



MASONIC TRIBUNE

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



Happy Holidays!

VOLUME XCVIII No.2 - WINTER 2017 ISSUE

A few words from the Chair:

Best wishes to one and all and Happy Holidays!

We have made so much progress in developing a better and healthier newsletter publication for our Grand Jurisdiction. I express my deepest gratitude to all for the contributions made by submitting articles for every issue we publish.

Our publication is getting more and more attractive to our Masonic reading community and for this reason it encourages our members to sit down and write more stories to publish. The progress we have made gives us justification to try to bring back the printing of the publication and be mailed to every member of our Grand Jurisdiction. This idea is being highly considered by our Grand Lodge officers and we hope that it will come to fruition.

Please continue to provide us with news articles and other materials for the publication. We also want your comments as to what you think will help improve our service to you.

Again thank you so much for your continued support.

Fraternally,

MWB G. Santy Lascano

Chairman, GLWA Masonic Tribune

A Sub Committee of:
Public Relations Committee

g.santy@comcast.net



(Guidelines continued)

7. When sending your article, your email subject field should say "Masonic Tribune Winter 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.

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.
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)

(continued, next column)



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

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Article submission deadlines:

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



Be the Difference

To my dismay, I have met those that believe that the duties and responsibilities of Freemasonry do not go beyond the four walls of the Lodge room. That Masons are under an obligation to practice Masonry with Masons and no more. It appears that this very important lesson was missed:

“Charge them to practice out of the Lodge, those important duties that they learn in it.”

Though delivered to the Worshipful Master at his installation, these words serve as a reminder and admonishment to all Brethren to translate the lessons of our Fraternity learned in the Lodge into service amongst our fellows outside of the Lodge. Put another way, to Be the Difference in your interactions with those with whom you may come in contact to make your corner of the world just a little bit better.

The idea of Freemasonry – specifically, Freemasons – being a transformative force in society is not a new idea. To quote from MW Bill P. Horn (1972), “...this Fraternity, through its purposes and principles, has the formula by which a ‘Just and Honorable’ society can flourish, and it is incumbent upon each of us to foster and promote that formula to the best of his ability.

The formula of which our Past Grand Master speaks is how the teachings of our Fraternity help shape each of us from the rough ashlar that we are now to the perfect ashlar we hope to become – within and without the confines of the Lodge. A process that is never-ending. A process that opens wider the charitable portion of our hearts and minds that allows us to Be the Difference not because it is something exceptional or something that makes us feel particularly noble. If we do it right, Being the Difference becomes just something that we do.

Consider this, if it is true that the chief point of Freemasonry is to endeavor to be happy ourselves and to communicate that happiness to others, then to Be the Difference wherever we may be is an imperative. Think for a moment how you feel when you successfully coach a Brother? Are you not happier for having done so? How about when you give of yourself by volunteering at the food bank? Have you not made your little corner of the world a better place by bringing to life outside of the Lodge setting the lessons of our gentle Craft?

The story goes that God said to the man, “Be the Difference”.

The man answered, “How? The world is such a large vast place so complicated and I am so small and useless, there is nothing I can do.”

God in all His wisdom said, “Start by Being the Difference that you want to see.”

Freemasonry does not and must not begin and end within the four walls of the Lodge; for if that is the case, then Freemasonry ends within the four walls of the Lodge. We are fortunate to be part of a Great Brotherhood. Don't keep it to yourself – Be the Difference!

MWB Jim V. Mendoza

Grand Master



GRAND MASTER
MOST WORSHIPFUL Brother
Jim V. Mendoza





Passing the Torch!

Another year is about to go into the history books. For many of the Lodges within our Jurisdiction, it is the time for Installation of Officers and a transfer of leadership. Best Wishes to each of our new Worshipful Masters and their line of officers, for an enjoyable and memorable year. For some of the current officers their positions may be familiar, having been through the line before, while others the journey is new. Each elected officer, with the confidence and support of their Lodge members, will be tasked to move their Lodge forward preserving customs, traditions and providing education.

As we evaluate the future goals of our Craft, we are each being asked to review the "Six Supports of 20-20 Vision":

- *Membership Experience
- *Masonic Education
- *Leadership and Management
- *Beyond the Lodge
- *Philanthropy
- *Technology

With the support and participation of each Brother, the needs and goals of our Lodges and Grand Lodge will come closer to certainty. With quality "Leadership and Management" training, we shall continue to strengthen our leaders and cultivate new ones. Our Lodge Leadership Retreat (March 17-19, 2017) will be offering Team Orientated Training for Masters, Wardens and other Lodge officers. Technology available on your Grand Lodge Website will continue to provide and increase access to online training. The Secretary/Treasurer/Board Governance Teams are available to assist those Brethren who have been elected by their respective Lodges as Secretary, Treasurer, Secretary/Treasurer or members of their respective Temple Boards. It is essential to take advantage of these opportunities to expand our knowledge, which in return will assist us in improving our Lodges and ourselves.

Brethren, you are OUR FUTURE! Your suggestions, comments and ideas are important. Please consider the survey on the following link in regards to the "Six Supports of 20-20 Vision". ([HTTP://6supports.weebly.com/](http://6supports.weebly.com/)) If you have, any questions or concerns feel free to contact the Grand Lodge Office or any of the Grand Lodge Officers. We are here to assist you!

From the youngest Entered Apprentice Mason in

the Northeast corner of the Lodge to the Worshipful Master in the East, you are the FUTURE of our Craft. As Masters of our Craft and from within our Hearts, it is in our Obligation to assist each and every Brother in the safeguarding of our Craft. We must insure that our children's children are able to enjoy all the pleasures of Masonry, that we have been so graciously blessed with.

Masonry has been confronted by many obstacles throughout history. Our mission is guided by the enduring and relevant principles of our Fraternity: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Through the vision and dedication of those Brethren that preceded us, we remain the "Largest and Oldest Fraternity in the world", because they chose to "Be The Difference".

Mary Jo and I extend Best Wishes to each of you and your families during this Holiday Season and a special prayer to our Military throughout the world.

Fraternally,
RWB Warren R. Schoeben
Deputy Grand Master



DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL Brother
Warren R. Schoeben





Change with a Purpose

Change for the sake of change, as we know, seldom works out well. We have all seen it. Someone has a "Eureka Moment" and charges off like Don Quixote tilting at windmills. And just as the windmills survived, so do the targets of our "Ah-ha Don Quixote". It is self-evident, of course, that change is not all bad and progress in any endeavor requires change.

There are any numbers of valid reasons to initiate change. An existing program or process may no longer meet the needs of the organization due to changing requirements, changing priorities or even changing technology. Change is in the works for this Grand Lodge this year. I believe that the changes proposed or already initiated move us in the right direction.

I wrote about the Legislative Task Force in the most recent edition of the Tribune as an example of heightened interest in an area that impacts all of our Lodges and our Fraternity. This is a new Task Force, and the First reference to "Legislative" functions was last year with the appointment of VWB Clayton La Vigne as our Legislative Liaison. This year we have a "Task Force" which will continue to evolve and improve.

This year the Grand Master will present a Grand Master's Resolution on the subject of the Military Recognition Committee, to expand the scope and focus of the committee to better reflect the needs of our Brethren who are active duty, retired, and veterans of the various services. The Resolution proposes to change the title of the Military Recognition Committee to the "Military and Veterans Services Committee", which would be the first appearance of the word "Veteran" in the Washington Masonic Code should the Resolution pass. The new committee would have new directions to include:

- Research, develop and promote programs to serve and honor our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guard, Reserves and National Guard Forces and the veterans of the same, within the evolving opportunities and priorities of this Grand Jurisdiction.
- Recommend programs and activities that engage the military community, veteran community, Brethren who are veterans, and their families.
- Work in concert with Washington Masonic Charities and other agencies to provide a clearinghouse of available resources from Charities, Veterans Organizations, Government Agencies, and such other assets and resources as are identified by the committee.

The intent of this change is to authorize and empower the committee to be pro-active in support of our Active Duty and Veteran Brethren. The current committee does not provide that opportunity and our Washington Masonic Charities do not currently have resources to focus on this effort. When attending Lodge meetings or District meetings, a show of hands reveals a very high percentage of our members as veterans, often in excess of 50% of those in attendance. Add in our ladies who are also veterans and the scope of the potential need becomes apparent. Here then, is an opportunity to truly "be the difference!"

RWB Jim Kendall
 Senior Grand Warden

SUDOKU SYMBOL PUZZLE

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(Solution is provided in page 17)

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN
 RIGHT WORKSHIPFUL Brother
 Jim H. Kendall



From the table of the Junior Grand Warden

We have all heard of the Traveling Man but how many of us know the history behind this Legendary Masonic figure. The Mason in search of work, traveled from one work site to another. The Masonic Services Association of North America just published an interesting article about the Traveling Man in their latest Short Talk Bulletin Vol. 94, September 2016. I would like to suggest that you read this article if you would like to learn more about this Legendary Masonic figure to better understand the origin of the Traveling Man. I found it to be an interesting read and I hope you do also. Contact your Lodge Secretary, as I believe he gets the Short Talk Bulletin free of charge, if not you can subscribe on line and get these articles monthly.

I have discovered that being a Traveling Man can be a very rewarding experience. I do not mean just traveling within your own District but venturing out to Districts that border on your own District. If you live near another State or United States border, venture into that Jurisdiction and see how Masonry is practiced. You just might be amazed at what you can learn by doing so. By traveling as a Master Mason, we can spread the cement of Brotherly love and friendship. When you travel, you might be asked to fill a vacant station/place, or you might be asked to close the Lodge on any given Degree or give the closing charge. When asked to do so, it is your chance to show that you are in fact a Master Mason and have learned your trade. I have attended Prince Hall on many an occasion and have been asked to sit in the east, what an honor that is. Not long ago I attended the Grand Lodge of Idaho and learned a lot about how the Grand Lodge of Idaho operates. I was not aware of many Jurisdictional differences between "Ancient Free & Acceptance Masons" and "Free & Accepted Mason". When I traveled to Idaho Grand Lodge, the trip to Boise Idaho was very rewarding as I met visiting Brothers from Nevada, Oregon, Wyoming and Utah. One thing I did learn was these Jurisdictions had one thing in common and that was their size. Another thing I learned was that we share mutual concerns about membership, youth groups, public awareness and Lodge stability just to mention a few.

When it comes to being a traveling man please do not limit yourself to just visiting other local Masonic Lodges. Venture out and visit our youth groups including Jobs Daughters, Rainbow for Girls and DeMolay wherever they may be. It would be great if every Masonic Lodge in our Jurisdiction each sponsored a youth group. Gather up other Masons and visit them as a group, dressed as Masons. If you are a District Deputy

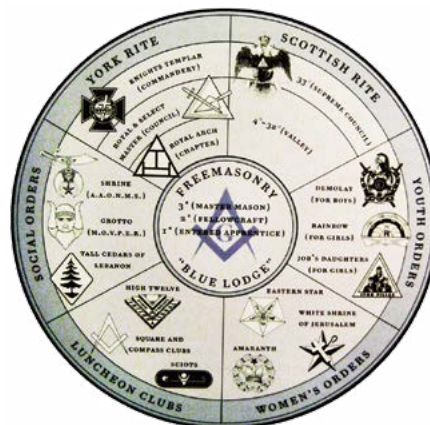
of the Grand Master, a Grand Lodge appointed officer, or Lodge officer dress accordingly because the youth enjoy seeing Masons dress accordingly. When I was Illustrious Master of the Centralia Council we visited Job's Daughters Bethel wearing our purple coats, they loved it because their primary colors are purple and white. When the Centralia DeMolia Commandery visited a DeMolay chapter, we wore the commandery uniform and the boys wanted to see our chapeaus and swords. Remember our Grand Masters initiative: "Or" – one more advisors for each Chapter, Bethel, and Assembly. "For years, our youth leaders have told us "we appreciate your money, but we would love to see you at our meetings and activities." It's high time we listen and act. The youth committee has been hard at work spreading the word throughout our Jurisdiction, adding new advisors and is working hard to add one more chapter per youth group.

One more item I would like to address is Order of Eastern Star and Amaranth Grand Court. If you are a member of one of these organizations and have not been attending, I encourage you to do so. My lady, Lorraine and myself are active members of Order of Eastern Star and attend meetings on a regular basis. These Concordant bodies allow Masons and their spouses to be members' and attend functions together as a family.

The future of our Grand Jurisdiction looks bright, we have the skills, know-how and desire to get the work done.

Again, ask not what Masonry can do for you but what you can do for Masonry. It is up to each Mason to "Be the Difference".

RWB Charles E. Wood
 Junior Grand Warden



JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
 RIGHT WORSHIPFUL Brother
 Charles E. Wood





Life Changes Since

Becoming a Mason

This is actually a continuation of a topic that I began in the Grand Lodge Messenger (Newsletter) in December. Available from the Grand Lodge website at www.FreeMason-wa.org

That article began: "I was talking to a Brother who has had more than his share of challenges recently and he made a statement that was thought provoking and profound at the same time. He said, "Masonry saved my life". I thought at the time that, perhaps, this was a bit of an overstatement, but the more I considered his statement, I came to the realization that, if we took a moment to reflect, that a statement of "Masonry CHANGED my life" could or should be true for each of us."

As most of you already know, my lady, Vickie, is quite likely one of the best recruiters for Masonry. She has no compunction or is bound by any constraints about approaching a man who demonstrates the proper Masonic character traits and telling him, or his lady, that they should investigate Freemasonry. She typically closes with a statement that no harm will come with a Masonic association, but if given the proper commitment, the individual will be changed for the better - a better person; husband; father and friend. She will then point to say, "He is a better person than the one I met and married...so long ago" and me I can only agree. As a young man, I was not necessarily known for my tolerance, patience or restraint. While I am still a rough ashlar in many regards, I am not the base rock I once was.

So, as I pondered on the Brother's declaration and my own considerations about the effect of Masonry on our lives, I began to deeply contemplate on those changes and think about the why, and the how and who was involved to cause all these changes to come about. What a revelation! There have been so many Brothers that have contributed to the person I have become. Each, through direct mentorship or by example have made me a better man. While the making a good man better is cliché, in my case it is true, assuming that I was somewhat good to begin with. From that retrospective, I gained a recommitment to my Masonic obligations, the

tenets of Freemasonry and to continue working on my ashlar.

I now understand what was meant when that Brother made the statement that "Masonry saved my life." Even when we are not in trouble, it is only by all the unique relationships that we, as Brothers, have amongst ourselves, that we know we are never truly alone. Beyond the obligations, we can count on the character and commitment of a good Mason.

I found great satisfaction and benefit in making this personal character review. For me, I am now able to answer for myself, and anyone else that might ask, "Why did I become a Mason? What, in particular, does it mean to you?" And when someone does ask, this keeps me from giving some stock sound bite that really does not mean anything to them and lacks sincerity on my part.

I became a Mason to discover what made these men different from other people. I found that Masons are special because they have a genuine respect for each other, treating each other with dignity, civility and regard. They have an undisguised wish that every person has as much success as possible and, in that regard, they do all they can in unrestricted support of that success. They hold that ethics and virtue are inseparable from morality... in every thought, word or deed.

If I have not said so lately, thank you, my Brothers, for being a Mason.

Sam Roberts PGM
Grand Secretary



GRAND SECRETARY
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL Brother

Sam Roberts





Grand Lecturer

Brethren,

I hope all are enjoying the months of autumn, and enjoying time with friends and family during this Holiday Season. Also, take the time to visit the other Lodges in your District and nearby Districts, for we are 'Traveling Men!'

Once again, I would like to encourage more of the Brethren of our Grand Jurisdiction (with the help of the Deputies of the Grand Master), to learn the Master's Lecture, Middle Chamber Lecture, and the Historical Lecture, or the Lectures of the Three Degrees of Masonry. Now is the time to take up that torch, and continue on this Masonic tradition. So set aside some time for study, learn and memorize!

But, the question might asked; how should a Brother go about learning a Degree Lecture?

After I was Initiated as an Entered Apprentice, I was guided by my mentor VWB Richard E. Sanborn. VWB Richard was a Past Master and Past Deputy of the Grand Master in District No. 22. He was a retired Naval Officer, and a great friend. At First, to prove up on the First Degree, all I had to do was memorize the Obligation, and answer on paper about seventy questions. I thought I was all ready for the Second Degree until I ran into VWB Howard Weller, one of the eldest members of my home Lodge, Methow Valley, No. 240. VWB Howard asked me, "Have you memorized your Posting Lecture yet?"

"Posting Lecture, what posting lecture," I thought to myself, "Never heard of it!"

Curious as could be, I asked my mentor what the Posting Lecture was all about. My mentor explained it was the lecture that all Masons had to memorize, until they came out with an alternate type of proficiency. Wanting to prove up like all the Masons before me, I asked if I could learn the Posting Lectures. Thus began the journey of learning and memorizing the events of the Three Degrees, through the learning of the Posting Lectures.

What I am getting at is I am encouraging the Districts to form Ritual Classes (if they do not already exist), for the learning of the Ritual. These can range from a Past Masters Club, Degree Team, or other educational class where Brethren can be mentored in the Ritual, and have yet another opportunity for Fellowship. In my experience, mentorship encouraged me to want to keep learning, well beyond the proving up on the Degrees.

Learning Posting Lectures, the Conferring of the Degrees, the learning of the Installation of Officers ceremony, are all exercises of the mind conducive to learning a Degree Lec-

ture. Having a continued mentorship program will therefore create more Masonic ritualist who will have the tools to learn and master the Lectures of the Three Degrees.

What connects us with our Brethren from the past, and Masons of the future, is our Ritual. Handed down from generation, to generation, it is that which binds us, and unites us, to practice those 'moral precepts,' to Labor for the good of society. From that action, we build ourselves up morally, positively affecting our families, and communities. The essence of our Ritual is explained in the Lectures of the Three Degrees. It is our duty therefore, to learn, master, and pass down to the next generation of Masons, that which makes us Masons!



Fraternally,
VWB Rudy N. Schade,
Grand Lecturer

Don't Lecture Me

I always enjoy spending time with Brother Phu Huynh. When I saw him at a Royal Arch meeting a few weeks ago I told him that I was pretty sure he had delivered every Degree lecture in our District in the past year except one. His reaction was telling: "I missed one?"

Brother Phu was raised at Lakeside Lodge in 2011. VWB Carey Cope delivered all of his Degree lectures, and the EA lecture particularly impressed and inspired him. Eleven months after being raised Brother Phu, sounding like a seasoned Past Master, delivered his First EA lecture. He has since mastered the other two as well.

Some of us struggle with memory work. I know I do. But I also know that when I've put in the time I come away with a lot more than a string of memorized words. It's not about memorizing, it's about learning; there's a big difference. Whether it's presenting an EA his apron, delivering the closing charge, conferring a Degree, or installing officers, when I study our ceremonies I gain a deeper appreciation of how our Fraternity works and how it benefits each of us. Brother Phu says he experiences the same thing, and since there's so much in the lectures it's fair to say that he has become one very enlightened Mason.

Brother Phu's lectures get rave reviews, which is one reason why he is routinely invited to give them. The other reason is that so few in our District believe they can adequately learn them. If you haven't witnessed one of Brother Phu's lectures you're missing out. And you're also missing out if you haven't at least tried to learn them yourself.

Many of us signed up because we were drawn to the idea of Masonic education. Well, here's your chance.

I just changed my mind. Go ahead, lecture me.

WB John Gebhart
District No. 7





December 1, 2016 - World Hello Day

At times like these when certain events unfold, resulting in some people feeling awfully concerned with what the future holds, it's comforting to know that there are others who are hopeful as we seek to explore that unforeseen destination by relying on each other's trust to shape our future – or at least the next four years.

Although it is a worthwhile and very interesting topic to write about, I elected not to dwell on it, for this is not the proper forum. Instead, I wanted to spotlight on some other topics that are more uplifting.

Interestingly enough I was surprised to be reminded by a Facebook friend that last November 21 was World Hello Day. Alexander Graham Bell came to mind quickly upon seeing the word "Hello".

Though it may sound so basic, it simply encourage us to take the opportunity to greet people and to let other people realize the importance of simple communication in the midst of our everyday battle to survive. It was believed that the formula of peace is through clear and honest communication, which ultimately makes a substantial difference in our daily lives.

My Google research informed me that World Hello Day was First created in 1973 in order to show people, particularly in the Middle East, that conflicts can be resolved through communication and not violence. This was a direct response to the Yom Kippur war that had just ended in October of 1973 where thousands were killed on both sides of Egypt and Israel.

However, on the lighter side of this World Hello Day, legend has it that "hello" was the First word spoken by Alexander Graham Bell after the launch of his invention - the telephone.

He might have been awarded an exclusive right for the original telephone, but he was not the only inventor. A dozen or more people independently documented and conceptualize their idea of the telephone while some even closely working with other inventors by adopting and developing on each other's idea.

Most of these early inventors did not have an easy communication with each other because the telephone was yet to be invented, or rather did they know whether or not someone had already envisioned the idea before them.

Having numerous people independently working on the same general notion is a common occurrence in the world of invention; the telephone was considered just one of them. There may be an invention much more advanced than the Bell's telephone.

Here are some legendary expeditions from an unknown source to prove a point.

After having dug to a depth of 50 feet last year, Japanese

scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Japanese, in the weeks that followed, Chinese scientists dug to a depth of 75 feet, and shortly after, headlines in Chinese newspapers read: "Beijing archaeologists have found traces of 200 year old copper wire and have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the Japanese."

One week later, Philippines "National Historic Commission", with the participation of the Philippine Archeological Society and the Manila Times reported the following:

"After digging as deep as 190 feet in wash beds near Manila, archeologist reported that they found absolutely nothing, and has therefore concluded that nearly 500 years ago before the Spaniards came Filipino natives had already gone wireless."

On a serious note, as we are so brutally divided in the aftermath of our decision as to who will lead our beloved country, never stay down too long...be the difference.

Happy Holidays and please Do Not Drink & Drive in memory of my late son Emmanuel.



Respectfully Submitted,
WB George M. Franco
Grand Orator

Temple Board Governance Training

I am happy to report that we have completed the training presentations for the Secretary, Treasurer and Temple Board Training and that training has been conducted in two different locations this fall. We are planning additional training at several locations throughout the State for the winter and spring of 2017.

The First presentation was at Audubon Park Lodge, No. 272 on Sunday October 9, 2016. The training was done by myself, MWB Sam Roberts and WB Robert Starowski. There were approximately 33 Brothers present at this training which included Temple Board Governance, Secretary Training (including use of the LSI system) and Treasurers training.

We conducted the same training at Shoreline Lodge, No. 248 on Sunday October 29, 2016 with approximately 54 Brothers in attendance. Again, the training was conducted by myself, MWB Sam Roberts and WB Robert Starowski.

We currently have the training scheduled at The Masonic Temple in Bremerton for Saturday January 28, 2016 and are planning to hold training in February in Centralia and in April in the Tri-Cities area. Additionally, I have been assisting Brothers who have contacted me with multiple issues concerning Temple Corporations. If you have questions, please contact me at clint@freeMason-wa.org or texaspacific610@gmail.com

Fraternally,
Clint Brown
Chairman-Secretary, Treasurer
Temple Board Governance Training



JUNIOR
Grand
WARDEN
JGW

CANDIDATES

F O R U M

Jerry D. Buchner



Question:

What lesson, in your mind, is the one that stands out the most to you from your being passed to the Degree of FC? How has that lesson affected your approach to conducting yourself as a Mason?

Response:

To me, the lesson that stands out most is that life is not an easy, flat and level road to travel. Rather life is like climbing stairs, it is difficult and challenging. To succeed on this journey called life we must continue to learn not only through academic studies but also by paying close attention to life's experiences and lessons.

I have applied this lesson by continuing not only my academic studies but also continually looking for new challenges that will provide me life lessons and experience. For me it is all about continuing to work to turn the rough ashlar into the perfect ashlar. As a District Deputy, I was often asked, "what does it mean when we say 'FreeMasonry takes good men and makes them better'". My response was always "you get out of FreeMasonry what you put into it". The man that has completed our three Degrees has certainly been made a better man by the experience and lessons those Degrees offer. Nevertheless, the Mason that then continues to learn new ritual work, hold offices, and maybe even become Worshipful Master of his Lodge, is gaining knowledge and life experience that will have a profound effect on turning him into a better man.

I feel it is important to work together with my Brother Masons so that we can all share and learn from each other's experience and knowledge. Whether it be working together to solve a problem facing the Lodge or just sitting around speaking philosophically after a Lodge meeting, I have learned and grown so much as a man and a Mason by working with my Brothers. By getting up off the couch, getting out of our comfort zone, taking on new challenges and working with our Brother Masons, we gain the experience and knowledge we need to make climbing that winding staircase called life, easier and more rewarding.

Respectfully Submitted,
VWB Jerry Buchner

Chris Coffman



Question:

What lesson, in your mind, is the one that stands out the most to you from your being passed to the Degree of FC? How has that lesson affected your approach to conducting yourself as a Mason?

Response:

The circumambulation from the Fellowcraft Degree ends with:

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.

Now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity.

Our Lodges and individual Masons provide money for many charitable causes, like the local food bank, Bikes for Books, scholarships, and our youth groups. In fact, MWB Don Munks was fond of saying that the Masons of America donate more money to charity than any other organization. These are obvious forms of charity Masons do and they are noble and good things.

We are taught to do good deeds because that is the right thing to do, not because of any benefit, we might receive. This charity can be as simple as helping your elderly neighbors take their trash bins to the street or, as you are driving through a parking lot, stopping to allow the family with little children to cross.

Nevertheless, the charity we are taught to practice in the Fellowcraft Degree is much more and personal to each of us. We are also taught to give of ourselves. During my time on the Grand Lodge team, several Grand Masters' themes have emphasized this principle in different ways. For example, MWB Bill Wood reminded us to "do good unto all;" MWB Doug Tucker asked us to "pass it on;" and MWB Jim Mendoza asks us to "be the difference.;" So, when we serve as advisors to our youth, we are doing good by passing on our tenants and being the difference to young people in their formative years.

Another way to give of ourselves is mentoring. This can be Brother to Brother, in our regular vocation, or to society as a whole. Mentoring can be reminding a Brother of his faults and aiding in his reformation or helping a co-worker understand how to work and agree with others. Lastly, the actions we take as Masons should be examples for all of society to consider.

The one constant in my life has been service to others. I served Rainbow as Rainbow Dad for three Assemblies, Advisor, and District Deputy for Rainbow. At the same time, I served as Dad Advisor for DeMolay. I have been honored to serve my Lodge as Worshipful Master twice. In my District, I served as Deputy of the Grand Master and worked closely by mentoring many of my successors. After my two years as Deputy, I have served our Grand Lodge and the Brothers of Washington for the last 16 years on many committees including Jurisprudence where I have had the privilege of working closely with 14 Grand Masters.

I recently retired after over 32 years of public service. I have found that passing on knowledge is deeply satisfying. Yes, the greatest of these is charity.

Fraternally,
VWB Chris Coffman





JGW CANDIDATES FORUM continued...

John R. Lawson



Question:

What lesson, in your mind, is the one that stands out the most to you from your being passed to the Degree of FC? How has that lesson affected your approach to conducting yourself as a Mason?

Response:

As an artist and scientific illustrator for over 40 years, I have an affinity towards the Fellowcraft Degree in particular. I was reminded the most in this Degree that nothing is arbitrary and that spiritual truth can be profoundly illustrated in the physical world. The Fellowcraft Degree depicts its great philosophical truths within the book of nature and that if we are to understand those things spiritual and invisible, we must wind our way upward by studying those great Seven liberal arts, i.e., the great lessons of understanding nature through our somewhat limited five senses, the beauty demonstrating everything around us and the ability to express those impressions, inspirations and insights through the arts, the skill to communicate clearly and defend truth with proper words, and to see the patterns and cycles of the heavens from the smallest to the largest through mathematics, particularly geometry which yields much towards the understanding God's character.

The Fellowcraft Degree reminds me that through our "mystic tie" to one another it is my honor to share any additional light learned along the path to those just behind in the progressive science of Masonry, as those ahead of me have been so kind to do for me. Furthermore, to guide and assist my Brothers with a genuine caring and obligation that I should never take lightly and at the same time, this Degree reminds me every day that learning never ends and the rewards of diligent study, understanding and sharing, yields each of us the nourishment, refreshment, and happiness of a life well lived.

Fraternally,
John Lawson

FreeMasonry and the Military

FreeMasonry and the military have been inexorably linked since the birth of The United States. It has been part of the core of the fiber of our being as a nation. If you look at FreeMasonry and its tenets you learn that you can look at the military and see many correlations in the Fraternity and the bonds that develop between men as deep as those bonds of Brotherhood run, so do the bonds that tie our nations' military to FreeMasonry.

Our forefathers, soldiers and statesmen alike, formed relationships which created our nation. Nine of the 13 signers of our Constitution were FreeMasons. As we all know

our First President, George Washington was a member of the Craft and served as Grand Master of Masons in Virginia. However, before he was President he was General George Washington, Commander of the Continental Army. Since that time, Masons have served as some of our greatest military Leaders.

During the American Revolution, military Masons included Generals George Washington, Ethan Allen, and French ally the Marquis de Lafayette, father of the United States Navy Adm. John Paul Jones.

During the Civil War, called by some as the "War of Northern Aggression," the Battle of Gettysburg saw two great armies in battle array facing each other. Brother Masons served on both sides of the battle lines. During one of the largest skirmishes known as Pickett's Charge, and led by Colonel and Brother George Pickett, two of the leaders, Union Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, and Confederate Brig. Gen. Lewis Addison Armistead, both West Point classmates were wounded in battle. Armistead succumbed to his wounds.

Later wars found more Brothers serving in all capacities. Commander of U.S. forces during World War One, General John J. Pershing, Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Brig. Gen. Jimmy Doolittle, Air Force four-star General Chappie James, Astronauts Gus Grissom, Buzz Aldrin, and Gordon Cooper were all Masons, as was Medal of Honor recipient Lt. Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of World War Two, and Gulf War Commander H. Norman Schwartzkopf.

As our nation grew and pushed West explorers discovered the immense grandeur and riches of our new territories. After The Louisiana Purchase was secured in 1803, Brothers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were sent to the Northwest to map and chronicle their journey. When they returned in 1806, it became apparent that our new frontier needed outposts to ensure our sovereignty. Over the next half century, blockhouses and forts were built and the settlers came.

We are relatively young here in the Northwest, when Masonry was established in Oregon in 1851 and Washington in 1858; Lodges in the East, and North East had already celebrated their centennials. Masonry grew in the new territory. Moreover, by 1914 there were Lodges in most major population centers when Brothers in Bremerton, a major seaport and home to the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, under the leadership of Col. and Brother Joseph Pendleton established William H. Upton Naval and Military Lodge, No. 206, (UD). The shipyard was named in honor of Judge William H. Upton, Masonic scholar and past Grand Master of Masons in Washington.

Four of the early Masters of William H. Upton Lodge went on to distinguished military careers, becoming Flag Officers. Maj. Gen. Joseph Pendleton, Rear Admiral Emory Stanley, Auditor General of the United States Navy, Rear Admiral Luther Gregory, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, and Admiral Robert Coontz, Chief of Naval Operations. William H. Upton Lodge continues to count in its ranks many active duty and retired members of the military.



VWB Steve Pennington
Military Recognition Committee



Washington Masonic Charities – Being the Difference

Our Grand Master, MWB Jim Mendoza, has challenged us to “Be the Difference.” Washington Masonic Charities is doing its part to take up his challenge, by looking at ways we can be a “spark” and serve to be the difference.

I'd like to share an amazing example of how this works.

Our organization was recently approached by Bro. Brian Wheeler, working with the young men in Henry M. Jackson Chapter of DeMolay in the Everett area, to raise funds to help homeless youth in their community. Rather than make an outright contribution, we offered to match funds raised by the youth. Very often a matching contribution can be an excellent motivator not only for the group, but also for others considering making a donation. What a spark this was! In the original approach it was expected that the kids would likely raise about \$250.

When all was said and done, these motivated young people raised \$1,160! With our match, \$3,482 total will be provided to meet the basic needs of homeless youth (we might just round it up to make an even \$3,500). The best part is that our dollars were already earmarked to support children's basic needs, so this was a win-win-win for everyone involved and directs the funds into a community where there is active participation in the effort.

We have taken this approach with several Lodges and Masonic entities across the state this year and have had great success.



Masonic Model Student Assistance Program

Another way that we have been working to Be the Difference is in working in collaboration with the National Masonic Foundation for Children and local school Districts to bring the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program into Washington. In November we collaborated with the Selah School District to host this program at their District Headquarters.

The result was five school Districts and eleven schools in

eastern Washington having the opportunity to bring the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program into the classroom. We've provided training for more than 60 educators and administrators this year on both sides of the Cascades.

This program, sanctioned by the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, and in nineteen states, provides training and support for educators and administrators to help struggling kids to improve.

Kids in schools are generally categorized into Tiers I, II, and III. The average child falls into the Tier I category. They are learning and going about their business. Tier II kids are those that are having some behavioral or academic difficulty requiring some intervention by teachers or administrators. Kids in Tier III require intensive intervention for behavioral, academic, and attendance issues. The MMSAP program focuses on the Tier II kids, and provides a tool and method for educators to help kids who are having some behavioral classroom issues to get back into the Tier I category by preventing them from getting to the Tier III stage. Think of it like a traffic light – Tier I is green, Tier II is yellow, and Tier III is red. This program provides a straight forward structure and method that utilizes the child's strengths and assets as a major part of the solution to the problem. It turns out that this really works!

When these schools implement this program, thousands of children will have positive effects. This is what being the difference looks like!

Annual Contribution, Wills, and Estate Gifts.

It can't go without saying that none of our work is possible without the generous support of Masons. Have you made a gift to Washington Masonic Charities?

We know that Masons will give to what matters – just look at Shriners Hospitals, and Scottish Rite's Early Speech and Language (formerly RiteCare).

Our current support comes mainly from Masons in the past through their legacy and estate contributions. I urge you to consider how you might be the difference either today by making an annual contribution to Washington Masonic Charities, or by considering us in your will or estate planning. Your gifts will make a direct impact in the lives of both youth and seniors. Please give generously. Checks can be mailed to WA Masonic Charities PO Box 65830 University Place, WA 98464, or online at <http://www.wa-Masoniccharities.org/webhost/donate>. To discuss wills and estate gifts, please call me at (253) 442-2505 x 101 and I will be happy to discuss confidentially.



Bro. Ken Gibson
Executive Director
Washington Masonic Charities

Introducing Your 2018 Membership Dues Card!



Working together with our Grand Secretary and Grand Lodge Office Staff, Credential Committee members Jeff Steik and Todd O' Day have completed the re-design of the membership dues card. A new feature will be a listing of the Lodges in our Jurisdiction that a Brother is a member of, eliminating the need to carry separate dues cards from each Lodge. The new dues cards will also go from a 30 mm thickness to a 12mm thickness.

The phone number member verification has also been activated and will soon have the familiar voice of our Grand Secretary assisting in ascertaining if a member is in good standing. The QR Box is another option that can be used if a Lodge has access to an electronic reader. The UPC Code will be used at Grand Lodge Communications for quicker more accurate registration.

A great deal of effort has been expended in trying to have only essential information needed and also be something to be proud to present to our Brothers throughout the world in our travels. Production of the cards will begin in the near future as soon as supplies are received.

We are planning to print a test batch for our elected Grand Lodge leaders, committee members and a few select Lodges for testing to ensure that we will have the best success possible in 2018.



VWB Ron Galpin
 Chairman
 Credentials Committee



the jewel of the square:
 a charge for the Master of the Lodge

some jewels are worn around your neck
 in pride of wealth or station,
 some are won with rhetoric
 or earned as commendation

but this is not that kind of prize
 and much is asked of you
 as you set the Craft to working for
 what's good, correct, and true

should the plane become unlevel
 or the pillars misaligned,
 should haste or error threaten
 the Grand Architect's design

should the mortar that now binds you
 ever start to crumble loose,
 or the angles of Fraternity
 get too sharp or too obtuse

then remember there's a tool to help
 discern what's true and fair:
 look to your jewel of office,
 the right angle of the square

- D. Ohlandt
 November 2016

*Written on the occasion of the installation of
 Stephen Ross as Worshipful Master of
 Thornton F. McElroy Lodge, No. 302
 Federal Way, Washington*

D. Ohlandt, Ph.D.
 <profolandt@gmail.com>

SUDOKU SYMBOL PUZZLE (Solution)

C	L	U	O	J	C	7	7	7
7	J	C	C	7	7	L	O	U
7	7	O	U	7	L	J	C	C
7	C	7	L	O	7	U	C	J
O	7	L	C	U	J	7	7	C
U	C	J	7	7	C	O	L	7
L	7	C	J	C	O	7	U	7
J	O	7	7	C	U	C	7	L
C	U	7	7	L	7	C	J	O

(Solution of puzzle from page 5)

"Be the Difference"

One of Grand Master Jim Mendoza's charges this year is involvement with the Puget Sound Honor Flight.

The principle purpose of the Honor Flight is to send veterans to Washington DC to see the Memorials that have been created for them.

This worthy cause is supported and funded primarily through individual contributions as a special service for the Honor-ees.

Veterans that have taken an Honor Flight, Thank You. Eligible Veterans that have not experienced this trip please consider it.

This Grand Lodge Charity starts with buying a pin.

A fine contribution indeed, but to make a real difference in the overall success of the event takes a bit more work.

Showing up to send-off the heroes is the order and call.

These deserving Vets love this trip and I encourage all able to join us at the airport in Seattle or Spokane.

If you want to participate here are a few things to remember:

Go early. Parking, Gate Passes and maneuvering through airport security take time. We do receive some preference, which is nice, but do not expect miracles.

Have ID for everyone and be TSA ready for all advancing to a forward position.

Always Buddy up if you can. If you bring family or friends make sure you have a fallback plan.

Balloons, signs, flowers and random cards of thanks are all-good but are not as essential as you.

Be prepared to engage with heroes the likes of which shall rare or ne'er pass this way again.

Do not be surprised by camera crews, superstars and glad handing politicians. You may make the 5:00 news.

The last Homecoming Celebration in the Main Atrium was full to max. A military band, singers, hundreds of participants, sponsors and spectators,

and a regular Who's Who of Washington Masons sprinkled the crowd.



No need for jewel or apron, as it is not a Masonic event per se, but it does embody its most sacred tenet, and offers us a golden opportunity to Be the Difference.

Be the Difference.

"Jim" Adam Creighton
 Grand Musician

New Candidate Education

Washington Masonic University Course Description

Brethren,

This year the Committee on Research and Education will be directing our attention on the Washington Masonic University. We have three sets of course work to enlighten the Brethren of the Grand Jurisdiction.

The First is the New Candidate Education Program, which is divided into three sections. Each of these sections follows the three Degrees of our Blue Lodge. As the candidate takes his First Degree and completes his studies on the Apprentice, the Lodge can award a Certificate on 1st Degree Proficiency.

He is then slated to take his 2nd Degree, complete his studies as a Fellowcraft and the Lodge can award a Certificate for Proficiency for the 2nd Degree. When the Brother takes his Third Degree and finishes his studies and proves up in Lodge, the Brother can receive a Diploma that entitles him to all the Rights and Privileges of a Master Mason.

To help the Candidate succeed in this endeavor, a Coach's Manual and Coaches Check list is available on the Grand Lodge Web Page and its use is encouraged.

You can access these documents through your secretary on the Lodge Secretary Interface via the web page.

The second course of study is the old standby, which teaches the Brethren the importance of good Lodge management. It is the Proficiency in Lodge Management and is broken into two parts. The First section is the written test followed by the practicum, and each is awarded a certificate.

We have developed a lapel pin and are working to bring it to fruition.

The next course of study is brought to us from Scottish Rite. The Master Craftsman series one. The symbolic Lodge will familiarize the Brothers with the aspects of the Development of Blue Lodge Masonry and explore some of its developing symbolism. This will reveal that the "Highest Degrees" began to develop soon after the formation of the Premier Grand Lodge (1717). Albert Pike's Book, Esoterick: The symbolism of the Blue Lodge Degrees of FreeMasonry, along with Arturo de Hoyos's Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide (3rd Edition) will be used to demonstrate a rational and philosophical interpretation for much is found in the Craft Masonry.

There are two additional courses of study that deal with Scottish Rite History and Ritual that we will not be covering. We leave that course of study to those of you who are Scottish Rite Masons.

To order the course of study:

- New Candidate Education/ Coaches Guide:
- Grand Lodge Web Page or Lodge Secretary via Grand Lodge office. Proficiency in Lodge Management:
- Grand Lodge Web Page.



Suggestion: Print questions, Find Answers and Take computer test.

Master Craftsman Series 1: Order through scottishrite.org or your local Scottish Valley.

Fraternally
 John Mathers
 Research and Education

“Reclaiming the narrative”

Grand Master Jim Mendoza's rallying cry for his Public Relations Committee has long been to “reclaim the narrative of Freemasonry”. Hundreds of thousands of pages, podcasts and videos fill cyberspace about our alluring Fraternity, and it comes as no surprise that most of them are not written by Masons but by those with objectives not aligned with our principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Some are penned by entertainers in quest of nothing more than royalties, others perhaps by well-meaning scribes hoping to define a most often misunderstood community – but from the outside.

Granted, to try to reverse a torrent of misinformation begun decades ago would be folly, however as Desmond Tutu wrote; “If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” There are a multitude of streams which feed the river of truth. To at least begin tending to the clarity of our streams of information is simply the minimum expectation of stewardship from our membership.

I have already opined on the importance of each Lodge having its own webpage to shepherd the increasing number of young men in search of a community with civility and purpose. The Grand Lodge of Washington's webpage is a good case in point as being fundamental in having an accurate say in the dialogue of, “What is Freemasonry, and what is its relevance in today's society?” However, those initiatives are largely designed to address those already seeking information. What about working to begin a conversation with – or perhaps even change the opinion of – those who rarely give Freemasonry a second thought?

Our Public Relations team videographers Eric Thompson and Chris Huntley spent hours during Grand Lodge Communication last year in Wenatchee filming high-definition interviews with many of our Brothers, about why they became Masons, why they remain active and how the Fraternity has changed their lives. We found a wonderful array of Brethren of all ages, interests, and ethnic backgrounds willing to share at a deep and often emotional level. Our intent is multi-fold: to develop several video “vignettes” for circulation on the web and social media sites, and to utilize the digital audio and video in the development of 30-second and 15-second messages to be used on radio and television. Our First video vignette can be found on YouTube at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=1qSVW4LJImA> (Did you know that Google-owned YouTube has become the world's second most often utilized search engine?) Seeing and hearing from Masons First-hand, rather than getting the message through the voice of an announcer or “pitch man” gives our messages the greatest amount of credibility and gravitas.

Some of my Masonic Brothers kid me that our Fraternity “puts the ‘free’ in Free-Masonry”; meaning that aside from charitable endeavors we will go out of our way to avoid spending money if there's even the slightest possibility of getting it done gratis. Reclaiming the public narrative on Masonry in Washington beyond the responsive will not be free, but can be done cost effectively and efficiently. Our committee has recommended that Grand Lodge pursue, and invest a rela-

tively modest amount of marketing dollars with the Washington State Association of Broadcasters' “Public Education Program”. Unlike Public Service Announcements, which are only aired if time is unsold and available, PEP is open only to non-profit organizations, trade and government agencies, and guarantees these :15 and :30 messages are heard on 166 television and radio stations across the state – along with a healthy donation of messages to the participating advertiser.

If approved, this initiative would be the First demonstrative, strategic and meaningful effort by our Jurisdiction to assertively inform and educate the public at large about the current state of Masonry in Washington and why – more than ever - it remains more relevant. We need and welcome your input on this and other Public Relations initiatives. Please contact the committee via e-mail at radiatorog@comcast.net.

(ed. – WB Roger Nelson was an investigative reporter for KOMO and KING in Seattle for over a decade before moving into broadcast management. Since 1998 has been the Senior Account Executive with the KXLY Broadcast Group and Phase 3 Digital Advertising Agency in Spokane).



WB Roger Nelson
 Chairman, Public Relations Committee

Long Range Planning Committee

In my last article I finished by asking “How” do we implement the 6 Supports of 20-20 vision. And How do we know it was successful. The answer to the 2nd question is relatively easy, we turn the statement into a question to ask, “Have we achieved this goal?” and if we can answer “Yes”, then we are at least on the right track.

The Long Range Plan must be supported by and aligned with any new Programs and Initiatives that the Grand Master, the Elected Grand Officers and their appointed committees want to implement. The plan must be clear and concise, but allow for flexibility and creativity on how the outcomes are achieved.

In it's final version, the Long Range Plan will be the touchstone that the Grand Master, the Elected officers, committees and every Mason in our Jurisdiction should be able to use as a guide to make sure something they are about to do or implement aligns with the Plan.

The 6 Supports are identified as follows (in no certain order):

1. Membership Experience
2. Masonic Education
3. Leadership and Management
4. Beyond the Lodge
5. Philanthropy
6. Technology

One of the 6 Supports noted above is Membership Experience which is defined as “Engaging and retaining members and their families through an enhanced, sustaining, and relevant membership experience.” But how do we do that?

Here are some basic ideas and tactics that might be used to implement this support of Membership Experience:

- Create more opportunities for the newest Masons to get involved in the Lodge

(Article continued in page 16)

(Article continued from page 15)

- Create a strong candidate coaching program and improve the advancement experience
- Provide meaningful, high-quality ritual
- Improve engagement of family members with family-friendly activities and resources
- Improve the application and investigation process; improve prospect education
- Improve Lodge programs

If we continue that same idea with the next five elements it might include ideas & tactics such as these:

Masonic education

Definition: Educate members and communities about the Fraternity's intriguing and enduring history, values, practical application of our principles, and relevance to society today.

Ideas & tactics:

- Develop a comprehensive, modern Masonic education program available for a variety of learning styles and uses
- Expand Masonic education events

Leadership and management

Definition: Strengthen our leaders and cultivate new ones; strengthen management and governance effectiveness at all levels.

Ideas & tactics:

- Develop new leadership and management training for Lodges
- Provide team-oriented training for Masters, Wardens, and other Lodge officers
- Expand the use of technology to increase access to training
- Improve applied leadership training and resources for Lodge finance, administration, and building management

Beyond the Lodge

Definition: Instill a wider Masonic perspective, inside and outside the Fraternity, by deepening the connection between members, Lodges, the worldwide body of Freemasonry, Concordant organizations, and the Public at large.

Ideas & tactics:

- Develop joint Lodge and District activities and programs
- Connect members and Lodges with the worldwide Fraternity
- Strengthen youth orders

Philanthropy

Definition: Focus our philanthropic efforts through Washington Masonic Charities

Ideas & tactics:

- Increase community involvement
- Increase public awareness of the Fraternity

Technology

In all areas, leverage technology for communications, education, management, charities, and deepening the connections of members to our Fraternity.

Ideas & tactics:

- Expand use of technology to deliver education modules, programs, and events

These are just some ideas, but we need your help. Over the next several months, members of the Long Range Task Force, the Elected Grand Lodge Officers and myself will be visiting; District meetings, Lodge meetings, Installations and other events to connect with the membership and try to help define additional ideas and tactics that YOU want to see implemented.

We also want to know if you agree with the 6 Supports as they are currently identified and defined or if you feel they should be changed in some way.

These ideas, tactics, and suggestions will then be summarized and provided to the entire Task Force team members, the Grand Master and his Committees.

Then, from this revised summary a final draft of the 6 Supports will be developed and presented at the Leadership Retreat to gain additional feedback and to continue the message of it's purpose.

Ultimately, the finalized version of the 6 Supports, their definitions, and narratives will again be brought to you; at District meetings, Lodge meetings, and other events to garner your feedback so that ultimately it can be presented at the 2017 Annual Communication for your official approval as a Fraternity.

If you can take the time, I would like to know your comments.

You can submit your responses at: <http://6Supports.Weebly.com>

Or feel free to contact me directly via email or phone.

Let us get to work.



Fraternally submitted,
 VWB David W. Colbeth, Chairman
 Long Range Planning Committee &
 Task Force on Long Range Planning
david@colbeth.com 253-778-6423



Honor Flight participants while in Washington.

Membership Development

The Grand Master recently sent me a text that, to paraphrase, stated that, in many cases, we get a new Brother in the door and then, essentially, burn him out over a matter of months or years. I couldn't agree with him more and in my 20 years as a Mason it also seems that the time it takes to burn someone out is shorter and shorter. But why is this the case? Why do we have so many committed Brothers who, at one point or another during their Masonic career, either walk away from the Fraternity or decide to "pull back" (many never seen again).

In my opinion, while there are many symptoms of the "burn out disease" in our ranks, there are a few root causes. These causes stem from the desire and perceived need to maintain a bloated infrastructure that was meant for our Fraternity when we had 10 times the members. Let me give you some examples of how this manifests itself:

- For a significant number of Brothers, 40 to 50% of all their Masonic meeting time is concerning real estate. Unless you are really into building maintenance, this will burn out Brothers quickly. After all, which of us said, "I want to be a Freemason so I can deal with commercial real estate!"
- In the District, the same group of Brothers are rotating Lodge leadership positions between different Lodges. This "perpetual officer" treadmill is another slow burn to discontent, especially when there's no view of a next generation that will take over.
- The same Brothers are leaders in Concordant bodies, youth groups and the Blue Lodge. This is another perpetual leader issue and especially shows up with Secretaries and Treasurers.

Brothers, we are at a crossroads for Masonry in many parts of this Jurisdiction: either we can address these issues in new and creative ways on our own terms or we can simply burn out Brother after Brother until all that we hold dear simply fades away. Rather than state my opinions about how to fix some of these issues, let me simply state some facts (true for all or at least some of our Lodges).

Real Estate

1. The utilization rate of most of our Lodges is such that, between capital reserves, insurance, taxes, maintenance, and utilities the real cost to the Lodge is hundreds or even thousands of dollars per hour.
2. In many of our towns and cities, the Masonic building was not just another building but one of the nicest buildings in town. It was this fact, not just any building, that attracted members and made the Brothers feel special in that space.
3. The Brothers of previous generations have done a lot for the Fraternity and it is true that we "live off of" much of their effort. However, they were human and made educated guesses that did not happen or outright mistakes. One of these is that for many of the Lodge buildings they constructed with some income were built "for the ages." Unfortunately, commercial real estate isn't static and the hot commercial areas moved on leaving the Lodge build-

ing with a thrift store on the First floor instead of the town mercantile.

Too Many Lodges and Concordant Bodies

1. Just some "back of the envelope" calculations will give us a good idea of requirements. To have a leadership corps that is not duplicate between bodies, Lodges, etc we would need the following: (these are all estimated on the low side with 10 officers average for healthy full line and those that are coming in the next year) 100 Lodges X 10 = 1000 members. 50 concordant and youth bodies x 10 = 500 That's 1500 officer members with one or two sideliners. It also means a need for 100 new officers a year to move into the Blue Lodge line with many of the Past Masters moving into Concordant Bodies and other leadership roles.
2. The six-step program, if followed correctly, will slow the number of new Brothers but, without the six-step program, most new members were not committed to and achieved going through the line.
3. Some reasonable goals would be 20% active membership vs. total membership (in WA Jurisdiction that would be about 2500 active members) and 20 to 30% of those in direct leadership roles (about 500 to 750 members). We are not close to these targets.

Again, I believe there are specific solutions to each of these problems that change but don't eliminate most or all of those things we hold dear. For example, do you have Shrine, Scottish Rite and York Rite all meet on the same night or should you consolidate Lodges? I believe there are great solutions out there, many of which are working in the Jurisdiction and I would love to hear about.

The key is having the courage to make hard decisions before reality makes them for you. I've seen too many Lodges, for example, that have had to "consolidate" with another Lodge because they just weren't viable. In business, you have to have working capital to keep employees paid and the doors open. In Masonry, our working capital is active and enthusiastic Brothers, not dollars in the bank. Don't burn through all your capital before making some hard decisions.

Lastly, make those decisions with Victory in your heart that you are doing as much to move Masonry into the future as those who were leaders when the membership was growing and not as a defeat. Remember, we owe as much (perhaps more) to those Brothers who held tight to Masonic principles after the Morgan Affair – when the backlash was so great that a viable

Presidential candidate was floated by the "Anti-Masonic Party," when Grand Lodges were suspending activity and Lodges were closing – as those that built the great Masonic halls in this country or came back from World War II to increase the ranks of the Fraternity.



Fraternally,
Paul Waadevig

Membership Development



Deputy of the Grand Master

REPORTS



Greetings from the Brethren of District No. 2

The Brethren of District No. 2 are excited and looking forward to welcoming the Grand Master to the District for his Official Visit on Friday February 10th at 6:30 PM. Tickets are available and if you are going to be in the Shoreline area and would like to attend please let me know.

Big shout out to the Brethren and Temple Board of Shoreline Lodge, No. 248 for their assistance and for hosting the event.

Our District 2 Education Team continues to lead the way by providing training for Lodge officers to assist with the "how and why" of what we do.

Our next Deacons and Stewards training is January 28th and we'll have a full 3rd Degree training on March 25th.

Interested in finding out more about the training or training material we use please ask, as we are here to assist.

With the Holiday season upon us and Installation of officers right around the corner it's a great opportunity to pause and reflect on the year that's finishing up and the new one to come.

Thoughts of how we can continue to learn & change in the days ahead, Walk the Talk in our daily lives, build bridges with family and friends, exemplify Masonry Every Day and in Every Way and continue to Be the Difference within the Lodge and with the outer world.

As you probably already figured out there are several Grand Masters Themes included in the above as they all ring true to what makes us different. If you were to pick any four or five themes, write them down and think about how each one applies to you as a Mason you'd have a great start to a personalized "mission statement" for your Masonic journey as reflecting on the past will assist with providing pavers for your path for success in the future.

Continue to "Be the Difference" in everything, you do.

Fraternally,
VWB Jimmy Norton

Deputy of the Grand Master in District No 2
jnortjr@gmail.com / 206 679 6582



As 2016 ends, we find our calendars full of holiday parties, time with family, and of course the installation of officers in our various Lodges. As new officers enter the line and current officers move up, it falls on all of us to support them and ensure their success. Since June, District 5 has had five Brothers complete the written portion of their Proficiency in Lodge management, and three have completed the oral examination to complete their certification. I would like to see all officers in our District complete this important training opportunity.

Nothing else will leave so thoroughly prepared for leadership in the Lodge, and as a self-paced, open-book test, it is something you can do on your own schedule.

There are a couple of notable dates coming up for our District 5 Brethren. The Warden's Competition has been moved back to February 25 so that all newly installed wardens can compete. I will be plugging this event as I visit our Lodges but contact me for details. Also, please consider sending any interested officers to the Lodge Leadership Retreat to be held in the Tri-Cities on March 17-19, 2017. Finally, Districts 4 and 5 will have a combined District meeting on Saturday, March 11 at Greenwood Lodge.

The District No. 5 association has continued its efforts to envision and implement a far-reaching, long-term service project whereby we reach into underserved communities to offer a hand up to young students who would be the First generation in their family to attend college. We are currently evaluating two existing initiatives that might serve as models for this ambitious project. One of these is a program for aspiring business students at the University of Washington, while the other is a private foundation set up by a retired Microsoft engineer. If you have a desire to improve the lives of young people and to truly "Be the Difference", we would love to have your help. Flag send or me down an email and I'll fill you in.

Fraternally,
VWB Dan Boren
Deputy of the Grand Master in District No 5
dry_martini@me.com



Creating a New Generation of Ritualists

Having been a Mason for ten years, I have had the pleasure of attending or participating in more conferrals than can now be counted. And to be sure, each one was a special moment in a Mason's journey as they progressed through the three steps of our ancient Fraternity.

But there are a growing number of Lodges that are beginning to approach these opportunities as special moments for their own members as well. Rather than relying on the same Brethren to do the 'heavy lifting' in the conferral, these Lodges take each Degree as an opportunity to have their newer or younger Masons progress through the more challenging ritual parts.

This, of course, is no easy task. It requires the leadership of the Lodge to guide those Masons along a path of increasingly challenging parts while at the same time planning those upcoming Degrees far in advance to give those Brethren the time to learn these new parts. To be sure, there are going to be some that will argue this could slow down the advancement of the candidate. But let's turn this around and look at the benefit of slowing down the advancement. After all, this isn't a race to the finish. Our own Standard Work refers to our Degrees as "well worth years of constant study". With the updated publication of the New Candidate Education Program, we now have a fantastic additional resource to include alongside learning the Posting Lecture to give our candidates a more well-rounded Masonic education. And during this time while our candidates are preparing to display their new level of proficiency, our Master Masons are mastering the labor needed to confer the next Degree upon the candidate.

(continued in page 19)

(continued from page 18)

The point is, these Lodges have recognized an opportunity to approach Degree work for the improvement of both the candidate and the new Master Mason. What is the benefit of slowing down the advancement? A new generation of ritualists being groomed while hand crafting more proficiency Master Masons.

I want to give a shout out to two Lodges in District 13 that are moving in this direction and are seeing great results. The First is St. Andrews Lodge, No. 35 in Renton, and the other is Verity Lodge, No. 59 in Kent. It is not uncommon for these Lodges to plan their Degree work out well over a month in advance and to see a new face in the East conferring the Degree.

Fraternally,
 VWB Zane P. McCune
 Deputy of the Grand Master in District No. 13



Tis the season once again

Yes, it is the holiday season. But the season I am referring to is the season for installation of our Lodge officers. These are the Brothers, who will govern our Lodges for the next year. Installations for District Number 16 is in full swing, beginning with the installation of WB Gary Sortor as Worshipful Master of Yelm Lodge on November 19, 2016 and ending with the installation of Brother Tim Rowley as Worshipful Master of Harmony Lodge No. 18 on Saturday January 14, 2016. I will have the honor of installing the Officers of Harmony Lodge this year and am looking forward to my First time as Installing Master. District No. 16 has a strong group of officers in our Lodges and I look forward to working with them for the remainder of my year as District Deputy.

I also had the honor of presenting Bro. Glide "Snuffy" Smith with his 50-year service pin on November 15, 2016. Br. Snuffy is still active in Masonry and comes from a long history of Masons who have toiled in the quarries of the Craft. It was truly an honor to be able to present this Brother with his service award and to call him Brother and friend.



VWB Clint Brown presenting Br. Glide "Snuffy" Smith with his 50-year service pin. Photo by VWB Edward Woods.

While I was learning the part for the Installation of Officers there were two passages in the Charge to the Lodge that

stood out to me. "Humility in both is an essential duty" and "I, therefore, trust that you will have but one aim-to please each other, and to unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness". These two passages capture so much in so few words. Humility is an essential part of everyday life, especially amongst Masons. Happiness is the essence of what every human being seeks in life. We should look at each and every action we take through that lens. Is it done with humility and does it promote happiness in our world? I suggest that if we governed our actions by these rules, our world would be a better place to live.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all,

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



Brethren,

I hope you all had a happy Thanksgiving and will enjoy a blessed Holiday Season and a safe, happy, healthy and prosperous new year! It's hard to believe that 2016 will soon come to an end.

But the new year is a time of looking forward. In District 27, the big thing to look forward to is the opening of the new Spokane Masonic Center. As you may know, the Cornerstone laying ceremony for the new center was held back on October 22; and we had about 60 people in attendance. The last update that I received is that the First floor of the building, which will consist of a large Lodge room, kitchen and dining room facilities, will be done and ready to be moved into by February. At least three Lodges as well as the Valley of Spokane Scottish Rite and the York Rite Bodies are expected to move into the new building. On a personal note, I look forward to making my Official Visits to those Lodges that will call the new Masonic Center their home.



Upon their completion, the 2nd floor of the building will house the Spokane Early Life Speech and Language Clinic as well as Washington Masonic Charities. The 3rd floor will reportedly house the Masonic Center's Library, to be operated and maintained by Eastern Washington Lodge of Research No. 310 as well as storage and office space for the bodies meeting in the building.

It is a great time to be a Mason in District 27!

Fraternally,

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



Deputy of the Grand Master

REPORTS *(continued from page 19)*

I bid greetings to the Brethren of District 24 in southeastern Washington. I was installed as MWB Mendoza's Deputy for District 24 in September. I am learning fast and am looking forward to working with the Lodges in this great District.

On November 23, 2016, Masons from Waitsburg and Walla Walla Lodges participated in a graveside service for WB Tom Baker of Waitsburg Lodge, No.16. WB Baker passed away on November 14. He was a respected man and one who many looked to as a great example of an active citizen in a rural community. He enjoyed people, loved his neighbors, always had a funny story and a smile for everyone he encountered. Tom was owner, publisher and editor of the Waitsburg Times, a weekly newspaper serving Walla Walla and Columbia Counties, for 27 years. He was Past Master of Waitsburg Lodge No.16, served as Waitsburg mayor, was a member of the city council and president of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association. He was very active in community service organizations, such as, the Waitsburg Commercial Club and Lions club. The entire community will miss him.

Coming up in the near future are two sessions where Pam Hames, Masonic Charities Case Manager, and I will attend joint Lodge gatherings to bring Brethren up to date on the many things that Masonic Charities (WAMC) is doing for our Brethren, their families and people in our communities. I was quite amazed at a recent meeting with Pam and her colleague to learn what all WAMC does. Unless you have spoken with someone from MC lately, I think you'll be surprised.

The First meeting is on December 14 in the east end of the District and will be hosted by Nitosa Lodge No.204 in Asotin. The second is scheduled for the west end of the District and hosted by Blue Mt. Lodge, No.13 in Walla Walla on February 6, 2017. We're inviting Brethren from other Lodges in the District to attend the meeting closest to you.

November has been election time for most of our Lodges with installation coming soon in December or January. After the Christmas holiday, our Lodges will be getting into the many youth and civic activities that help identify us as Masons to other people in our communities. At a special meeting on February 15, Blue Mt. Lodge, No. 13 will be recognizing top local law enforcement officers from city, county and state law enforcement agencies for their great service in 2016. This annual event has become a special celebration that puts the spotlight on officers who have done outstanding work and gives the community a chance to say thank you for keeping us safe. In these troubled times it is one way of building better relations between law enforcement officers and the community.

A date to put on your calendar – our District 24 official meeting with MWB Mendoza will be on Friday, May 5. We will let you know where it will be held as soon as the location has been decided.

I look forward to seeing you as I visit each Lodge in District 24. Please keep me apprized of any special activities and information about members in your Lodge you would like me to know about and share with other Masons.

Faternally,

VWB Doug Warnock

Deputy of the Grand Master in District 24

Masons in Action - how about you?

Our primary mission as your Masonic Youth Committee this year is to help recruit "One More" Masonic Advisor for each youth group in this Jurisdiction.

I am happy to report that we are making progress - many of our Brethren have answered the call to join the ranks of adult volunteers and work with our Rainbow, Jobies and DeMolay as Advisors. We are about half way home towards our goal, but we need more. Please consider visiting your local youth group, see what you as a Lodge, and as a Mason can do for them. Getting involved with our Masonic Youth will reap huge benefits both short and long term, I promise.

If you do not have a youth group that meets close by, consider the possibility of sponsoring & opening one in your Hall. Your members have sons, daughters, grandkids, nieces, nephews, etc, that are not in a Masonic youth group...why not? I know many of them are busy with many other activities, but from my experience, the busier the kids, the better. In addition, it's a wonderful way to expose and involve your family in our great Fraternity as well as potentially continuing your Masonic legacy. Think about it. Three Lodges in Washington are already working towards this....how about yours?

To quote our MWB Jim - "For years our youth leaders have told us 'we appreciate your money, but we would love to see you at our meetings and activities'. It is about time we listen and act. This is a Masonic family, and the Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, and young men of DeMolay are our kids.

So attend a meeting, support one of their activities, become an advisor, encourage your children and grandchildren to join these incredibly special groups."

So in conclusion, we challenge you to be the difference, help our youth, your Lodge and our Fraternity.

If you'd like to explore the possibilities, visit your local youth group today. If you have questions or don't know where to begin, contact one of our committee members or me –

WB John Danner – jbdanner@comcast.net

Youth Committee Chairman





(continued from page 20)

"One Last Mission" Accomplished



Every so now and then, you get a life-affirming experience. I recall sitting in the terminal at Reagan International Airport in DC with several Brethren when VW Nick Pemberton came to us and said 'there's an Honor Flight taking off, we should go say hello'. Often referred to as "One Last Mission", Honor Flights transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans – presently World War II and Korean survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill.

As I shook each persons' hand to thank them for their service and to ask if they enjoyed their trip to the memorials, it was then and there that I decided that in my term as Grand Master we would sponsor an Honor Flight. That goal came to fruition on the morning of Saturday, September 24th when Brethren and ladies of this Grand Lodge bid bon voyage to 56 of our heroes and their companions. The look of anticipation on each face was a thing of joy and beauty.

While in DC our heroes viewed each of the memorials, were celebrated for their service, and as a surprise bonus got one more mail call on the return flight home. Many thanks to our youth groups who wrote more than 600 letters personal & heartfelt for our heroes to read on the way home.

The return celebration on the evening of Monday, September 26th featured military honors and a reception that packed the Alaska Airlines atrium. Think about this, these men and women – in their late 80's or early 90's – left Seattle at 8:15 AM on Saturday morning. They had two days in Washington DC filled with excursions to the various memorials, and returned home on Monday evening at 9:00 PM. Yet, the energy and joy that they showed upon their arrival matched that of a 20 year old – it was amazing and inspiring.

There will be five more Honor Flights in the remainder of this Grand year. The next one will fly out of Spokane on October 3rd and return on October 4th. The next flight out of Seattle will take place on October 15th. With a return of October 17th. Details can be found in the Grand Master's calendar on our website. Additional flights will take place in the spring. Please make the effort to be there to send off and welcome home our heroes. Trust me, it is a life-affirming experience.

We will continue to extend financial support to the Puget Sound and Inland Northwest Honor Flight Networks through the sale of the Grand Master's lapel pin. Thanks to the generosity of the Brethren and a matching gift from Washington Masonic Charities, we have already made a donation to the Puget Sound Honor Flight Network in the amount of \$8000. A subsequent donation of \$5000 to the Inland Northwest Network was made at the District No. 27 Meeting.

With the spring flights on the horizon, you can purchase a Grand Master's lapel pin from me, any of the elected Grand Lodge officers, your Deputy of the Grand Master, or from a member of the Military Recognition Committee. You can even purchase one via my online store, <https://squareup.com/store/jim-mendoza-gm-2016-2017>. I am asking for \$5.00 – feel free to give more if you are so inclined, many have.

Let's do our part to honor our aging vets with One Last Mission.

MWB Jim Mendoza, Grand Master

(continued from page 21)

Community Involvement

Brothers;

Its time for the holidays and we as Masons have an opportunity to make a huge impression on our communities. I have listened to many a Mason comment on the declining numbers of Masons and I know that our secret society really is a secret to a large number of people in our communities. The secret is not our rituals or meetings but the fact that Masons really do exist! To address this issue over past few years that I have been a Mason I have volunteered to many a coffee stop and have interacted with the people coming to the window to get coffee and cookies, asking them how their drive was where they were going to (games relatives etc.) Most were happy to take a break and talk with anyone and most then asked who we were and where the donations went to, I always told them 100 percent of their donations went to our charities, Bikes for Books and holiday dinners for the needy and other things and also found out they were more generous in their donations when we interacted.

I have with a few other Masons cooked and severed food for national night out in our city which gives us the chance to meet city official's and police and talk with the public as we serve them. Also there is the city officials and officers that are thankful that we helped. I also asked for help from the local police every time we gave out bikes for the bikes for books program, asking them to help present and fit helmets for each kid that got a bike and even training for the hospital trauma center on how to fit them properly free to them courtesy of the hospital.

At the beginning of November the Cowlitz county sheriff called me up and because of this interaction asked if we the Masons could cook a benefit breakfast for the children's justice advocacy center. He didn't have anyone this year and he knew we like to help the community when we can. I asked about who they were and then said I will ask my Brothers if they were interested in helping. I did put the word out at meetings and phone calls and got a very positive response from several Brothers and from every Lodge in our District and also Rainier Lodge in Oregon. I then went down to meet with the director of the cjac (Charlie and his associate Kristen) and was impressed by their dedication to their job and told them we would be happy to help them out. I then found out they were renting a hall and kitchen from the local catholic church which I found to be ironic and funny. As the week progressed and I spent time helping with the menu and setup I discovered their funds to put this on was very limited and they were asking donations from local stores and entities but didn't have enough to make a good breakfast for the price charged for the benefit breakfast. I then asked them about their budget and after I left I called up Masonic charities Brother Ken Gibson and talked with him about this. He looked them up and said we could help them and then got their numbers, called them up and after talking with them asked them if he could write a check to cover the whole breakfast to which they were stunted and almost cried. I

then asked if I could add a few things to the menu to make it a breakfast that people would want to come back to next year and not just because it was a benefit breakfast.

All in all it went very well and the sheriff and cjac were very grateful and it didn't cost the local Lodges a penny besides our own time and gas to help and made a huge impression in the community. Because of things like this and trying constantly to be visible to the community we have had more interest and follow thru in the Masons than my Lodge has had in a very long time. This also makes the Brothers happy and the desire to be part of a good thing, at least within their cable tow. With limited resources Grand Lodge and Washington Masonic Charities has given us the ability to set up as leaders in our community and become visible again to which people in the community have started to ask how they can be part of this.

I would like to thank all the Brothers that came forward to participate in this benefit breakfast, WB Ron Robbins from Occident Lodge, No. 48 - WB Rob Malice from Castle Rock Lodge, No. 62 - WB Ron Horn from Woodland/Kalama Lodge, No. 17 - MWB Tommy Greer from Rainier Lodge, No. 24 of Oregon - Brother Mike Kreger of Kelso Lodge, No. 94 and Rainier Lodge No. 24 - Brother linc Jordan and his lady from Occident Lodge, No. 48 and Longview Lodge No. 263 - Brother Greg Keller from Longview Lodge No.,263 They all worked very well together and made this event go perfect in the eyes of the sheriff and cjac and our community.

I would also like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and happy new year and we as Masons stand ever ready to step up and help our communities in a positive way.

WB Don Talley
Respectfully Yours,
Worshipful Master Longview Lodge No.263





A Personal Invitation



The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite has often been referred to as the "University of Freemasonry." This stems from the moral and ethical study generated by the 29 Degrees available to Master Masons should they choose to petition and progress in the Rite. The fundamentals of building a moral and spiritual edifice are instilled in all of us as we progressed through the esoteric Degrees of the Blue Lodge. The opportunity to expand on

these lessons is provided by the Scottish Rite Ritual.

In each Scottish Rite Valley there are four subordinate bodies, the Lodge of Perfection (composed of the 4th through 14th Degrees), the Chapter of Rose Croix (composed of the 15th through 18th Degrees), the Council of Kadosh (composed of the 19th through 30th Degrees) and the Consistory (composed of the 31st and 32nd Degrees). In addition to providing motivation to study additional aspects of personal growth, each of these bodies provides an opportunity to experience Masonic leadership challenges.

There are 13 Valleys located in the State of Washington (referred to as the Orient of Washington in Scottish Rite vernacular). These Valleys are located in Bremerton, Vancouver, Kelso, Olympia, Tacoma, Seattle, Everett, Bellingham, Wenatchee, Yakima, Kennewick, Walla Walla, and Spokane. You can see

there is a Valley in a location accessible to all Masons in the State. Each Valley has a myriad of duties and responsibilities which need to be fulfilled. As each Degree has a drama associated with its conferral you can imagine that the staging, directing, costumes, and other activities needed portray the historical events and lessons are numerous and detailed. Certainly, not all of us are thespians but we all have talents which can be used.

Beyond the portrayal of the Degrees is the study of the numerous ethical and moral tenets to be used in enriching our lives. This is often done through group discussion, lecture, or self-study of the literature developed by the scholars of the Rite. Of significant assistance in this endeavor is the Master Craftsman Program, a self-paced course of instruction which is available to all. Most Valleys have a seminar program to assist members in accomplishing the course requirements.

Whether you are looking for additional fellowship, an opportunity to explore talents you might not know you have, or to challenge yourself in researching and learning the deeper meaning of the Masonic Fraternity there is a place for you in Scottish Rite. I want to personally invite all Masons who have not been invited to join Scottish Rite to do so. If you need assistance in finding a contact in your local area, please contact me at aljorg@comcast.net and I will ensure that you receive a call from a Valley near you. For all Brothers that are members of the Rite, I invite you to contact me also if you have ideas or suggestions as to how we can better achieve the expectations you had when you petitioned.

Warmest Fraternal Regards,
Alvin W. Jorgensen, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
In the Orient of Washington
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite S.J.U.S.A.



Happy Holidays Washington Freemasons! It truly is the most wonderful time of the year. Not merely because of the holidays, the peppermint flavored drinks, or the chance of snow, but because of what is being accomplished in the work of our Masonic Family here in Washington State.

On November 12th Washington DeMolay held our Grand Master's Class, where we honored MWB and Senior DeMolay Dad Jim Mendoza with an Initiation Class in his honor. We gathered together at Centennial Lodge No.23 in Snohomish where Washington DeMolay welcomed 11 new Brothers into our Order. The day was filled with superb ritual work, a delectable Spaghetti dinner, and a fun Templar Tournament where the attendees played Bunco, an exciting dice game.

Our biggest highlight of the event was the splendid opportunity I had to perform the Flower Talk with Dad Jim Mendoza. We met earlier in the morning where we ran through the ceremony, and when the time came to step up to that sacred DeMolay altar, I could see and feel that the room was in for a real treat. In my experience as a DeMolay, this performance of the Flower Talk will serve as a highlight due to the impressive, sincere, and memorable delivery. It was amazing to see after all these years, the time that Dad Mendoza gave to DeMolay, still rests within his heart. It was a presentation dear to both of us, and it did not leave many dry eyes in the room.

With the holidays among us, I couldn't think of a better time than now to give. Giving to others I believe is an essential component of Freemasonry, DeMolay, and the rest of the Masonic Family. Giving not only gifts, scholarships, and donations, but something even more valuable, and that is time. If you are really looking to "Be the

Difference" for your local DeMolay Chapter, then the best contribution you can make is giving your time. Whether you're attending a Chapter meeting or driving a bunch of DeMolays to an event, what you do with your time is valuable and means the world to that future Lodge Officer sitting in the Master Councilor station or giving the prayer as Chaplain.

So please, donate your time in any way you can, we want DeMolay Leveled Up across the state, and you can Be the Difference to that young man's future. After all, it is the season of giving. Happy Holidays my Brethren.

Fraternally,

Luke A. Walker
State Master Councilor
Washington DeMolay





Royal Arch Masons



There are currently 12K+ Freemasons in Washington State, yet less than 10% are Royal Arch Masons. I hope this article (derived from the Grand York Rite of California) will provide a better insight as to what the Royal Arch is.

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Washington was chartered October 2, 1884, with the first chapter being chartered as Walla Walla Chapter No. 1 (which is still active).

No other Rite of Freemasonry covers the world so much as does Royal Arch Masonry. Founded in 1797 in Boston, MA, the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, International now has jurisdiction over half the 7,000 Chapters in the world, including provinces in Canada, Grand Chapters in Mexico, Philippines, Italy, Greece, and South America. Upon your exaltation as a Royal Arch Mason you will become a member of the oldest and largest rite of Freemasonry.

What is the attraction for brothers to seek further light in Royal Arch Masonry? In your journey through the three degrees of Symbolic masonry no doubt many questions have arisen concerning the meaning of the ritualistic ceremonies, the historical implications and the "why" of the legends of Freemasonry.

Many believe the Sublime Degree of Master Mason to be the ultimate degree of Freemasonry. Most students of Freemasonry agree that the story of the Craft as presented in the three degrees is incomplete and that the degrees of the Royal Arch complete the story and answer many of the questions in the mind of the newly made Master Mason.

The Royal Arch Degree was considered most important in the early years of Freemasonry. In 1813, when the two grand lodges in England united, a firm and solemn landmark was adopted and placed in the Articles of Union, which said:

"Pure Ancient Freemasonry consists of but three degrees, viz., that of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch."

This Landmark has never been changed. To date no other degree has been officially recognized by the Mother Grand Lodge and every rite, system or additional degree of Freemasonry cannot confer its degree on a Master Mason until he has received the Royal Arch Degree because a man is not a Master Mason until he receives the Master's Word and he can only receive it in the Royal Arch.

The Chapter or Royal Arch Masonry consists of four degrees: Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason.

The Mark Master Degree is believed to have originated as a ceremony of registering a craftsman mark in those years distinguished by the operative craft masons and their temple building. The Masonic fraternity later developed it into a full-fledged degree, as we know it today. Some say it was the

earliest degree and may predate all others by many years. It is as one of the most beautiful degrees in all Masonry, teaching lessons that have proven of value in all walks of life. Some Grand Lodges place so high an eminence on the Mark Master Degree, that they confine it to the jurisdiction of a separate grand body, the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

The Past Master Degree came into being because originally the degree of Royal Arch was conferred by the Symbolic (Blue Lodge) only on actual Past Masters. This degree was instituted to make it possible for all worthy Brethren to receive the Royal Arch Degree. The first record of its conferral is found in 1768 in England.

The Most Excellent Master Degree is a product of American innovation. It was conferred in Royal Arch Chapters as early as 1783. It is by far the most spectacular degree in all Freemasonry. It is the only degree that brings forcibly to our attention the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple.

The Royal Arch Degree is the climax of Ancient Craft Masonry and Masonic Symbolism. It is the complete story of Jewish history during some of its darkest hours. Jerusalem and the Holy Temple are destroyed. The people of Israel are being held captive as slaves in Babylon. Here you will join with some of the captives as they are set free to return home and engage in the noble and glorious work of rebuilding the city and the Temple of God. It is during this rebuilding that they make a discovery that brings to light the greatest treasure of a Mason - the long lost Master's Word.

All who are exalted to that most sublime degree, particularly by those who are seeking to complete their Masonic education, will appreciate the value of Royal Arch Masonry. It reveals the full light of Ancient Craft Masonry presents it as a complete system in accordance with the original plan and justly entitles you to claim the noble name of Master Mason.

MEC Bryan D. Bechler
Grand High Priest 2016-2017



Affirmation Sunday, Peach Arch Park, Blaine, WA
In conjunction with members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon



3 Essentials Necessary for Masonic Success

Have you ever hear the statement: "Dream it and you can achieve it!" Has it worked for you personally and professionally? If not, what do you think is the reason for it not working?

Quite possibly, one or all of the following essentials was missing from the process.

The most famous example of a dream that turned into a success was Dr. Martin Luther King's "Dream speech" in which he spoke of his future vision when people would be defined and accepted by their character instead of the color of their skin. His dream and resultant daily undertakings, while still a work in progress, epitomizes the 3 essentials necessary for sustainable success.

A dream, regardless of the time of day or night, is merely a vision of some past, present or future thought, event or moment in time. The significance of the thought depends upon what happened afterwards - good, bad or otherwise.

If the thought pertained to a desire for the future in the life of the person in whom the thought occurred, but never happened, thought leaders, speakers and writers proclaim the absence of some, if not all, of the 3 essentials, inhibited the success of that dream.

My personal experience affirms that the following 3 essentials are necessary for sustainable success. Early in my life I aspired to be a minister. My Mom politely informed me that I hadn't been called, which squelched that idea. She would always proudly people in our community that "David was going to be like Mr. Smith." Mr. Smith was an Accountant and very successful, so I thought that was a great idea. Three semesters of Accounting and I knew that wasn't my future.

Future studies in business management and leadership, as well as teaching in the Navy, led me to my true purpose in life. Following my Navy career, teaching the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Corps Program, as well as studies in personal and organizational leadership led me to my personal vision and mission - developing leaders who will in turn develop other leaders.

Vision – Importance and Statement Process

A dream requires initiative and action. That action begins with the Vision, which is where you want to take that dream and make it your Masonic work. It becomes the purpose of your Lodge, or the "Why" of its existence. The Vision becomes the statement of how you want your Masonic entity to be seen by those outside the Fraternity. If it is a strong, empowering, and motivating vision, it is the focus of your time and energy, your passion, your direction in life. If it truly comes from your heart, it is based on your values and foundational standards with which leads to total fulfillment in meaning of everything you attempt and accomplish (Dodd & Sundheim, 2005).

Author Gordon D'Angelo says everything starts with Vision, that it is the process that brings imagination to creation. King Solomon, writing in the Book of Proverbs says, "Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained." The New Strong's Concise Concordance lists 79 references for Vision. The word(s) "vision" appears 53 time(s) in 47 verse(s) in Quran in

Abdullah Yusuf Ali translation. Likewise, Strong's Hebrew Concordance lists several references for vision (chazon). Given these exhaustive documented texts, it would be difficult to reason objection to establishing personal and organizational visions.

So how does that happen? Is it the responsibility of the Worshipful Master of the Lodge or the Scottish or York Rite Body? What are the expectations concerning the Lodge vision – every Mason automatically accept it and work toward that end? John Maxwell in his 360° Leader says, "Vision may begin with one person, but it is only accomplished by many people." Maxwell further writes that it is necessary for leadership to champion the vision and obtain the buy-in of every employee so that it becomes their vision as well; it's about "we", not "me."

According to the New Leadership Paradigm (Spears, 2002), employees want to be involved in the decision-making process. They want to be asked for their input and feel that they are valued. Therefore, employees should be active in creating an organizational vision statement. Meet with them, consider their suggestions, come to an all-employee consensus as to the wording of the statement.

The organizational vision is how the company is seen, hence believed to be, at some future time, 10, 20, 30 years down the road. Once decided upon, publish it throughout the organization and on the company website and stationery, talk about it, champion it, and get everyone on-board to work toward turning that vision into a reality.

Next step is to figure out how to make it happen. In other words, what will be the personal and organizational mission to make that vision a reality.

Mission

The mission becomes your day-to-day activity, your work, the effort put into living your vision. The mission requires several parts working in collaboration to daily improve in skill and expertise. This process also should include employee participation, not only to determine the actual parts of the mission, but also the SMART Goals needed to achieve success toward the vision.

How do you get there? Creation of a personal and/or organizational Mission Statement is the same or similar process used to formulate the Vision Statement. Ask the employees, meet with them, write down their suggestions (brainwashing), discuss them, come to a consensus as to the wording. Once finalized, publish just as with the Vision Statement. Create buy-in by valuing employee contribution in accomplishing the mission, which will turn the vision into reality.

The Mission Statement is not setting SMART Goals, which is a separate process. SMART – Specific; Measurable; Achievable; Realistic; Time restricted – Goals are set throughout the organization. Some will pertain to the entire company, others will be for individual entities within the whole company. Again, this should be done with employee input and buy-in.

Achieving your Mission – Action and Strategy

While it is great to have a vision statement that tells you and other of where you are going in your life, while your vision represents your value system, beliefs, as well as

(continued in page 26)

(continued from page 25)

your moral and ethical standards, and while your mission statements specifies your day-to-day activities and business, neither is of value without action focused on the specifics of working the mission.

Action Plans and Strategies require analysis of the SMART Goals, and devising plans to achieve them. For the individual this means working the Goals and planning a strategy for each. For the organization, leadership needs to work with employees to create an action plan to accomplish the goals. This may require extra training for everyone, special mentoring for areas of expertise not totally clear to everyone, and constant re-evaluation of goals to ensure they are directed responsibly and accurately.

A more in-depth reference on this subject matter is John C. Maxwell's Put Your Dream To The Test: 10 Questions to Help You See It and Seize It. Two points that I find most helpful is insuring total ownership – is the Dream (Vision) really mine, and personal fulfillment and satisfaction from accomplishing the vision.

An additional element for success is establishing a personal and/or organizational motto – a short motivating statement or phrase that becomes a constant reminder to all involved of the focus for everyone; individually or as a whole.

My personal motto is "Developing Great Leaders Who Develop Great Leaders." A second that I use quite frequently to help motivate others outside my realm of authority, i.e. friends and mentees is "Keep The Quest Alive! Additional words such as "Leadership" can be added before "Quest" to apply to a particular situation or action. Likewise, "Keep the Vision Alive! is another that is particular to this article.

Feel free to call or email me with any questions you might have about the statement creation process, or any other aspect of these

3 Essentials Necessary for Sustained Success.

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VWB David A. McCuiston
 PM Garfield Lodge, No. 41
 Speaker, Trainer, & Coach



Are you and RV'er, camper or just like to get away with Masonic brothers and sisters??

Did you know there is a RV camping group just for Masons and members of OES and their families.

By being a Mason or a member of OES you and your family are eligible to belong to the best camping group in North America . . . National Camping Travelers, Inc. (NCT) is a group of Masons, OES and their families experiencing a relaxing atmosphere of recreational vehicle camping. Activities include sightseeing, playing a variety of games, fellowship and making new friends and renewing old ones. As a member of NCT you have the opportunity of networking with our members in other jurisdictions throughout North America and Canada. You know you will always have Masonic camping buddies wherever you may travel. All you need to do to belong is have a recreational vehicle (travel trailer, motor home, tent and/or camper) and if you don't some parks even have cabins for rent and ask for a membership application. The yearly dues are less than \$35.00 which include and informational NCT Magazine called "News to Campers" as well as access to the national, district and state/provincial membership rosters. It really is quite the deal.

National Camping Travelers, Inc. was founded in 1966 and has since expanded throughout the US and some provinces in Canada. The NCT is divided into districts, with Oregon, Washington, Idaho and BC as District 10. There are individual chapters within each state/province. The various clubs meet one weekend a month at different RV parks during the months of April thru October. We also have business meetings in restaurants during the other months.

Once every year each state/province has a Rally when NCT'ers from that state all gather together for fun and new information on camping. Last year District 10's was held in Westport, WA and we had 50+ people from California, Oregon, Washington and Colorado. In addition we were able to raise over \$1,000 for Shriners Hospitals in the 3 Western States in addition to presenting the hospital with boxes of school supplies, blankets and pillow cases!

We are sure you and your family will truly find in NCT Masonic hospitality, fraternal warmth and a genuine call from labor to refreshment in addition to the wonderful friends. We invite you to come to a campout or a lunch meeting at one of our clubs near you. All you need to do is call for information and we will warmly welcome you. You can also find more information about NCT by going to the NCT website: <http://www.gonct.org>.

For information concerning Northwest Travelers No.38 please contact:

Don Downing, Master of Travel
 Home Phone: 425 793-7911 Cell Phone 253 709-2639
 Email: doned1@hotmail.com

6-Step Program to Initiation

It was July 3, 2014 at the Warren G. Harding Lodge No. 260, and the annual open house and BBQ was well under way when a young man and his wife wandered to look around. Spotting the visitor, the Worshipful Master, Mark Brooks, immediately made contact and soon found out that this young man's dad was a Fellowcraft Mason and he had always been interested in the Craft, how could he get involved was the question.

And that, for this Lodge, was the first candidate to participate in the newly introduced program, "6 steps to Initiation." Grand Lodge Sessions had just concluded a few weeks past where the program had been introduced and Lodges encouraged to participate. The Senior Deacon, who had attended, had returned with the program and was excited to put it to use. WM Mark Brooks was also eager to implement the program. So on July 3, 2014, step one began the road to this young man becoming a Master Mason.

In hind sight, the first candidate took a little longer than the program was designed to happen, about 6 months. But it was such a through education program and he had so many questions, that the foundation laid during that time is proving to be solid. Today, Brother Gerard Sapp is one of the most ambitious ambassadors for Freemasonry that District 12 has ever had.

Just to review, the 6-Step Program to Initiation, is 6 distinct contacts with an interested man, with step one being the contact, either by phone, face to face, email, or other and to set an appointment to meet and follow-up. The next four steps include questions and answers, home-work research, memorization, and attendance at an open Lodge function, fellowship, or dinner. The 6th step includes the actual petition for the degrees.

Since the spring of 2014, our Lodge has Initiated 13 men as Freemasons, some who are now passed to Fellowcraft waiting to be raised and two who have been raised. 11 of those men participated in the 6-step program. Warren G. Harding Lodge No. 260 is open every Thursday night to meet with candidates going through the 6-step program, coaching those with their proficiency work, or practicing for the next degree conferral. But by consistently having the Lodge open men who ask about being a Mason are directed to the Lodge on any Thursday night. Once in awhile a man will walk in off the street to ask questions. The program has also identified 3 men who have chosen not to continue in seeking a petition for one reason or another. These may have been men, who upon being initiated in the manner we used to do, would have quietly dropped away.

Once a man is initiated as an Entered Apprentice he is immediately placed in the "New Candidate Education Program" and either picks a Brother for his coach who he had made a relationship with or is assigned a Brother to coach. Frequent contact, on a weekly basis, is encouraged. Most often those study periods are on Thursday night at the Lodge. The newly initiated Brother is immediately assigned a portion of the Entered Apprentice degree, such as the Apron Lecture and the Working Tools Lecture. When that new Brother is competent with that lecture he will be the one to deliver it at the next first degree conferral. Other Entered Apprentices

and Fellowcrafts are paired up with a tenured Brother as the Junior Steward and start to learn the Steward duties for preparing a man for his degree. This process of immediately involving the new Brothers in these activities begins to cement them into the monthly activities of the Lodge and start them on a lifelong path of Lodge service. Another way the Lodge involves these new Masons is by rotating them through the Senior and Junior Steward chairs. For the past several years the Warren G. Harding Lodge has not installed men into these chairs but has chosen to use our newly initiated and passed young Brothers in this capacity. Again, it becomes training for them as they learn what the duties of the Junior Warden entail as they learn that service is part of being a Freemason. After all, when asked why they were interested in Masonry during the 6-step program, to a man they respond, "I want to give back and be of service."

Warren G. Harding Lodge No. 260 has found that by using the "6-Step Program to Initiation" and the "New Candidate Education Program," along with immediately involving the new Mason into the work of being a Mason at Stated Meetings and degree conferrals, that our young men are excited to come to Lodge, excited to participate, and eager to live the Masonic life. So much so, their co-workers are noticing and now we have one of them in the 6-step program. Every Lodge in our Washington jurisdiction should be using these programs if they wish to grow as a Lodge.

RWB Jim Kendall
 Senior Grand Warden



Entered Apprentice Historical Degree Lecture Chart



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 - August 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

Evergreen-Washelli Funeral Home

Serving families for over 130 years

11111 Aurora Ave N

Seattle WA 98133

Rick Becker, PM

Tel: 206-362-5200 ext. 118

Email: rbecker@washelli.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

General Contracting,

Renovation and Property Maintenance

PCS Services WA.

LicNo. PCSSES*891QA Licensed, Bonded, and Insured

Tel. 360.867.3830 or 360.329.2555

Email - darrell.MasterMason@gmail.com

Gentry Custom Remodel

Aging in Place Construction

Kevin E. Gent, Sr. Partner

5001 S. I st., 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

