that every Brother truly becomes a better man through participation in our labors. I imagine that there is nothing that a Fraternity empowered by this transformation could not achieve.



Given the opportunity, what is the one aspect of Freemasonry in Washington that you would put forth to be changed? Why?

VWB Chris J. Coffman
Fern Hill Lodge, No. 80
Tacoma, Washington

The basic tenants of our ancient institution are etched in stone and may not be changed by any Mason.

The one aspect of Washington Masonry I would like to see not so much changed, but rather emphasized is MENTORING as explained in our Closing Charge.

Mentoring is more than Brothers to Brothers. It is Lodge to Lodge, Grand Lodge to the Lodges and vice versa, and Masonry to our communities.

Brothers to Brothers - We serve as coaches for proficiency in the Degrees.

Mentoring should go far beyond that short part of a man's Masonic career. We are enjoined by the Closing Charge to aid and assist needy Brothers as well as reminding a Brother, in the most friendly manner, of his faults, aiding in his reformation and defending his character.

We should emphasize mentoring by assisting a Brother to obtain what is best for him and his family. This can be advice on employment or education options or how to deal with personal issues. Mentoring includes providing an interested ear to hear a Brother express his frustrations whether relating to Masonry or his personal life.

Lodge to Lodge - Mentoring another Lodge can come in the form of helping its members be proficient in our work, sharing programs that have been successful, providing educational resources, or visiting and filling chairs.

Grand Lodge and Lodges - We all understand the fraternal aspects of Masonry, it is the business side of Masonry where Grand Lodge can help the individual Lodges. The adoption of the requirement to incorporate our Lodge buildings for the protection of the members was an important step. Lodges should share with Grand Lodge when they have successes or difficulties. Grand Lodge has the means to share the successes and help resolve problems. We will all learn from these experiences.

Community -- More importantly, we as Masons should be mentoring our communities by providing examples of good citizenship. Remember the Closing Charge also states that our duties extend to all of humanity. When we practice charity through acts of goodness, the community at large will learn who the Masons are and the good we do.

As I have traveled this state I have been impressed how some Lodges are engaged with their communities. For example, the Lodges in the Tri-Cities provide transportation between the mall and parked vehicles for the safety of the public. Many Lodges have adopted streets in their communities and provided the manpower to keep them clear of trash. Many more provide scholarships and participate in Bikes for Books. These are just examples.

If every Lodge in this state participated in some form of community service, then the misapprehensions about Masonry should fade. Good men will be knocking at our doors to become and stay members. Our Craft will reverse its declining membership.

For these reasons, I encourage the Craft to embrace mentoring.



Given the opportunity, what is the one aspect of Freemasonry in Washington that you would put forth to be changed? Why?

VWB Charles H. Tupper
 St. Johns, Lodge No. 9
 Seattle, Washington

How we conduct our meetings:

From 1856 to 1942 the Lodges primarily practiced four things which made this Fraternity successful. These were: Fraternity, Family Involvement, Ritual Excellence, and Education in the Lodge rooms. They knew who one another were, what each did for a living, what outside interests were represented by the Brethren, and many other personal things about each of them. This helped them to plan the activities of the Lodge by utilizing the expertise of the membership in areas for which they knew a lot.

At the end of the Grand Lodge year of 1942 the Freemasons of Washington had 38,000 plus members. From 1943 to 1958 the numbers swelled to over 69,000 members. With replacements of over 20,000 and these 31,000 new members the Lodges in Washington did over 150,000 Degrees in this 15 year span.

The effect of the fifteen years of Degree Work made it so that we forgot how our meetings were supposed to be run. We fell back on what went on while we were so busy raising Masons that there just wasn't much time for anything else. We learned for almost a complete generation that a meeting consists of opening, introductions, minutes, communications, sickness and distress, memorials, committee reports, old and new business, announcements, and closing. For the most part, meetings have remained that way since that time.

As Lodges we seem to have forgotten how our meetings should include the bonding of our Fraternity as a family, the importance of memorizing as much ritual as is possible by each of us, and we seem to have forgotten how to learn from shared studies in Lodge. In short we seem to have forgotten our real heritage, the importance of knowing as much as possible about one another, and the absolute importance of our Fraternity's symbols and teachings in our daily lives.

In many of our Lodges we are beginning to see some of these things beginning to resurface. One Lodge may be doing one or two of these things and another in a District may be doing another and a third doing yet another. I have not seen very many instances where all, if any, of these things are becoming part of the daily lives of the members on a continuing basis.

We need to reclaim our heritage if we are to succeed to revitalize ourselves and we need to do it soon. A little bit at a time if we have to and a lot at a time if we can.

We need to ask ourselves if we are willing and able to work on making our Lodges viable into the future by offering a real Masonic experience to those who would join. If we are and we do this we will experience a future we can only dream of at the present time.



Given the opportunity, what is the one aspect of Freemasonry in Washington that you would put forth to be changed? Why?

VWB Charles E. Wood
 Chehalis Lodge, No. 28
 Chehalis, Washington

Part 1 of this question: I would change the process for the selection of the Junior Grand Warden. We

need a process by which voting Masons can better assess the candidates running for this pivotal office. As a candidate for Junior Grand Warden you must submit a letter of availability prior to September first. You are asked to attend a meeting with Grand Lodge elected officers where you are informed what will be expected of you as an elected Grand Lodge officer. This process needs to be reversed so that you will know up front what is expected prior to the submission of a letter of availability.

You will need to attend as many District meetings as the Grand Master schedules in order for you to be introduced to those in attendance. This process, can be improved upon by following the example of Daylight Lodge. Daylight Lodge has hosted numerous Junior Grand Warden Candidate Forum videotape sessions. The candidates are allowed to present their statements and are then asked pertinent questions by those in attendance. The videotape is then made available on Daylight Lodge's website for all to review. Grand Lodge can take this videotaping process one step further by setting up seven (7) regional Junior Grand Warden Candidate Forum videotape sessions. Each session would encompass four (4) Districts. The videotapes of these sessions would then be accessible to all Masons in our Jurisdiction to review. A link to each videotaped session would be made available on the Grand Lodge website. The Grand Lodge IT Department could oversee this process and provide the equipment and technical guidance. We need to take advantage of the technology available to us. This process could quite feasibly be implemented over a two-year period.

Part 2 of this question: I believe the current process favors those who are retired, self-employed, can take time off, and financial means to travel to twenty-five plus District meetings. When you attend a District meeting, you are introduced and given a few short minutes to speak. You then hope that those attending will come up to you and ask questions on issues that concern them. Many Masons attending these meetings are not necessarily those I usually see at a Stated Meeting. A District meeting, in my opinion, is a forum where the membership can interact with the Grand Lodge Elected Officers, and is not a particularly good forum for the candidates to interact with the attendees. What I have proposed would serve the Jurisdiction well by allowing the membership to watch taped videos of the candidates in the process of answering numerous questions from the general membership on subjects about which they are concerned. By doing so the individual Mason gains a greater insight into who the candidates are, what they stand for and what they hope to accomplish in Freemasonry. I believe the current process favors a select few and leaves many very well qualified Masons sitting on the sidelines.



CANDIDATES



Given the opportunity, what is the one aspect of Freemasonry in Washington that you would put forth to be changed? Why?

David P. Owen
Grand Secretary

The single most important part of Freemasonry in Washington that needs to be changed is to separate out the business function from the Fraternal aspect. Our new Masonry is so interwoven in the multiple layers of society that we need to stay ahead of the game. We are no longer a "secret" society but a visible and real part of our community. The government is looking closer and closer at organization like ours. In a recent study it is estimated that in the last 10 years nonprofits have increased by over 25% and now employ 10% of workforce. The trend is continuing and local, state and federal governments want accountability.

Our Grand Lodge is governed by the Washington Masonic Code and does raise or it should, the question: Who is liable for the decisions of Grand Lodge? For the most part it is the Grand Master and Grand Secretary. This needs to change. We need to establish a Board of Directors or Trustees to oversee the business aspect of Freemasonry.

This Board should not be controlled by the Grand Lodge Elected Officers, in other words the Grand Lodge Elected should constitute a minority vote on the Board. The whole notion of "piercing the corporate veil" is paramount given the informational technology of today.

In looking at the past several years there are clear examples of business aspects and why we need to change; Masonic Retirement Center (MRC)-Landmark on the Sound Project, Sale of the MRC, Apron Memorial, Irvine Trust and others are all related to the business of Masonry.

In changing our current environment it might necessitate a change in the role of the various Grand Lodge Elected Officers. Take for example the annual development of the Grand Lodge budget and a new approach. Once the budget is drafted it is presented to the Board for approval. Once approved it is presented at the Annual Communication, not for approval but for information only. If in the process of developing the budget and the revenue does not support the proposed expenses, either the Board approves additional appropriation or the Grand Master presents a Resolution to change the fee structure of Grand Lodge. Several years ago a Brothers at the Annual Communication made a statement: I can reduce the Grand Lodge budget by \$200,000.00. In his attempt, he deleted the portfolio Manager (\$72,000.00) and said the Grand Secretary could do that job. He also re-

moved the Insurance Policy (\$28,000.00) and several other operational costs that are required by a business. Brothers as your Grand Secretary I do not deal with the day-to-day investments of Grand Lodge, but keep a watchful eye on the performance of our Portfolio Manager. If we canceled our Insurance the potential exists that each Mason in Washington would pay for claims against the Grand Lodge and Lodges. In the last 15 years that is in excess \$1,000,000.00 or more paid out in claims.

This year our Grand Master's Motto is "Learn and Change." Brothers we've learned a lot in the past ten years and now we need to CHANGE. The big Question Why Change? It will reduce our liability as a Fraternity and create a much more efficient and effective management environment for the business of Masonry.



Given the opportunity, what is the one aspect of Freemasonry in Washington that you would put forth to be changed? Why?

Sam Roberts
Past Grand Master

The question hints that there is something wrong with Masonry in Washington. There will some that will point out Membership, Finance or Ritual as the 'thing that is broken' in our Lodges. While I will agree that we are facing declining membership and attendance; that many Lodges have not sustained a balanced budget; or that some Brothers do not exemplify the best ritual; I am not convinced that attempting to address any single one of these current issues is the end all answer. May I put forth the idea that communication is a key to these and most other current issues facing Masonry in Washington, in the Lodges, Districts and Grand Lodge.

Communication, by definition, is a two way process. The idea expressed (1st) must be verified (2nd) as the idea received (3rd). It takes all Three steps. How can this be a problem in Masonry? We have trestle Boards and newsletters and email and web sites and Facebook and Twitter and whatever else. And yet, with all these words, often, we still do not have the three minimum requirements for communication. Simply put, if you did not sit in Lodge and hear it for yourself, you may not know about state and condition of the Lodge; the Degree work, the special events, who has been ill or anything. I am constantly surprised at what the Brethren or their families don't know!

Making communication more effective is what I would change and the why is pretty obvious. It's the HOW that is the hard part to answer. We've tried so many different methods and different media, with some success in each. It simply boils down to this. First - the officers and members of the Lodge must take the time and make the effort to get information and news out to every other member... in every way possible. That includes meetings, minutes, events, issues, illness, activities... you name it and all of it. AND just as important, members must be responsible enough to check into every possible information source for themselves.

This applies to Districts, Grand Lodge and all Masonic Bodies as well. If we can get the information out there (1st) and we know where and how to look (3rd) by our response in attendance, correspondence and support, we know that we have (2nd) communicated.

District Reports and Updates

The Grand Master's message this year to "Learn & Change" embodies the spirit of true friendship, cooperation, and support found among the Lodges of District 2:

Ashler Lodge, No. 121, Edmonds Lodge, No. 165, Robert Burns Lodge, No. 243, Shoreline Lodge, No. 248, Yancey C. Blalock Lodge, No. 265, Genesis Lodge, No. 305 and LuzVi-Minda Lodge, No. 317.

For over 18 years, District 2 has had an active resource team composed of Past Masters and past District Deputies to help develop and provide Lodge leadership training materials and programs through its annual Wardens and Deacons Retreat held every September. These retreats provide an opportunity for Wardens and Deacons to form a strong bond that they can share as they each advance to the East while gaining practical information, skills and tools to help them be effective leaders in each of their Lodges.

This bond shared between the officers of the different Lodges of the District can also be found through its effective Lodge Officers' Association that provides Lodges an opportunity to share what's going on in each of their Lodges, coordinate Degrees, encourage Lodges to visit each other, and support all youth groups that meet in the various Lodges throughout the District. The Lodge Officers' Association also provides fundraising for travel grants that are distributed by the District Deputy to members of Rainbow, Job's Daughters, and DeMolay who are elected to state offices to help offset some of their travel expenses. They also help celebrate all the youth groups of District 2 with an annual Youth Appreciation Banquet held every May.

By fostering an environment of support throughout District No. 2, Lodges are learning best practices to change how they reconnect with existing membership and develop new members through the Six Steps to Initiation Program, deliver excellent ritual work, and manage their real estate and financial assets to ensure a bright future within each of the communities they serve. Simple ideas like making it easy for members of all Lodges in the District to connect through social media, using technology to be able to take credit cards at fundraising events, and raising the training and skills of building associations to be effective property managers for their Lodges all contribute to a District that is committed to making Freemasonry fun and accessible for everyone to learn and grow as men and as Masons.



VWB Chris Haynes
 Deputy of the Grand Master in District No. 2

Time holds upon the edge of a wheel, guarded by one who is not of this earth. One who holds in clear order, the nature of things which pass. Clear is the purpose of time, but unclear the nature which controls it. The mechanism which winds the spring, seems unknowing and distant in its purpose. Why then do we move upon this wheel, is it then distance or is it a duration on which we stride. "When" should be more infinite than where. Without time there is no being. One must exist for a split second, in order to exist at all. Length, breadth,

thickness and lastly duration is what makes us who we are. As an Entered Apprentice we were counselled on the use of the 24-inch gauge to divide our time. I would suggest to you that time has become ravaged by the inflationary spending of this commodity known as time. The Eight hours for the service to god and distressed worthy Brethren has been replaced. By more and more hours upon the treadmill of servitude to countless tasks set before us. As our time disappears then so goes our ability to exist as we have for thousands of years as in the case of Freemasonry. As for the individual, well... He too seems to disappear as his time grows less with each passing day. Do not misunderstand, I speak not of death. But of the murder of our true selves and the poison that now flows freely from the stream where we once were nourished. Our Brothers and fellow citizens crave the knowledge of the mystic arts. Is not alchemy the process of turning something seemingly abundant and free, into something with great beauty and value. This is the nature of our human mind. To create and labor and to improve our lot and share this with others who have a gift to share with the world. The artist is no more important than the baker if he has not the knowledge to feed himself, the musician writes the lyric, but receives his inspiration from the eyes of the beggar for whom, without his hardships seen thru the eyes of the poet cannot inspire through music nor verse. And yet, one man is rich in goods and another is poor. Why then do we feel the need to make everyone the same and conform to a set of rules made for one group. Why then can we not live with the simple laws of nature. Friendship, morality and Brotherly love. Which as Masons we aspire to, but we are not the inventors of this mantra. Society continues to argue about the solution to no avail. I submit that the solution is much more simple than our minds can conjure. The builder of our universe created a simple set of laws to follow. I will not suggest that they are the 10 commandments. I submit that they are out the nature of morality and human law only and that these exist in all of us when uninfluenced by the outside pressures of others. We hear often that this group or that, should be in power and that certain groups should be banned admission into our society. Remember that good cannot survive without evil, the high would not be nearly as gratifying without first experiencing the low and life will cease to be worth living if it did not end in death. Nirvana and perfection are not of this world, but I do not believe that we as a species will not continue to seek it. So, now we get down to the heart of the matter. We must refocus our minds to a frequency that has not been used by most for many, many years if ever. The answers to all the mysteries are within our thinking minds, but cannot be brought to light from the confusion and decay we have allowed into our world. I was a man long before I was a Mason. So, why then is Masonry needed in a civil society. Masonry proclaims to teach morality and Brotherly love. It is my belief that these are not taught by our ritual and tenants. But that we are able to better remember those qualities in ourselves by being a Mason and by studying our ritual which reminds us of where our focus should be. Without our Fraternity to guide and remind us of our duties to our god, our neighbor and ourselves, we may forget the simple lessons which we hold sacred in our hearts. Always remember that Masonry does not make good men. It attracts them. It does not teach morality and Brotherly love; it reminds us daily of that which we already know. It does not teach critical thought; it reminds us to focus on the simplicity of the answers we seek. "Stay thirsty my friends"

VWB Thomas L. Bulson
 Deputy of the Grand Master in District No.



Happy New Year Brethren! Most of our Lodges have just finished installing a new line of officers. It's exciting to see so many young leaders serving the Craft in their stations and places for the first time. I'd like to encourage these Brothers to make the most of the honor bestowed upon them. DJ Khaled would call these keys to success:

Make an effort to improve yourself in Masonic knowledge and start working on the Proficiency in Lodge Management. The written portion is open book and taken online. Running a Lodge meeting is so much more fun when you know your ritual and Washington Masonic Code.

Register for the Lodge Leadership Retreat in Pasco March 18th-20th. While it's focused on preparing incoming Deacons, Wardens, and Masters; any Master Mason may attend. Some of the best times I've had in the craft took place at these retreats and I got to know my counterparts from the across the Jurisdiction. Register on the new Grand Lodge website <http://freemason-wa.org>.

Wardens and Masters: Your members not only put a tremendous amount of faith and trust in you to lead the Lodge, by election they made you their representatives at the Annual Communication. You are obligated to use your vote for the election of Grand Lodge Officers and legislation that may change the Washington Masonic Code and/or Standard Work. Be informed! I encourage you to study the Junior Grand Warden candidate profiles and watch the JGW Candidate Forum videos that will be published soon. Figure out who you think will best lead our Fraternity. Read the Resolution packets your Lodge will soon receive. Discuss them with your Lodge. Decide what you think will and will not improve the Craft. Then, most importantly, attend the Annual Communication June 10-11 in Wenatchee AND VOTE! If you can't make it, allow another Brothers who can to vote with your proxy. You can get a discounted room via the Grand Lodge website TODAY.

I can't stress how important it is to ensure your vote is counted. I attended my first Annual Communication as a Steward carrying my Worshipful Masters proxy. At the time I thought of Grand Lodge as this huge Galactic Empire-esq entity run by Past Masters that wore white tuxedos and matching uniforms with purple and gold aprons. I felt like I didn't have the right apron or jacket or tie or badge to really make a difference in the proceedings. I've been going every year since and I can tell you now that I couldn't have been more wrong. I've seen men voted into the line for Grand Master, our Code changed, and our ritual changed all by just a handful of votes. Literally the course of Masonry in Washington swayed by the number of guys in the restroom or smoking when the vote was called. That proxy vote I cast when I was a Steward was worth the same as the vote cast by the Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Washington that day. Think about that.

Now think about this: We have a little under 180 Lodges in our Jurisdiction. That's over 540 vote carrying Wardens and Masters. I don't know the number of Past Masters sitting in those chairs but for arguments sake let's say it's 25%. That's still over 400 votes owned by first time Wardens and Masters. Brothers, 400 votes will dictate every vote that comes to the floor this June. Every. Vote. That's the power and responsibility your Lodge gave you when you were elected. Don't let it go to waste.

And if you do find yourself at your first Annual Communication this summer, track me down. I'll buy you a drink and show you the ropes ;)

Fraternally,
 VWB Sam Ali
 Deputy of the Grand Master in District No. 5



Greetings from District 8.
 "The journey is the destination." *The Atlantis Plague*, A. G. Riddle

This short sentence from a nondescript novel I was reading caused me to tear up the remarks I had prepared for the District 8 meeting. The plan was to quote Albert Pike and other respected Masonic authors. But these five words define for me our time as Masons much better than the 861 pages of *Morals & Dogma*.

Some Masons describe their esoteric Masonic destination as finding the Lost Word and Masonic Light. We continue to search for the Word knowing that we will never find it and we understand that true Light will remain elusive in this life. Maybe the Word itself is less important than the search. And it is the quest for Light that is the cause of us becoming better men.

By searching for the Lost Word we find the meaning of it. By searching for the great truths we spread truth, share knowledge and by charitable acts, make the world better. But our search and acts should not be random; they must be done with an eye on the destination and with thought as to the purpose of our journey.

During our journey we learn the lessons of Freemasonry; we increase our understanding of the symbolism and allegories in our ritual. For most, there is no epiphany rather we take small steps that help us improve as men and as Masons. But we too often forget where we are going, our focus becomes where we have been. Our acts take precedence over why we do what we do. Our acts as Masons should be an aid to guide our journey not be the reason we are Masons.

This year, at our District meeting, the nine Lodges of District No. 8 did not talk about their acts; how many scholarships they gave away, how many bicycles were given to schools nor the number of Degrees conferred. Yes, they do all these things but rather than focus on past actions; they spoke on where their Lodges were going. They spoke on their vision of the Lodge in the near and long term.

In no way is this to minimize or trivialize the labor that District 8 Masons or Lodges perform. Good things are happening in this District. We are involved with our communities and enjoy great Masonic fellowship. We continue to do what we do well and now are adding to the acts we implement and set new goals; constantly challenging ourselves to improve. Learning and Changing.

It is difficult to reach a destination if we lose sight of it; our journey moves off-course. But by defining our goal (destination) and the steps needed to get there we remain on the right track. By describing the destination, our journey just may take care of itself.

In memory of VWB Karl E. Warren,
 12/14/1927-1/15/2016,
 He lived respected and died regretted.

Fraternally,
 VWB Jim Hamlin
 Deputy of the Grand Master in District No. 8



Events in District No. 16

It is an exciting time to be a Mason in District No. 16. Here are just a few of the events that the Lodges of District No. 16 have planned over the next few months.

Harmony Lodge No. 18 will hold its annual Valentines Ball on Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. This will be held at the Pellegrino's event center in Tumwater, Washington. This is a great opportunity to take your sweetheart out and celebrate with dinner, dancing and fellowship. Over 100 people attended last year. Harmony hopes to top that this year.

Grays Harbor Lodge No. 52 will hold its annual surf and turf dinner on Saturday, February 27, 2016 beginning at 4 P.M. Cost of this event is \$20 per person. There will be a live and silent auction beginning at 5 P.M. with awards to follow. You can contact VWB Don Watkins for tickets and information.

Tenino Lodge No. 86 will hold their famous St. Patrick's Day dinner on St. Patrick's Day Thursday, March 17, 2016. They will serve corned beef and cabbage along with great fun and fellowship. Cost of this dinner is \$12 per person. Dinner will be served at 6:30 P.M. with their Stated Meeting to follow.

Finally, Districts 16 and 17 will be holding their joint District meeting at the Centralia Masonic Lodge on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 11 AM. We will have pulled pork and a baked potato bar for lunch. Cost of lunch is \$10 per person. You can contact either myself or VWB Clay Anderson for more information. This is a great opportunity for fellowship and the meet the Grand Lodge Team and the candidates for Junior Grand Warden and Grand Secretary. We would love to see everyone there to welcome the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge team.

VWB Clint Brown, Jr.
 Deputy of the Grand Master in District No.16



Brethren all, I hope this article finds you doing well. I'm happy to report to you that the spirit of fraternalism in District No. 27 (Spokane County stretching from Cheney in the west to Millwood in the east) is alive and well! The greatest example of this can most easily be found at Temple Lodge, No.42 in Cheney.

Temple has had a long-standing tradition of hosting an annual Widows Luncheon for the widows of the Lodge's departed Brethren. But what sets this Lodge apart, in my mind, is the way the Brethren looked out for these widows in a time of crisis. During the November 17, 2015 wind storm that left so many without power for several days, the Brethren of Temple Lodge No. 42 took it upon themselves to make sure the widows had what they needed (generators, flash lights, fire wood, etc.) until such time as power was restored.

Other Lodges continue to engage in various Fraternal activities. Manito Lodge, No. 246 continues to support RiteCare, the Scottish Rite's primary philanthropy, with financial dona-

tions and several Lodge members serving on the Spokane clinic's board of directors. Audubon Park Lodge, No.272 continues hosting its annual Corned Beef & Cabbage dinners when the Grand Master visits in March as well as various other activities throughout the year; Concordia Lodge, No.249 continues to host its annual "Road Kill Grill" every June as well as other activities throughout the year; and North Hill Lodge, No.210 has established a yearly tradition of awarding scholarships to members of the Spokane area's youth groups.

These are just a few examples; but they illustrate how Fraternalism is alive and well in District No. 27.

Fraternally,
 VWB Ryan Leonard
 Deputy of the Grand Master in District No. 27



Masons from the Eastside head north for their annual migration to Trails, B.C. for Robert Burns Night event hosted by Corinthian Lodge, No. 27 Ancient Free & Accepted Masons B.C. & Yukon Registry.

Each year Lodges are represented at Trails from Kettle Falls, Deer Park, Spokane, and this year as far away as Spangle. The night begins with Corinthian Lodge opening on the first Degree. A wondrous site to behold Pipers leading the way for all the Lodge officers to positions throughout the Lodge and the Master (RWB Rick Hahn) final chair being filled. Both the Canadian and U.S. National anthems sung. The Lodge is then closed and all Masons retire to the Blue room where the festivities begin. A Grand procession lead by Pipers fol-



lowed by the platter of Haggis (this year yours truly had this honor to carry). The Haggis followed by a bottle of celebrated Scotch. Haggis deposited to the head table and RWB John Gentleman delivered the "address to the Haggis" and the "Interpretation with "tas" apologies". Song and poetry filled the evening. The evening was concluded with a toast to the visitors and the Response was delivered by yours truly. As the festivities dwindled and handshakes were exchanged and blessings for a safe journey home, Thoughts were already growing with excitement of next January and our trip back to Trails B.C. Thank you again from all of us south of the border for a wonderful night of "Brotherly Love and Affection". May the Haggis never grow cold and the bottle of "Bells" never go dry.

Fraternally
 VWB Nick Pemberton
 Deputy of the Grand Master in District No. 30



Remarks at the District No. 14 Meeting

I was approached by our District Deputy to come up with a few strengths and weaknesses I felt our Lodge possessed for our District Meeting. Oddly enough, during the weeks I had for contemplation of our assets and shortcomings and by visiting a few other Lodges during their Stated Meetings as well as talking to my fellow Masons, I came to realize that although many of our individual Lodges differ in what strengths we offer to the Brethren and Masonry as a whole, it was the things we could improve on, our flaws, our shortcomings, and our failings to the Craft, candidates and dues paying membership that we seem to share almost universally.



It is no secret that in the last few decades Masonry took a very dramatic dip in both member activity as well as in the amount of neophytes we introduced and progress through the Degrees of our institution. And, although we still haven't reached the numbers of Masons enrolled in our Rites or the number of Degrees we reached during our Masonic heyday, I've heard from several members of local Lodges and seen within my own Lodge that there has been a definite uptick in interest and in the number of people joining Masonry in the last couple of years.

While this is a definite blessing, I also hear the singular constant from sources I've talked with that only a handful of people initiated into the 1st Degree actually make it all the way to proving up for the 3rd, and that only a percentage of those that last and make proficiency on the Master Degree take the journey of stepping into a Lodges line of Officers. To me this is our number one problem here at Tyler Lodge as well as the biggest problem facing the majority of other Lodges in the area.

It's a tradition here to ask the Candidate after each Degree what his impression of the Ritual work was most especially the Entered Apprentice Degree. Without question the top response seems to be "It's not what I expected". Now, that response can be taken one of two ways. One potential perspective is that the Initiate was blown away by the process of becoming a Mason. By the meaning and allegorical and symbolic significance of the Degree and that it made a lasting and indelible impression on his mind and psyche. The other and, in my opinion, more likely meaning is that the Candidates feel a lack of awe. That he missed something very important and that the Ritual Work on some level failed to leave any kind of lasting trace of truth or wisdom within him. That some sort of veil was supposed to be ripped away and a secret from on high imparted upon him that would make everything make everything he just went through make perfect sense and indeed even make the whole of his life make perfect sense.

To the Mason going through the Degrees that feel this way our ceremony is meaningless and without depth, Masonry as

an institution is and shallow and without a true meaning and I'm sure they think that the Lodge members must have felt and/or feel the same way but have stuck around hoping that one day it would all become clear. Approaching the problem from that perspective it is no wonder that we as Lodges lose so many good men and that retention and the expansion of Freemasonry, Freemasons and Lodges is an issue despite the resurgence many have seen in initial interest.

I see many reasons why this has become an issue but a few stand out as shining examples and thankfully they seem to have simple solutions that we at Tyler Lodge have had the chance to experiment with. First I'd like to discuss why I feel this is even a problem we face as a Fraternity. Many of the young men who petition Lodges do so with knowledge first gleaned by a resource that The Craft didn't have to deal with up until the near present. The internet!! Yes, believe it or not I see the free and wide open access to the history, ideals, symbology and the esoteric interpretation of the Three Degrees as a fairly large hindrance to keeping the young modern Mason, most especially when this is the first opportunity one might have to experience or even hear about Masonry in any way. There is such a deep wealth of knowledge available by online sources that very little is left to be discovered by anyone with a curious mind and a true interest in what we espouse.

Whether the individual be interested by the idea of just simply knowing something he's not supposed to know, like our



modes of recognition by which one Mason can tell another in the dark as well as in the light, or by a genuine heartfelt yearning on the part of the researcher who honestly sees the value in and wants to be part of an organized assemblage of men that believe in something greater than themselves and wishes to become an active participant in its mysteries and to help propagate and spread the craft, the internet sets the standard of awe or the wow factor in the Degrees that this new generation, my generation, is first exposed to and Brothers the standard of Masonry is set very high online.

The bar is set sometimes by well-meaning Lodges and members all over the world that cherry pick the best we have to offer and make promises of a better of life while hinting at the possibility that we are the last vestiges of an ancient system of understanding with a deeper truth than is normally presented in any other theological system, all while hiding anything that depicts the ugly, the difficult or the sometimes hard to hear truths about what Lodges are and how we as Masons go about the changes and processes an initiate must take in order to go from a good man to a better one.

On the other hand, we have a group of conspiracy buffs and people who claim we do things behind the tyled door of our Temples that no man calling himself a Mason would allow

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himself to take part in. With this in mind it's no wonder that a man exposed to that kind of polarizing information via the internet is both startled and confused by the ACTUAL Degrees themselves with their vague and poetic descriptions of our symbols and the often times less than 100% dedicated attention to the ritual by the members that both the candidate and the Craft itself deserve.

The other issue that arises is the lack of motivation many of the younger Brothers once raised feel about passing through the chairs of the Lodge. It's my view that this comes from distrust in an individual's ability to both lead men he looks up to and admires and a lack of true confidence in reading aloud the cypher let alone memorize the work. I truly believe and see that as Lodges fall away from traditional ways of having a candidate prove up in Lodge or using the new standard of the Alternate proficiency, whether it be by reciting the obligation or having them do the full posting lecture the larger this problem becomes and the fewer and fewer men we have able to confer a Degree with confidence let alone lead the Lodge in any meaningful capacity.

Here at Tyler Lodge we've been combating these issues by taking things back to the basics and by increasing the standard by which we allow a candidate to pass from one Degree to another. It's become a new tradition here to have the candidates perform the working tools respective to the Degree they have recently received during another Masons initiation, Passing, or Raising as well as recite the obligation for the first two Degrees and the full posting lecture on the Third Degree. Trust me Brothers when I tell you the look of pride, confidence and accomplishment on the face of these Brothers that prove up in this manner as the men they respect so much stand and applaud them after a job well done is worth the time and energy given to the task by the candidate, coach and Lodge.

This also has the dual purpose of preparing the candidate for a future role in the Officer Line. Seeing as the posting lecture is so similar to the actual Degree itself once it's memorized it seems that many feel an actual want and desire to sit in the East, even if it were just to confer Degrees and feel that pride in himself that he once felt standing before the Alter and the Brethren he so admires. This has in a way created a domino effect here. As new younger members learn to put on a Degree with more Mastery the candidates coming into the Lodge have picked up the fire and passion they feel present in the delivery of the Degrees we've been retaining and watching more young men Raised then when I first joined the Lodge.

We've also started the practice of having a proving up if it were or standard of proficiency in the officer line itself with the Senior Deacon putting on at least one First Degree, the Junior Warden a Second Degree and the SW a Third Degree. This has raised the confidence level of the men passing from chair to chair so that once one moves from neophyte to the East as Master he has sat in the Oriental Chair several times before and is more than comfortable and prepared to lead the Lodge for his term as Worshipful Master.

I believe all of these pieces are essential for retaining and energizing this newest generation of Masons as opposed to making the process easier and easier just in an attempt to keep Brothers around seems to have had the opposite effect

as time goes on. I hope that each Lodge if nothing else tries this strategy within their own temple and experiments to find the perfect combination to keep the Brothers invested in themselves, the Lodge and the ritual.

WB Charles Covington
 Worshipful Master
 Horace W. Tyler Lodge, No. 290

SEATTLE IS A CHALLENGE.

Between 1990 and 2010, the US Census saw Seattle's population grow by 72%, for example the Pioneer Sq./ International District 63%, Retail Core/Waterfront 109%, Belltown 183%, South Lake Union 305%, First Hill 8%. What do the numbers tell?

(1) Most newcomers are ages 18-34, single, slightly more females than males. Welcome all to the Seattle Freeze.

(2) The small First Hill neighborhood has gained about 770 new residents. It suggests personnel of Swedish and Harborview Hospitals, nearby Seattle U, UW scientists, med students, foreign researchers.

(3) South Lake Union, once a wasteland of sorts, now full of professionals with UW Medicine, biology and research labs, GSK, facebook, HBO. Amazon, the nation's third largest retailer, is here, not in some ghastly office park, with 24,000 new employees and by 2017 will use 17 hi-rises for offices, 12,400 apartments, a 3-building HQ.

(4) The 2010 Census saw downtown's nearly 38,000 residents double by 2030. By June 2015, the population had risen by about 23,000. Apartment towers of 40, 39 and 39 stories and two smaller office towers go up within one block from sleepy Pike Place Market. A few blocks farther, 59 stories of offices, 101 stories, 35 floors of apts. Bigger projects are waiting to be built nearby. Downtown Seattle will have many more people will look more like midtown Manhattan.

Seattle's population, business and traffic projections of four years ago have been superseded. More people is not always something to celebrate. Seattle's infrastructure, sewers, mass transit, schools, highways congested by some of the nation's worst drivers (Allstate Insur.), the homeless and crazies, there be dragons.

Seattle is a challenge for Freemasons, Where are they? Where they have always been? What do they do there? What they have always done? Wait for an interested fish to jump into their drift boat on Stagnation Creek to Oblivion Slough?

Where are the shopkeepers, CPA's, mechanics, businessmen, entrepreneurs, elite school grads, financiers, artists, computer wizards, the stars of professions, real estate, marketing, sports, biology, engineering, media, etc. where are the brains, where the doers?

Look at the 2010 Census, Look at recent statistics. That's where such men are.

Next question: What do we have for them? And why are there no Lodges in Seattle's growth areas?

Respectfully Submitted,

WB (Dr.) H. Svoboda, PhL JD, PM, GR.

Looking Forward by Looking Back

As a fairly new Master Mason going through the chairs for the first time, it's interesting to examine the process some Lodges use to select officers in the line. Sometimes, it's by desperation. Recycling Past Masters to keep the Lodge afloat through difficult times. Using guilt to push a Brothers into proving up to fill a seat because quite frankly, there is no one else to do it.

Other times, it's easy. Your Lodge is bursting with new candidates, you seem to do Degrees almost every week, and there is a waiting list for Brothers to start their journey through the positions. Oh, if all Lodges were so lucky!

But, if you're like most Lodges, you're somewhere in the middle. Sure, you've got a healthy line of new Brothers filling the ranks, and all of the positions are filled, but you were wondering if you were going to get that last Brothers to prove up in time. Or, perhaps you're lacking Stewards, making the Junior Warden's job that much more difficult. It's to these Lodges that this article is addressed.

Speaking philosophically, I wonder if anyone has really taken the time to explain to the new guys starting out as a Steward (or whatever position they're put into) if they are truly dedicated to the journey they've set for themselves. If things go as planned (which it seldom does), your Masonic travels though the chairs will take at least five years or longer. During that time, you'll need to constantly improve on ritual work, to attend practices, to take on more and more duties, until finally you're placed in the Oriental Chair, and in charge of it all.

It's not only to my benefit, but to the Lodge as a whole, that each newly-installed officer be warned of the road you are about to take. As a member of the line, I want to make sure that if I am lucky enough to be elected as Worshipful Master, the folks coming up behind me are just as dedicated to the craft as those who went before them. To ensure the line is healthy is a fundamental responsibility among all of the Brothers shared equally. I would much rather see a Past Master in the line versus someone who isn't 100% sure they can make the commitments to the Lodge. You should embrace every challenge and devote your time and energy to learning the ritual, to attend practice. To visit other Lodges. To buy those fundraising tickets or contribute to the Bikes-for-Books program. Volunteer for committees and attend District meetings. As a Steward, joyfully spend time in the kitchen cooking and cleaning. As a Deacon, make sure the visitors are welcomed, and that the Lodge room is duly and truly prepared, cleaned and comfortable. The Junior Warden should spend the time to make good wholesome meals without breaking the bank, and assist the Stewards in cleaning up afterwards. You should be the first one at the Lodge, and the last to leave. As the Senior Warden, you should attend agenda meetings, take all of the local and state training you can. Compete in the Wardens' Competition. If you haven't before, you should take the Proficiency in Lodge Management course. You should have mapped out your own year in the East, so that when

you finally do make it, you have a plan to make your year a fun and exciting time for everyone.

If you are not willing to take on these responsibilities, then perhaps you should rethink your timeline. If you are married and have a family, they come first. If you are in the military and subject to long deployments, perhaps now is not the time. Life happens. The unexpected can and does rear its ugly head from time to time. Sometimes a virtual grenade is lobbed into the middle of your line and blows a hole that needs patching. But keep calm and ritual on!

BRO Glenn Geiss
Senior Deacon
Port Orchard Lodge, No. 98



Member, Grand Lodge Technology Committee

Research and Education Updates

Brethren of our Washington Grand Jurisdiction, change is happening in the Research and Education Committee. We have been working on several projects since Grand Lodge last June.

We have updated the Proficiency in Lodge Management test to reflect the changes from Grand Lodge; produced two videos, one on Lodge/Temple Board Governance and the other is a Portrayal of our Brothers Benjamin Franklin.

Other completed projects are:

- The Common Gavel and twenty four inch Gage, by WB Matt Appel
- Secretaries Quick Reference Guide, by VWB Steve Wandell
- Masonic Funerals and Memorials, by VWB Brian Morgan
- Revised Lodge Officers Handbook & the Coach's Manual for New Candidate Education Program

Projects in the works are:

- Third Degree Circumambulation Explained---A Video
- Mentors Guide for Coaches
- Table Lodge and Menu
- Alternative Prayers

All of these documents will be located on the new Grand Lodge Web page.

We, the committee on Research and Education, hope you find this material helpful in your Masonic work. Please let me know if you are aware of other items that we should add to help promote a better understanding of Free Masonry.

Fraternally,

WB John Mathers
Chairman
Research and Education



Just a few years ago the leadership of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington made a commitment to improve its charitable activity in the Jurisdiction.

Part of this commitment included consolidating Masonic Outreach Services, Children's Programs and Scholarships, and the Washington Masonic Library and Museum under one single 501 (C) 3 nonprofit corporation. This was a big change, but it was also the right change.

Over the past twenty five years the expectations of agencies responsible for oversight of nonprofit work have increased, and like any other business, nonprofits have benefited from active and skilled management. Nonprofits are expected to be more business-like, fiscally responsible, and to maintain a clear strategic direction to assure that the donor dollars are used effectively. The Grand Lodge leadership recognized that it was time to change for the better.

It was an enormous leap of faith on the part of the WAMC Board of Trustees and the Jurisdiction to rethink its charitable work and take the steps to bring in skill and experience in the field. This decision is beginning to bear fruit. After doing the heavy lifting of building the infrastructure, and bringing on staff, we are beginning to make positive progress.

Masonic Outreach Services has had an active and visible presence in both Western and Eastern Washington for nearly a year, and staff are serving more than 30 new clients each month. Children's Programs and Public Schools Outreach are getting a big boost and we are beginning to realign our efforts with identified community needs and with Masonic values. New ways of preserving and sharing our Masonic heritage not only within the Fraternity, but in the public are beginning to take shape, and we are beginning to revive satellite libraries.

Washington Masonic Charities is, and will always be, strongly connected to the Grand Lodge for the benefit of Masons, including those who are in distress, widows, and orphans. As a public charitable organization, we are also here to serve our fellow man. We will be here to do our part to aid children to assure that they are safe and that our least advantaged have the opportunity to become educated, capable adults of good character. We will also help to assure that our Masonic heritage is preserved and known for generations to come. Washington Masonic Charities will always take its cues from our Masonic values.

It is always important to remember that the Grand Lodge is ultimately constituted by the current and past leadership of every Masonic Lodge in our Grand Jurisdiction, and because of this I believe that it is important to listen to and be responsive to the ideas and concerns of the Brethren. I invite anyone who has any ideas, concerns, or wants more information about Washington Masonic Charities to please call me directly at (253) 442-2525 or send me an email at ken@wa-masoniccharities.org. You have my solemn pledge that the work of Washington Masonic Charities, in partnership and collaboration with the Brethren, will reflect favorably on Freemasonry across the Grand Jurisdiction.

BRO Ken Gibson
 Executive Director
 WA Masonic Charities



A Gift

Who doesn't want to leave one final gift for their loved ones? A gift to help lift a portion of the burden they will have to face upon your death. Pre-planning your funeral arrangements, whatever they may be, from the simplest of cremation to a full traditional funeral with days of viewing. There is no right or wrong service, whatever type of service you choose, is the right one for you. The important part is that it is the type of service you want, one that is not decided by loved ones, steeped in grief. There is also the financial portion of a funeral, one that must be paid in full at the time of a death. Pre-planning allows flexibility in payment and also guarantees all costs against future increases. I have never met a family that wasn't grateful that their loved one had taken care of their arrangements.

Many times I hear "I'm not ready yet, I have time". Well, I was on the Rose Croix funeral team for 10 years and participated in 180 plus funerals. When I hear that said, I'm reminded of a portion of that service that goes "...a Mason has passed on overtaken by that relentless fate, which is sooner or later to overtake us all; and which no worth or virtue, no wealth or honor, no tears of friends or agony of loving ones can avert or delay; teaching us the impressive lesson, continually repeated, yet always soon forgotten, that every one of us must ere long dwell in a house of darkness" or more simply put in a statement we have at work "we bury people on Thursday, that had plans for Saturday night".

Your Most Worshipful Grand Lodge team, presided over by our MWB Donald Munks has given you a gift! At no cost to Grand Lodge or to yourself, they have enrolled you in Evergreen-Washelli's Affinity Benefit Program. There is no expiration on the benefits provided. These benefits are extended to six generations. Discounts are applied to both funeral and cemetery costs. When a death occurs, we are there to help. Your Grand Lodge has given you a gift, now take this gift and use it to help your family and loved ones.

How do I utilize this benefit? It is as easy as a phone call or email. I will gladly meet you at your Stated Meeting to present this to your Lodge or in a group of Lodges or Brothers or on an individual basis.

A question often asked is "I already have my cemetery property in another cemetery, not at Evergreen-Washelli" or "I plan to be placed at Tahoma National cemetery" or "I plan on being buried at a family cemetery in another state". All of these are good questions. The answer to those questions is, you will still need a funeral home to get you there and that is where Evergreen-Washelli and the Affinity Benefits help you.

You might say "I already have all my funeral plans and cemetery items taken care of". Well, in that case, that is great – as a Mason you have planned for your family and already given them a gift. In that case, if you wish, I will gladly go over everything you have to make sure that what you think is in place and arranged actually is.

Lastly, Evergreen-Washelli Memorial Park is in the process of developing a new Masonic area to take care of Masonic Brethren in the future. We are working with your Grand Lodge to make this a special area for Masons and their families.

When you have moved on to the Celestial Lodge in Heaven, make sure that your mortal remains are not a burden to your family and loved ones.

Fraternally,
 Rick Becker, PM
 Evergreen-Washelli Funeral Home & Memorial Park
 206.362.5200 x-118
rbecker@washelli.com

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 - February 2016

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

A full service real estate company

1805 Hewitt Ave. Everett, WA 98201

Broker: Boe Lindgren

Tel. 206-391-6224

E-mail: boe@AshlarRealty.com

1805 Limousine

Affordable limousine service for friends

1805 Hewitt Ave. Everett, WA 98201

Tel. 206-391-6224

Facebook: 1805 LIMO

E-mail: boe@1805Hewitt.com

www.BoeDeal.com

Find savings on cell phones (& service)

Television, ADT, Gas, & Electric.

1805 Hewitt Ave, Everett, WA 98201

Tel. 206-391-6224

E-mail: boe@lindgren.com

Gentry Custom Remodel

Aging in Place Construction

Kevin E. Gent, Sr. Partner

5001 S. 1st., Tacoma 98408

253-921-0834

Gentry@nventure.com

www.GentryCustomRemodel.com

Hardwood flooring installation and refinishing

Lane Hardwood Floors / Showroom

14700 Aurora Ave. N.

Shoreline, WA 98133

206-622-9669

Email: jeff@lanehardwoodfloors.com

Website: www.lanehardwoodfloors.com

