



MASONIC TRIBUNE

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



Our FIVE-YEAR Journey...



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

Masonic Tribune Committee:

MWB G. Santy Lascano, Chairman

VWB David Hockaday

WB Christopher C. Haynes

Publication Design & Layout: G. Santy Lascano

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Article submission deadlines:

Summer Issue

Fall Issue

Winter Issue.....

Spring Issue.....

Editorial Note:

This being my last issue as editor, I express my hopes that this publication will stand a better chance of being utilized as the prime communication tool in our jurisdiction in the coming years. It has been a struggle the last few years to encourage participation and contribution for the publication to have an effective being to serve its purpose. Our Grand Lodge have given a lot of support to sustain the existence of the publication, but the membership seemed not very enthused to assist in making it a viable tool for communication. The Masonic Tribune committee members have used extreme efforts in trying to encourage the members of this Masonic jurisdiction to submit articles and contribute to the content of the publication to make it attractive to the reading community. We have failed.

There are four issues published every year. There are 29 District Deputies of the Grand Master, 27 Committees and 15 Appointed Grand Lodge officers. These numbers totals to 71 possible written articles we should be able to gather. This total divided by 4 issues gives us tentatively 18 articles to expect per issue. This number plus the special articles written by the Grand line of officers and other Masonic activities adds up to about 30 articles. If this happens, we can end up with a very healthy and well worth receiving newsletter publication. We also have to consider, we have 188 lodges in the jurisdiction with 3 line officers that can contribute at least an article per year.

In the previous issues, we average 12 articles submitted. We receive 4 articles from the Grand line of officers, 4 from the same District Deputies every issue and 4 to 5 articles from the same special programs and activities. We tried our best to make it as graphically appealing to the membership and even made it possible to download and distribute the publication dynamically online, but did not get any improvement in its participation.

We need your support; we need for you to have an open discussion about this topic in each your lodges. This publication represents our Masonic jurisdiction to the world. Let us prove our worth and show we care about our beloved organization and Freemasonry in general. Show your dedication to the craft; help promote the fraternity by expressing your thoughts and ideas through the Washington Masonic Tribune.

Thanks and Godspeed!

G. Santy Lascano, PGM
Chairman/Editor
Masonic Tribune



g.santy@comcast.net



GRAND MASTER
MOST WORSHIPFUL BROTHER
Dean W. Heinemann



MWB Dean W. Heinemann, Grand Master visited Westgate Lodge No.128 - Ethnic Night

OUR FIVE-YEAR JOURNEY

Kerry and I started this trek almost five years ago. We were not sure where it would lead or exactly how it would unfold. Reflecting back, it has been an amazing time for both of us. Lately, I have been spending time reviewing photographs and selecting ones for the Fellowship Dinner slide show. The faces of those that have become such an important part of our lives jumped out to me, as did the events that we have attended. Someone recently asked me to tell him the most memorable of all. I could not. I explained that it was still all a blur at this time and that it might take months for me to select only one, if that is even possible. I do know that I would not have considered starting this without the Love and Support of my Wife. For everything that she has done to keep me sane, keep me focused and keep me grounded, Thank You seems not enough.

We are still dealing with the untimely passing of RWB Jerry (Kuddles) Lingle, Senior Grand Warden 2011. I did have the opportunity to present a donation to the Portland Shrine Hospital in Jerry's name. Joyce made the trip to Portland with me and this made the transition a bit easier but I still miss him.

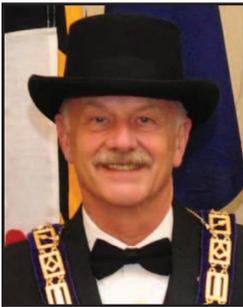
I am also in the process of writing my message to the Craft that I will deliver at the Annual Communication on June 14. This is not an easy task as so much has happened this year. But it provides me with the opportunity to put into prospective this year verses with what has happened in the past. Here is a portion of that message. "In reading through a selection of the Past Grand Master's messages, each has talked about their vision for moving the Fra-

ternity forward. It became apparent that the messages have been delivered but either not understood or ignored. We must continue to impress the fact that reading and comprehension is essential. Freemasonry must be treated as a Non-Profit Volunteer-Based Business. We must balance the teachings of our gentle craft with the business side. Some of our Brethren have forgotten their Obligations and have not taken to heart our solemn ritual; the solemn promises that they have made to their Brothers and themselves. My predecessors have emphasized Mentoring the next generations of Freemasons and this remains something that we must continue to pursue. We were reminded that Change is the key to our future and to establish Great Expectations for ourselves and for the Craft. Walk the Talk was a theme that struck a nerve in me; as it is no longer acceptable to just talk and be judged but we must and will be judged by our actions. It is past time for only good words; it is time for us to live up to our promises. We were asked to Inform, Inspire and Involve; to Work Together and to Dream. I am encouraged that at least some of the Lodges have been paying attention but most seem content to continue doing what has already been done and expecting different results."

MY VISION

Fraternally Submitted,

MWB *Dean W. Heinemann*
Grand Master





DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BROTHER
Bruce E. Vesper

Where are we going next...

The above words were the ones that I used to hear from my daughters as they were growing up and the time would come for a transfer during my military service. I was always surprised that even though we didn't say anything to them until we were really close in the process, as military 'brats' they managed to get the word from the other children that they played with. Of course, it came with the wonder my wife and I had about relocating the children in new schools, what kind of clothing were we going to have to buy for everyone (Note: I think the military specialized in moving you from hot to cold climates and back again), and how we were going to handle the job changes and such. As a military family, we were very used to change, but it was also something that we knew was an inevitable part of life.

In the same way, my wife and I had the concerns about what kind of job were we going to be going to, what kind of money would my wife be able to earn at the new location, and what was I going to be doing and how would that affect my promotion potential. All sorts of questions about things that we didn't always have a lot of control over, but we knew that others had made these changes, and they would be something that we would inevitably deal with, one way or another. The other thought was that with moving on to a job replacing someone of higher rank, I was going to be needing more education and more training, which would hopefully make me more promotable in the military system. But in the final analysis, we knew change was coming and we could deal with it or get out of the military.

When I retired, I started learning how much different in many ways the civilian world was. Working for the same company in the same place, with the same people was very different for me. While much of the camaraderie not the same, there was often a very better development of community with the coworkers, that we had a share of what was happening in our town (very different from a military installation), and the corporate memory was something that I learned was much more important. But even then, I continued the thought of where are we going next. I guess it had been bred into me.

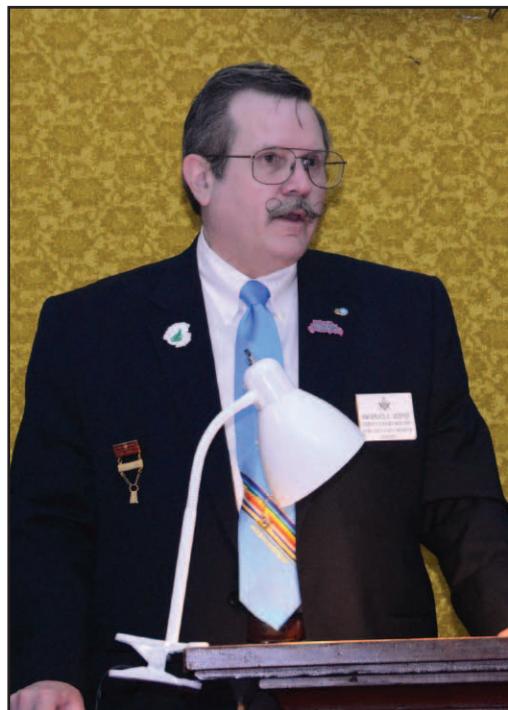
Looking at our lodges in the jurisdiction, I wonder if such a concept is what we need to breed into our newest Masons. So many

of the lodges continue to deal with the same old things, doing nothing new, doing little for the community and for themselves, so let me ask the question, WHERE ARE WE GOING? What is your lodge going to do to reach out to the community? What is your lodge going to do to reach the next generation of Masons that will carry on for us, when we are called by the Great Architect? Where are we going, what are we going to do, what is the next challenge for us?

You have probably all heard that if you don't know where you are going, any path will get you there. It has also been said that if you don't know where you are going, you won't know if you reach your goal. So be bold, set a new course, do something different, and get into the current century. And look forward to the future, and see where you want to be in the next few years and set a course so that you will eventually reach your goal. Brethren, I ask each of you, WHERE ARE WE GOING NEXT?

Fraternally,

RWB Bruce E. Vesper
Deputy Grand Master





SENIOR GRAND WARDEN
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BROTHER

Sam Roberts

What if?

At a restaurant the other day, one of the servers, noticing the Square and Compasses on my shirt remarked that her daughter had been a rainbow and how much it had helped her growing up. And that her father, a 'highly placed Mason', and his Lodge had been a moving force in the community. She remembered the Masons being an integral part of the daily life of the town as civic leaders, recognized volunteers, and just being there for anyone in need. What she described was, in short, one important aspect our history.

But it brought to my mind a question, "What if there had been no Masons? What differences would there be?"

The news is full of examples of our civic leaders, mayors, councils and city administrators; our law enforcement and emergency responders; our business professionals being investigated or charged with shocking crimes and scandals. They seem to be acting with no moral direction or conscience. The personal responsibility for actions is shifted to a nebulous 'they or them' "... did it to me... made me do it. It's not my fault." Worse are the people that set themselves as role models for our youth. We constantly see them on TV influencing the market and in the sports news setting records for salaries and bonuses. And then immediately see them being arrested for DWI and assault or worse.

When the chief of police is trusted to uphold the law and act in a professional manner, AND people know he is a Mason, no one is surprised. When the Mayor guides the city as would a statesman, not as a politician AND people know he is a Mason, no one is amazed. When any man acts, by example, with the virtues and tenets that people recognize as being good qualities, AND he is a Mason, then no-one questions his motives or his character. Men defined Masons being the role models and guides for all but the few. Think how different you would be if it were not a Mason. Think of the difference for your family, your community if there were no Masons or people with Masonic principals. Our grandfathers and fathers did not hide the fact that they were Masons and what that means. They proudly participated and served in their Lodges, their churches and their communities.

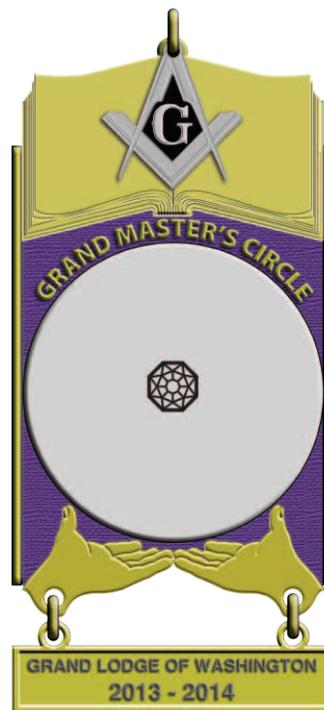
Brethren, don't let the world go about their business thinking that this is a world without Masons.

Fraternally,

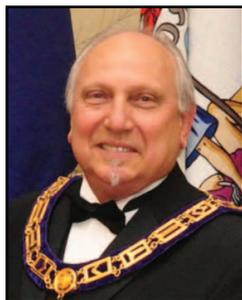
RWB Sam Roberts
Senior Grand Warden



The Grand Master's Circle



To join, please contact the Grand Secretary for details.





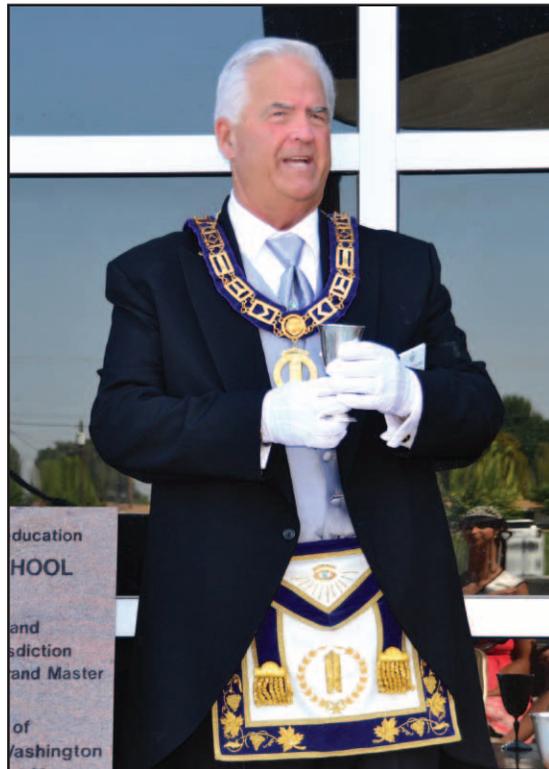
JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BROTHER
Donald G. Munks

COMING TO THE END OF THE YEAR

Here we are almost to the end of our Jurisdictions 2012-2013 year. For me it started with being elected Junior Grand Warden of this great fraternity on June 9, 2012 in Vancouver, WA.. There was not much time to bask in the euphoria of the election for on Sunday morning, June 10, I was told to meet in a private room with the other elected's. This was my first EX-COMM meeting and I would during that 3 hour meeting begin to understand some of the complexities facing our Grand Lodge along with issues from the past that were not yet finished. The Grand Master discussed the just approved resolutions from the Annual Communication, the priorities of the Jurisdiction, and his vision for his upcoming year.

From the middle of June thru the first of December I was able to schedule Lodge visitations along with the Cornerstone ceremonies and Lodge Rededications I participated in. This was the fun part of my responsibilities as I and those that traveled with me met a lot of new Brothers and got reacquainted with old friends. Yes, there were all of the various types of elected meetings to attend, e-mails to read and reply, and homework to fulfill. But here comes some of the best part of my association with the outstanding elected Brothers I am privileged to learn from; their association and friendship with the youth groups, Demolay, Rainbow, and Jobe's. These young men and women, boys and girls, are full of energy, eager to learn, and as respectful as they come. But their greatest asset is their devotion to one another. Attended the State Installations of all three youth groups and shared in the fun and enthusiasm these young people share. There are some within our fraternity that could learn from these groups. Remember, "at this altar you have promised to befriend and relieve every Brother who shall need your assistance. You have been enjoined to remind a Brother in the most friendly manner of his fault, to endeavor to aid his reformation, and to defend his character."

January started the Regional meetings and they have occurred almost every weekend since then with the last Regional June 1 in Spokane. In February we were all, along with our wives, in Kansas City for the Conference of Grand Masters. What a powerful week of meetings and learning with almost all of the Grand Lodges of the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and other countries. This is where we have the opportunity to glean ideas and successes from other jurisdictions and bring back and try in Washington. Beside our Annual Communication in June we also have the Grand Lodge of Oregon and the Grand Lodge of British Columbia & Yukon.



I would like to thank all of the Brothers for their vote of confidence, encouragement, support, and friendship this past year. I would also like to thank the elected officers ahead of me; MWB Dean Heinemann, RWB Bruce Vesper, RWB Sam Roberts, and RWB David Owen who all helped and mentored me. Also a thank you to the Brothers of District 9 along with WB's Jonathan Brown, Lee Schuirman, George Brown, and Br. Jerry Lounsbury.

Last and most importantly is my appreciation of the support of my 4 daughters, their husbands and all of my grand kids for all the time that I was not home for family events, missed birthdays, and BBQ's.

Most importantly the love and backing of my wife of 49 1/2 years, Cathy. For all of those nights that I got home after midnight, the long and late weekend drives that you endured with me, and keeping me grounded, on course, and headed in the right direction. I couldn't have done this without your support, backing, and love!

THANK YOU,

Fraternally,

RWB Donald G. Munks
 Junior Grand Warden



Grand Lodge purchased a new building ...

This year working with the Grand Lodge Elected Officers and the Committee on Finance, along with the professional help of legal, environmental, surveyor and building inspection personnel purchased a building. The building is located in University Place (UP), approximately 15 miles from 47 Saint Helens. The building was built in 2002, and will house both the Grand Lodge operations and the Washington Masonic Charities-Library & Museum and certain administration staff.

In the history of the Grand Lodge we have never owned our building. At our previous locations we were tenants. It has been an ongoing effort to find a home for Grand Lodge.

In 1999-2000, then Senior Grand Warden, Robert Van Zee and Junior Grand Warden James N. Reid Jr. located a building on Pacific Avenue in Tacoma but were unable to structure a purchase. Again in 2005, Past Grand Master, John D. McNab and Grand Secretary, David Owen were given the task to again explore possible options. The Affii Shrine building was a possible option. However, having a minority stake in the real estate subjected Grand Lodge to other Masonic Concordant Groups management. More recently, Grand Master, G. Santy Lascano, appointed WB Fred Wolfstone (Commercial Real Estate Broker) and Grand Secretary, David Owen to check the market for a possible building for Grand Lodge and the Library and Museum. The time was ripe for real estate, given the 2008 melt down in the financial and real estate market. In the past two years there have been five different properties to consider and the new building in UP will greatly enhance and support our operations for years to come.

Two of the possible properties that were considered were, again the Affii building and the Masonic Retirement Center. The Affii building would cost too much to remodel it to fit our needs. The Masonic Retirement Center is also too costly to bring up-to-date. Changing the business use of the Masonic Retirement Center would require a tax liability in excess of \$170,000.00 per year. It was a practical and financial choice not to relocate to either of these locations.

The new building is located at 4970 Bridgeport Way W, University Place. It is approximately 10,700 square feet. Adjacent to it is a half-acre lot, which was negotiated into the

price. The price of the two lots and the building were 2.1 million dollars. The list price was about 2.5 million. The money used to purchase came from the Grand Lodge's General Endowment Fund, Capital Fund, and a note from the Home Endowment Fund. The note will be paid back over 30 years.

Financially the relocation of Grand Lodge makes sense. Our current lease payment is approximately \$55,000/year. When you add Washington Masonic Charities as a tenant and with the available lease space of 1800 square feet, the total revenue generated is near \$130,000.00. The annual overhead (taxes, insurance, utilities etc...) from the prior owner was \$44,000/year. With a reduction in property taxes for Washington Masonic Charities as a tenant, it is estimated that this number can be reduced. The repayment on the note is \$48,000.00/year. When you add the overhead (\$44,000) and the Note (\$48,000) it equal \$92,000.00/year against a revenue of \$130,000.00/year, leaving \$38,000.00 to go into the Capital Fund for future uses. The Grand Lodge, Washington Masonic Charities, and the 1800 leasable space will all be tenants. If the 1800 square feet is not leased the revenue generated will be \$98,000.00, again leaving a positive cash flow but less. The half-acre empty lot is another potential revenue source and at this time nothing is planned.

The Grand Lodge has formed a Building Association similar to what is required of Lodges owning real estate. The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws have been approved by Jurisprudence and the Grand Master. The name of the corporation is the Washington Masonic Grand Lodge Building Association. There are seven Trustees ; two are the Senior and Junior Grand Warden; two appointed annually by the Grand Master and the other three are elected, one each year at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. The two Grand Wardens cannot serve as officer of the corporation.

This summer will be our move in period. The Library and Museum has already started. In early July the Grand Lodge offices will start their transition. The move will be completed by the end of September when our current lease at 47 Saint Helens Avenue expires. Please be patient during the transition.

In the near future the new Grand Lodge building will be dedicated. Please make it a point to come and see our new Grand Lodge offices. You will be impressed with the Library and Museum's new layout. WB Todd Johnstone and the members of the Library and Museum Committee have done an excellent job. Thxs.

RWB David P. Owen
Grand Secretary



GRAND SECRETARY
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BROTHER
David P. Owen





Fraternal Correspondent

The Grand Lodge of Washington has established mutual recognition with over a hundred Grand Lodges throughout the world. Most of them agree to exchange representatives, sometimes known as Grand Representatives.

Our Grand Master nominates a Washington brother to be the representative of the foreign Grand Lodge near the Grand Lodge of Washington. The Grand Master of that foreign Grand Lodge then commissions that brother to the position. It is usually via a letter but sometimes includes a fancy certificate and occasionally a jewel or medal.

“Foreign Grand Lodge” in this sense is any other Grand Lodge. It could be Idaho or Austria.

Technically the job of the Grand Rep is to keep track of what is going on in the jurisdiction he represents – usually by reading the Proceedings or checking the web page – and letting our Grand Lodge officers know about interesting and useful things they are doing. Also, to keep the represented Grand Lodge knowledgeable about what is going on in the Grand Lodge of Washington.

It is helpful if, as a Grand Rep, you can establish contact with your counterpart. That is, the brother in that foreign Grand Jurisdiction who has been commissioned by our Grand Master to be the representative of the Grand Lodge of Washington near his own Grand Lodge. Oftentimes that is easier said than done. Since there are no term limits on being a representative, sometimes you will find that your counterpart has held the position for many years and is now a senior and inactive member of the Craft.

Then of course there is the language problem. Not everyone speaks or reads English. Quite often a web page created in another language will have an English language version available, so that helps. And now there is a good array of translation tools available on the web. I found it very good at translating Brazilian Portuguese into English.

If you ever have an opportunity to visit the Grand Lodge you represent, you will likely be treated as an honored guest and introduced with full honors. And being their Grand Representative gives you an excuse and incentive to visit that foreign jurisdiction.

Being a Grand Representative means that at some point one of our Grand Masters thought enough of your work to see you as deserving of additional recognition and honor. That’s why he nominated you. There is an excellent Short Talk Bulletin about being a Grand Representative. If you would like a copy, email me at wasgig@comcast.net.

If you are not yet a Grand Representative and would like to be, especially if you have some connection to that jurisdiction – born there, have family there, speak the lan-

guage, etc. – let the Grand Secretary’s office know of your interest. If you are currently a Grand Rep and would prefer to represent a different jurisdiction, perhaps that could be accommodated as well. Just let us know.

We currently have over sixty jurisdictions for which there is no current representative. The Grand Lodge electeds are going to go to work on that.



M.:W.: William R. Miller
Fraternal Correspondent
Past Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Washington





Because so many of the members of the Masonic Fraternity and their spouses are veterans or spouses of veterans, your Masonic Outreach Services staff would like to present a three part article on VA benefits these members may qualify for now and as they age. This article

is Part I.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs census estimates, there are approximately 13 million veterans and their single surviving spouses age 65 and older. Comparing this to a total of 41 million Americans 65 and older, veterans and their single surviving spouses represent about 1/3 of the senior population. According to VA about 42% of all veterans are 65 and older. This percentage will continue to grow as the bulk of the Vietnam veterans - the largest cohort - are still younger than age 65.

Senior veterans are typically in receipt of four cash income programs from VA. Two of these programs - Pension and Death Pension - are paid to veterans and their surviving spouses who are non-service-connected disabled. The other two of these programs - Compensation and DIC - are paid to veterans or surviving spouses due to disability or death from service connection.

The pension benefit commonly referred to as "Aid and Attendance," are twin benefits which provide cash payments to veterans who served during a period of war or to their single surviving spouses. Pension helps to cover the cost of home care, assisted living and nursing home services. Pension is also available to veterans or surviving spouses with very low income who do not have long-term care costs. Cash income payments from Pension range from about \$700 a month to a little over \$2,000 a month depending on the type of claim and the medical rating involved. Most people don't even know of the existence of this benefit. VA does not advertise it and as such many eligible people never apply.

It is unfortunate that this Pension has been misnamed "Aid and Attendance." "Aid and attendance" and "Housebound" are actually additional monetary allowances provided with Pension if the recipient of Pension monies needs the regular aid and attendance of another person or is considered housebound. The misnomer creates confusion because Aid and Attendance assistance allowances are also available for service-connected disabilities (Disability Compensation) and to a spouse of a service connected disabled veteran. Also, an Aid and Attendance allowance is available to a surviving spouse of a veteran if the surviving spouse is receiving DIC (Dependents Indemnity Compensation). There are about 16 different monetary levels of Aid and Attendance or Housebound allowances available with non-service-connected and service-connected disability programs for veterans or their surviving spouses. Approximately 308,700 senior veterans will receive Pension in 2013 and 171,000 of senior veteran survivors will receive Death Pension in 2013.

Your Masonic Outreach Services has been offering assistance in applying for the Aid and Attendance pension for two years now. We are familiar with the Fully Developed Claim process and work with an Accredited VA Agent to get these applications completed and submitted to the V.A. Hav-

ing a Fully Developed Claim can often shave months off the waiting time for the Veteran in need of this pension.

Part II of III (*Part III of III in page 10*)

Disability Compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to a veteran for a service-connected disability that happened as a result of active duty, active duty for training, inactive duty training or injury from VA healthcare. Cash income payments for Compensation range from a low of about \$130 a month to a high of about \$8,000 a month. Special benefits like grants for new automobiles or modifying existing automobiles, grants for constructing or modifying homes, clothing allowances and so on are payable for severe service-connected disabilities. A veteran cannot receive Pension and Compensation at the same time and a surviving spouse cannot receive Death Pension and DIC at the same time. A choice must be made which benefit the beneficiary wants to receive.

An aid and attendance or housebound assistance allowance in the form of Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) is available to the veteran who is 100% disabled. A veteran rated for 100% disability will receive a check for about \$2,816 a month in 2013 and if the veteran has a spouse the amount is \$2,974 a month. A 100% disabled veteran meeting the SMC Schedule (I) aid and attendance criteria can receive \$3,505 a month and if that veteran has a spouse, the amount can be \$3,662 a month. Higher amounts are possible if the aid and attendance involves certain severe disabilities. Additional disabilities also add \$100 per month per disability to SMC.

This aid and attendance allowance is not an automatic benefit and most veterans don't even know about this special assistance and never apply for it. If the veteran receiving Compensation is not 100% disabled, the need for aid and attendance might possibly allow for that increase in rating and the additional assistance for aid and attendance on top of that. Most veterans receiving Compensation don't have a clue as to their eligibility for this special benefit.

Also, an aid and attendance assistance allowance is available due to the need for services to a disabled spouse of a veteran where the veteran is 30% or more disabled. The amount goes up as the disability rating goes up. For example, a 30% disabled veteran can generate a \$43 a month benefit as a result of his or her disabled spouse. A 100% disabled veteran can generate \$143 a month. Again, it is not common knowledge these additional allowances are available and VA does not normally notify people of their existence.

Of particular note for Disability Compensation are Agent Orange claims for each and every veteran who was stationed in Vietnam and who has developed presumptive health conditions such as certain forms of cancer, type II diabetes, ischemic heart disease (lack of proper blood flow to the heart) and Parkinson's disease. Veterans with service-connected hearing loss can also make claims and receive free hearing aids. This hearing disability rating will also get them into the health care system. Many veterans don't know of the existence of Agent Orange claims or the fact that they might be eligible for service-connected disability for hearing loss. Approximately 3,626,500 beneficiaries will receive Compensation in 2013 and of those approximately 1,005,000 are age 65 and older. Of all beneficiaries, approximately 320,000 are 100% disabled.

If you would like more information about any of these programs or would like help in applying, please feel free to contact Masonic Outreach Services at 206-878-8434/1-800-820-4630 Ext. 101 or mcraves-hollands@mrcwa.org.



Mary Craves-Hollands
 Program Director

Part III of III (continued from page 9)

The VA health care system is the largest single provider of health care in the United States. It has also been recognized by numerous surveys as being one of the best providers of health care as well. Not all veterans can receive care in the system. Eligibility requires either service-connected disability, receipt of Pension, special service recognition such as prisoner of war or Purple Heart or low income and less than \$80,000 in assets. For all beneficiaries - not to include those who are means tested - all services are free and medications are \$8.00 per month per medication regardless of what it is. Means tested veterans must pay a co-pay for services. There are no other out-of-pocket costs such as health care premiums. Help can also be provided with disability-required home renovation grants of \$2,000 or \$6,800, orthotics, prosthetics and in certain cases hearing aids. VA outpatient clinics are available in most communities. Approximately 8,400,000 individuals are enrolled in the health care system. Dependents Indemnity Compensation (DIC) - also called Dependency and Indemnity Compensation - is payable to eligible survivors of a military service member who died on active duty or whose death after service resulted from a service-connected injury or disease. It is also available due to improper treatment of the deceased veteran from VA healthcare or rehabilitation services. DIC is automatically granted to a surviving spouse for a veteran who was permanently and totally disabled for 10 years or more. DIC pays \$1,215 a month in 2013 to a surviving spouse.

Additional amounts are available if there are dependent children. A dependent child is one who is 18 years old or younger or 23 years old or younger and enrolled full-time in school or is an adult who became totally dependent prior to the age of 18. If the surviving spouse needs the aid and attendance of another person such as home care, assisted living or nursing home care, an additional \$301 a month assistance benefit will be paid. This DIC with aid and attendance benefit is about \$400 more a month than a surviving spouse can receive from Death Pension. This additional benefit is not automatic and most individuals receiving DIC do not even know it is available. An additional monthly benefit for being housebound is also available. Approximately 356,800 spouse survivors will receive DIC in 2013 and of those approximately 208,500 are age 65 and older. The majority of these are surviving spouses of veterans from the Vietnam era. Money is available for burial costs for veterans who were service disabled, receiving Pension or died under VA care. If the death was a result of service-connected disability, \$2,000 is available. If the death was non-service related, and the veteran was receiving Pension or Compensation or was entitled to either of these, up to \$700 is available for plot allowance and burial and funeral expenses. All veterans also receive free burial in State and Federal VA cemeteries. Under certain conditions, spouses and other family members can receive free burial in State and Federal VA cemeteries. All veterans are eligible for a grave marker (or equivalent monetary allowance), a flag for the coffin, a graveside honor guard and a letter from the President of the United States. Approximately 60,000 veterans will receive the burial allowance in 2013 and 33,000 will receive a burial plot. VA expects about 18,000 service-connected deaths in 2013 and claims for about 350,000 grave markers. About 500,000 flags will be given for burial.

Easy Sunday Morning



The Everett Masonic Center is the home of the 3 Masonic lodges that have existed in the City of Everett since the early 1900's, Peninsular Lodge, No. 95, Everett Lodge, No.137 and Alpha Lodge, No. 212. The mem-

bers of these lodges have a very unique relationship with each other. Although they are separated by each their lodge names and numbers, they manage to mingle closely in their own Masonic ways. Each Sunday morning, the brethren of these lodges meet early morning and gather together as a group they call Masonic Breakfast Club. They share each others cooking expertise and sit at a round table to share their feast. During breakfast various topics of conversation opens, sometimes one topic is shared by all and sometimes broken into several bits of conversational discussions. The topics discussed ranges from daily news to sports news to a wide variety of out of the blue matters and facts about life. Although there is much to discuss about the world, it never fails to come back to discussing about the present state of their Masonic being. Sometimes they freely express their current successes and failures as well as their frustrations and positive outlook of each their individual feelings, their lodge and the fraternity in general.

One very obvious characteristic of this group is how they maintain a very harmonious relationship along the way. It always ends with happy thoughts and good feelings of contentment and a true Masonic oriented experience. It is not at all a specialty group as the attendees varies from all walks of life, engineers, computer

specialists, program managers, artists, salesman and sometimes military career men. The group also consists of Past Masters, regular lodge officers or members, sometimes Fellowcraft and or Entered Apprentices.

This type meeting and fellowship gives the newer Mason a feeling of that bind that exist among Freemasons. This type gathering cannot be experienced inside the lodge during a regular lodge meeting and should be encouraged to Masonic lodges and districts. Despite the nonexistence of rules that governs this group, yet the peace and harmony always prevails. Nobody presides over this body and there are no rules to follow. The feeling of not wanting to miss a session is inherent to all the regular attendees of this group. The stories told about experiences, views and opinions expressed are carefully shared so not to disrupt ones truly enjoyable easy Sunday morning fellowship. The one thing that governs this group is having that respectful nature and the attitude of being a "Good Man & True." As Masons, we respect each others feeling as taught to us by the "The Sword Pointing To A Naked Heart & The All Seeing Eye."

For more information about the Everett Masonic Center Breakfast Club, please direct your inquiries to the 3 Everett Lodge Worshipful Masters: WB Robert Dearborn – Peninsular Lodge, No.95, WB John Jay Morris – Everett Lodge, No.137 and WB Dave Martin – Alpha Lodge, No.212.

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



Masonic Community

A Short 100 Year History of Unity Lodge No.198

Unity Masonic Lodge No. 198 of North Bend, Washington has a 100 year history of serving the Snoqualmie Valley. The fraternity first met as a Lodge in North Bend in 1912, and was granted an official constitution from Grand Lodge in June 1913.



It all started with a petition to Fall City Lodge #66, asking that it vouch for the petitioners and recommend that formation of a lodge at North Bend. Fall City No.66 came through! The submitted petition bore 23 names, eight more than were necessary for the issuance of a dispensation.

Now that the Brothers had a Lodge, they needed a building. The building and finance committee reported the concrete structure begun by the Eagles Lodge was conveniently available for purchase. A plan whereby the local Odd Fellows Lodge was to share equally in the under taking came to naught. The Brothers were on their own.

If they were going to complete and own this building, then a personal sacrifice on the parts of the individual members was necessary to finance the project. Eleven brothers stepped up and pledged \$1000 each to the construction and furnishing of the Lodge building. With this funding in hand, the building was completed in 1912.

The building, now known as the Unity Masonic Center, has since been a historical landmark. Over the century, the Center has supported both the Masonic Community, including Eastern Star, Demolay and Rainbow for Girls, and the local community. It has served as the dance hall for the town and all the local mill workers, a General Store, and today is home to the Valley Center Stage Theater, Single Track Cycles, Inc., various non-profit groups and available for rent for receptions and weddings.

One hundred years later, Unity Lodge No 198 is a significant part of the local community, sponsoring B4Bs in all four elementary schools, a participating sponsor of the Snoqualmie Valley School Association and the Veterans Park, a member of the Historical Society, and actively participates in two annual North Bend civic events. Join us this year at the Block Party on July 20 and Festival at Mt Si on August 9 through 11, 2013.

In celebration of our next hundred years, Unity Lodge will have a Re-Constitution Ceremony, and a corner stone dedication on August 17. RWB Bruce Vesper will lead a Grand Lodge team to perform this ancient ceremony. Please plan on attending.

WB Dennis Wilkins
Secretary
Unity Masonic Lodge, No.198



If elected, what would be the first thing you will dedicate yourself to, in other words, what is your Masonic Passion?

To create a central repository for the paperwork required for Lodge members to become physically active in school and community activities such as School Science Fairs, Junior Achievement, and FFA. This will assist our membership to realize gains by making it easier for them get involved and to help their communities in a real way.



At the present time many of our Lodges, both urban and rural, write checks and put on award dinners for many of the community and youth activity groups and events in their areas. Award dinners and supplying funds for these endeavors are just the beginning of what needs to be done in order for these Lodges to enjoy a visibility and membership benefit from them. The membership must become involved in the workings of these groups. However, in today's world this is not always as easy as it sounds.

When dealing with groups that involve children there are a number of steps that are required of a volunteer before they can participate. Many of these involve specific paperwork of various types which can be archived in one place. With easy access those members who would like to become involved in volunteering to help in any of a number of programs in our communities can begin the process much easier than if they had to find all the forms themselves.

Junior Achievement alone utilizes over 187,000 volunteers in the schools helping K through 12 students learn about entrepreneurship and real business opportunity in today's world. FFA utilizes volunteers in many different fields. Agriculture is just one aspect for which this organization needs help in order to further its aims. Education associations and Schools, both state and local, sponsor fairs and contests and always need volunteers in order to continue to help our students become better educated and better citizens.

Our membership needs to get involved in those programs which require volunteers to exist. Our Lodges should support the work of their members with funding for materials, awards, and occasional other help when needed. If this becomes reality we will be a long way toward becoming a fraternity which is known for being active and working to be of help in our communities. Parents of affected children will soon take notice of who is helping to make their children excel and the men will look toward the Lodges as being a good thing in which to become a member.

This all is, however, not really my "Masonic Passion." It is something that needs to be done! We need to do real work to ensure a healthy and rich tomorrow for our children and our Fraternity.

My real "Masonic Passion" is the study of our gentle Craft's history and the origins of the many parts of our ritual and lectures. The memorization and use of these makes Freemasons the best men I know. It's all about believing in something. I believe in the institution and the effect on men of the ritual of Freemasonry.

Fraternally,
VWB Charles H. Tupper

If elected, what would be the first thing you will dedicate yourself to, in other words, what is your Masonic Passion?

"To learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry"

The Grand Lodge team has spent a lot of time and energy dealing with legal issues. It has been said that some members have forgotten the promises made in their obligations. They have forgotten that "Masonry is an institution having for its foundation the practice of the social and moral virtues".



In our efforts to reverse the decline in membership of the craft over the years we have streamlined the proficiency process and perhaps moved too fast. Some of the new members and officers of the lodges may be able to open and close the lodge but not much else. Many of the lessons of Masonry have been missed. The First Degree Charge is an excellent summary of the responsibilities of membership and the important lessons and virtues masons are expected to observe. I think the fraternity would benefit greatly if we spent more time learning and understanding these and the many other important lessons we are taught in Masonry. I enjoy training and would like to help in this effort.

Our Grand Master is doing an outstanding job. The Grand Master has extraordinary responsibilities. He is the CEO and is responsible for all the Business decisions but he is also expected to be our Inspirational Leader. The challenge is that the business of masonry takes so much of his time and energy that he does not have all the time he would like to be our Inspirational Leader. I would like to be involved in the process of helping to teach the many inspiring lessons of masonry so that we will be able to spend less time learning to subdue our passions and will be able to spend more time trying to improve ourselves in Masonry.

VWB Charles Compton, Jr.
Past Master Steadfast Lodge No. 216

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If elected, what would be the first thing you will dedicate yourself to, in other words, what is your Masonic Passion?

My Masonic Passion

It has been said that when a man gives of his time, he gives of himself. When we as a Craft ask a man to give of his time, what are we giving in return? If we believe the anecdotal evidence that we are retaining somewhere in the neighborhood of 50% of our members, then the inescapable answer is “not enough.”

Solving the problem of membership retention is my Masonic passion. It is, for me, Job One!

At a recent lodge meeting, a brother shared: “We meet once a month, let’s make the most of it.”

So how are we doing that? At that same meeting, another brother offered: “I appreciate the need to discuss who’s going to mow the lawn, fix the bathroom, or paint the walls – but this can’t be what Masonry is all about. We need to talk about mentoring, history, symbolism, philosophy.”

I have long believed that our stated meetings must include three elements.

1. Social time so that we can get to better know the man that we call Brother on more than a superficial basis. We are foremost a Fraternity.
2. An opportunity to learn something about our Craft or some other topic of interest.
3. We should leave our meetings inspired to further our knowledge about what it means to be a Mason.
4. If we strive to provide such a meeting, our brothers will be eager to return with a desire to improve themselves in Masonry, strengthening our lodges through our brotherhood.

Part of my Masonic passion also includes impressing upon us all that we need to revisit our degree process and its associated mentoring. Let’s slow things down. Before advancing a brother to the next degree, let’s make sure that he understands his obligation, the purpose and meaning of the degree.

Has he been provided with the New Candidate Education Program, as mandated by the Code? Are we taking the time to work with him on this course of Masonic study? Has he been afforded the opportunity to view the degree which he just received, either in the home lodge or another lodge – complete with Q&A time? Has he been encouraged to participate in the work of that degree? We answer “Yes” to these questions we provide our new brother a sense of anticipation for the next degree and the journey ahead.

There is at least one lodge that takes this a step further by requiring that a brother going through the degrees participate in the charitable or community work of the lodge before advancing. In this manner, the new brother experiences firsthand that Masonry extends beyond the four walls of the lodge room. It involves him in the lodge and in the fraternity in which he now belongs.

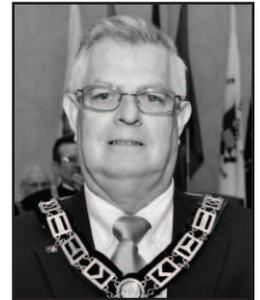
In the end, if we provide our brethren with a quality experience, if we show him that his time in Lodge is time well spent, we will do a better job of retaining our members.

Fraternally,
 Jim Mendoza



If elected, what would be the first thing you will dedicate yourself to, in other words, what is your Masonic Passion?

At the beginning of my Masonic Journey I was given guidance and instruction from the “wise old Masons of the day”. They had a basic belief that a man could improve “his lot in life greatly” by doing some simple things. It was explained to me that our Fraternity was one based on three principles that we call the 3 tenets of Masonry-Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.



It was also taught to me that there were 4 basic support elements associated with these “3 tenets”: Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice. By living my life using these tenets and virtues to the best of my ability I have found that what those “wise old Masons’ taught me is indeed true.

If I am given the honor and great responsibilities of being your Grand Master, being first elected to the Grand South, I will make my theme “Having The Courage To Be Good Men”. We need to show the world that we, who have chosen the path of Freemasons, are excellent men. We are excellent men to our families, our employers, our communities and thusly to the world at large.

We must not stand in the shadows of Political Correctness fearing that we will become unpopular if we “go against the grain” of what our neighbors think is the “normal behavior of the day”. Our personal self-worth is far more precious. I want to live my life, freely, cleanly and openly as a Freemason. I want my brothers to do the same. We together must encourage each other to demonstrate the “TENETS AND VIRTUES OF THE CRAFT”. We must show our courage in living these principles in our daily lives.

The business of being in business is best left to those who have the credentials for conducting the business and finances of the Grand Lodge. I will seek out those able bodied men who can best achieve this. We, as a fraternity cannot fail, if we live our lives as Freemasons. We will employ those best suited for the job managing. There are managers and then there are leaders. The managers make the recommendations, however the leaders make the final decisions. I give you my word that no major decisions involving our financial assets will be acted on without your knowledge.

I, by myself can achieve little at the Grand Line level, but we as a group can do great and wonderful things together. If elected to the Grand Line, I will take the responsibility of being your leader but my doorway has no door or lock and knocking is not essential. I shall govern from the quarries from when I came, realizing that I by myself am nothing without my brothers. I we lead with my brothers by my side.

Back to the basics my brothers, where humility is an essential element and courage is our weapon,

VWB Darel E. Maxfield Sr.
 PO Box 2, Forks Washington 98331
 360-374-9330 -- maynard@olynet.com

District No. 4 News

Thank You for the Memories

They say all good things must come to an end. It has been quite a journey since I was appointed as Deputy of the Grand Master in District 4. It was a journey that is what I considered one of the most enjoyable in my life. I have met so many fine brothers, sisters, sons and daughters as I traveled in our jurisdiction during my term as DDGM in District 4 in the years 2011/2013. It was during these times that I had a chance to interact with masons and non-masons alike and have met so many new friends in the process. Of course there was that familiar question as to why I accepted the appointment. But the most intriguing question was "what does freemasonry has to offer".

While Freemasonry in its present form has existed less than 300 years since the first Grand Lodge of England was established on 1717, there have always been associations resembling this great Fraternity. Such groups were formed at various times and in many places because man is fundamentally a social creature; we have an inherent need for friendship, love, and association with others.

We are all aware that Freemasonry is an organization of men believing in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, using builders tools as symbols to teach basic moral truths, thereby impressing upon the minds of its members the cardinal virtues of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth which we should apply to everyday activities.

At the dawn of history man was confronted with many problems: hunger, the elements, disease, and other dangers. But over the intervening centuries, we have increased our means of producing food, conquered many

diseases, and have solved most of the problems concerning the practical things of life. In spite of all the comforts afforded us in this modern world, we do not find happiness, peace, and tranquility. As we look around us today, we find frustrated individuals, unhappy people who pretend to be your friend but will stab you on the back the moment you turn around. Sad but true, some of these people can be found in our own fraternity. Everyone demanding more recognition, seeking more security, everyone thinks "Big" about the production of things, accomplishing a program, or handling community matters, all without regard to what is really good for our organization.

So what can we all do and learn regarding this great fraternity and what it has to offer? How about thinking outside the box and start paying attention to the tenets of our institution. Let's not have our egos get in the way of progress. With all these progress in technological skills in our society, some of us have not kept up with our moral advancement. With more gadgets like smart phones, laptop and iPads, the way we used to do things when the dinosaurs were still roaming the planet earth is no longer viable. By working together and focusing on what is good for the fraternity, the opportunity for success and prosperity are within reach. The 21st century has a lot to offer not only to our fraternity but also to our moral and personal advancement.

Brethren, thank you for the honor, courtesies, and all those warm Masonic welcome you have accorded me during the last 2 years. It was too good to be true, I didn't want it to end, but I knew it was coming. I had a blast.



VWB Neil Quinn
District Deputy of the Grand Master
District No. 27

The Lambskin Apron (poem)

Author unknown

It is not ornamental; the cost is not great,
There are other things far more useful, yet truly I state,
Tho of all my possessions, there's none can compare,
With that white leather apron, which all Masons wear.

As a young lad I wondered just what it all meant,
When Dad hustled around, and so much time was spent,
On shaving and dressing and looking just right,
Until Mother would say:" it's the Mason's tonight."

And some winter nights she said:" what makes you go,
Way up there tonight thru the sleet and the snow,
You see the same things every month of the year."
Then Dad would reply:" yes, I know, my dear.

Forty years I have seen the same things, it is true.
And although they are old, they always seem new,
For the hands that I clasp, and the friends that I greet,
Seem a little bit closer each time that we meet."

Years later I stood at that very same door,
With good men and true who had entered before,
I knelt at the altar, and there I was taught
That virtue and honor can never be bought.

That the spotless white lambskin all Masons revere,
If worthily worn grows more precious each year,
That service to others brings blessings untold,
That man may be poor tho surrounded by gold.

I learned that true brotherhood flourishes there,
That enmities fade' neath the compass and square,
That wealth and position are thrust aside,
As there on the level men meet and abide.

So, Honor the lambskin, may it always remain
Forever unblemished, and free from all stain,
And when we are called to the Great Father's love,
May we all take place in that Lodge up above.

From the Scottish Rite News, Valley of Dallas, Second Quarter, 2007



District No. 5 News

A Tale of Two Street Fairs

What a great way to support the Seattle community and showcase Masonry by associating with the two great street fairs in the area- The Fremont Solstice Festival and Street Fair and the University District Street Fair.

Daylight Lodge #232 began supporting the Fremont Fair in 1999 and University Lodge No.141 began their support of the University Fair in 2000. Although they initially focused on their respective Fairs, the two Lodges now blend their support to assist each other, as well as receive support from other local Lodges and Concordant bodies.



The 42nd Annual Fremont Fair-being held this year on June 21-23 calls itself a community celebration that draws over 100,000 guests to experience the quirky character of Seattle's eclectic and artistic Fremont neighborhood. Coinciding with Fremont Arts Council's Solstice Parade, the Fremont Fair includes performances by local bands on four stages of live music, arts and crafts, shopping, food and drink, artistic expression, and even a dog parade. The main activities occur west of Fremont Avenue North on N 35th Street and North 34th Street/Canal Street.

When Daylight began supporting the Fair, their focus was to give Masonry a face in the community and help such organizations as History House and Solid Ground, a local poverty-focused nonprofit who produced the Fair for nearly 40 years. Daylight coordinates the Masonic Information Booth for all of the participating lodges. Their goal has not been to get petitions, but rather answer questions about Masonry and direct potentially interested men to a lodge in their own community. Masonic Brothers manning the booth also stroll through the Fair and hand out Masonic balloons to children, and their parents usually say "Thank you, Masons!" They have been asked every year by the Fremont Fair coordinators to participate because they represent an important community organization.

Daylight Lodge #232 Masonic Information Booth Besides the Masonic Information Booth, Daylight also sponsors the Waterfront Stage and Bandstand. Daylight members are the emcees of the bandstand. They started because in 1999 the emcee didn't show up. Daylighters-being Seattle's Lodge of the Arts and having numerous Brothers who are entertainers- took over and have emceed the event ever since.

The University and Fremont Fairs are separate events but Daylighters generally spend time at the University Street Fair Masonic Booth and University Lodge has been a major contributor to the Fremont Fair almost from day one.

As we now move on to the University District Street Fair, it just celebrated its 44th consecutive year on May 18th and 19th. It is the longest running festival of its kind in the nation.

In 1970, community leaders established the Street Fair to heal the community after protests, street riots and more broke the spirit of the community. The University District Street Fair has developed into a regional event of 50,000 attendees. It features the celebration of the international flavor of the community, inviting food vendors to participate along with our many local restaurants to provide an around-the-world taste experience on University Way NE (The Ave). It is an energetic and exciting celebration, offering music on three stages, two international food courts and hundreds of arts and crafts booths. Added to the mix are local businesses and nonprofit community booths to make this truly a community event.

University Lodge was energetically involved in this Fair that just ended a few weeks ago. As with Daylight, they manage a Masonic Information Booth where Masonic literature is available to visitors, and Masonic discussions often ensue. University Lodge locates their usual Masonic Information Booth directly in front of the lodge facility and the BECU offices, where they sell pop and water. The money benefits various University District charities.



University Lodge #141 Masonic Information Booth

For years, University took donations and gave the money to the Royal Arch heart fund. In 2005 they decided to partner with charities and

invited them to share their booth. The goal was to give them a chance to raise money for their respective causes and get them some exposure. It and also gave University Brothers a chance to meet new people and have the public see them associating with others in the University District community.

University has partnered with First Place, a school for homeless children, the YMCA, and for the last three years, ROOTS, a shelter for homeless young people in the District. They also donate their dining room to the chamber organizers and staff, so they can have a good central location from where to run their operations. This has led to a close and ongoing relationship with the Chamber of Commerce and University still maintains a spot on the Board of Directors.

If your local community has a street fair or other such event, you might consider working with the Fair's organizers to provide a Masonic Information Booth. It is most gratifying when local residents visit your booth and ask about Masonry, and on occasion, take a brochure, and end up contacting a Lodge to ask for a petition. The joy of being part of your community and working with other local organizations is unparalleled.

Don't forget the Fremont Fair-it's only a few weeks away, and you can sign up to help run the booth by contacting Daylight Lodge.

Fraternally,

VWB Tom Eastman
DDGM, District No.5



District No.8 News

District No.8, Snohomish, WA

District #8 continues to confer degrees and read Petitions For The Degrees of Masonry in Lodge. As a Coach/Mentor, each of our Lodges must increase the success rate of Raising our Brothers to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. Include visitations where possible, involve these Brethren in Special Events and Programs that may be available and ask each of them what they are looking for? Each of our Lodges have candidates and Master Masons that have discontinued their journey and visitations, seek to find the answer why.

The District #8 Senior Warden Competition took place in March and I would like to thank each of the Brethren and their respective Lodges for their commitment. Seven of the nine Lodges were represented from District #8, with Brother Larry Foley (Senior Warden of Arlington #129) being judged the winner and continuing on to the Jurisdictional Competition.

Our District Symbolic lodge Officers Council (SLOC) has been very active in promoting district wide visitations. A recent visitation took us to Marysville, once again armed with pizzas, to sit in with the Henry M. Jackson Chapter of DeMolay. Three years ago the chapter had three boys after going through a split to start a North Sound Chapter. This year they took 15 boys and 1 sorority girl to the Washington DeMolay Convention (Conclave) from April 18-21st. Their Chapter took first and second in the two Arch of Steel Competitions, second in Flower Talk, a certification in the Ceremony of Light and was named the Chapter of the Year. They currently have 18 active boys, 24 on the books and along with petitions, predict 30 before the end of summer. Congratulations to WB Frank Pascoe, Brother Vance Whippo, Brother Scott Whippo and to everyone involved, for all they have done and continue to do for our Fraternity and Masonic Families.

May 4th was the district's marathon day beginning with a well attended SLOC Meeting where Brethren, that have made themselves available for the Grand South, were invited to join us for breakfast and answer questions presented to them. Our Region 8 Meeting followed with a day of activities, including the district reports from VWB Richard Beers (DDGM in District #2) and VWB Warren Schoeben (DDGM in District #8). Being unable to attend the Regional Meeting, on May 8th WB Steve Martin was presented with the Grand Masters Achievement Award. Steve's involvement in the Lodge, the community, the Grand Lodge, Youth Groups and Eastern Star is never ending and is well deserving of this honor. The District #8 Pillar of Progress Award was presented to Sul-Monroe Lodge #169 for "Community Involvement". Their Lodge committed to a Bikes for Books Program, providing 44 bikes (1 girls and 1 boys) to each of the 22 branches of the Sno-Isle Libraries. The Lodge is also sponsoring a 12k4k12 Fun Run on August 17 beginning at 8:00AM with all proceeds going to promote literacy in the Sultan and Monroe School Districts. For additional information go to

12k4k12.org. The lodge had been selected by the Monroe Chamber of Commerce to receive the "Community Caring Award". Members of Sul-Monroe Lodge #160 were present at the Monroe Chamber of Commerce Awards Ceremony at the Monroe High School on May 9th. During the ceremony, WB Steve Martin was presented with a Citizenship Award from the members of his Lodge, Brother Jack Houston was presented with the Mason of the Year Award from his Lodge and the Worshipful Master (WB Tim Mallory), received the Community Caring Award for Sul-Monroe Lodge, from the Monroe Chamber of Commerce (see picture). The list goes on for the Brethren of Sul-Monroe Lodge and their involvement in their community, congratulations to each of them for their contributions and dedication. Also, pictured are WB Tim Mallory proudly holding the Pillar of Progress Award received for their Lodge and Brother Larry Foley holding his award for being the District #8 winner of the Senior Warden Competition. The day ended with the Annual Grand Master's Roast at Sul-Monroe Lodge. Once again, Sul-Monroe presented a "finger licking good" roasted pig and lots of humor directed at our cheerfully excepting Most Worshipful Grand Master, Dean Heinemann.

On May 18th Damascus Lodge #199 in Granite Falls celebrated 100 years with the Re-Constitution of their Lodge.

Upcoming events include the Master Mason Open Air Degree which will be held on August 3rd at the Masonic Park in Granite Falls. Damascus Lodge #199 will serve breakfast beginning at 7:00AM with the Degree beginning at 10:00AM at the park. On August 31st the annual, jurisdictional wide, Jerry K. Lingle Memorial Ride will take place. The ride will begin at the Everett Masonic Center, continue to Skykomish Lodge #259 for a short brake and then conclude its' journey at Zarthan Lodge #148 in Leavenworth. Information on the event can be found at (Jerrys-ride.org). WB Greg Outman, (Secretary of Everett #137) is the contact for information.

During my past two years as deputy, I have traveled and visited all of my district Lodges many times. I have assisted where able, advised when I thought it was needed and recommended possible solutions. Each of the Brethren, who are active members in their Lodge are aware of the issues and concerns their Lodge is confronted with. Whether it relates to membership/attendance, poor Ritual Work, financial problems, Secretary issues on the Lodge level and/or Grand Lodge level, or whatever problems your Lodge has, "they will not correct themselves". Your District Deputy is there to assist when needed and there are Grand Lodge Committees that would be glad to visit your Lodge and share information that could benefit you, your Lodge and its future. "Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you."

It has been an honor to serve as Deputy of the Grand Master in District #8 and I thank each of you!!



Fraternally,
 VWB Warren Schoeben
 DDGM - District No.8



District No. 16 News

Lodge of Instruction

The recent "Lodge of Instruction" (LOI) for Districts 16 & 17 was very highly anticipated by the Brethren of these two Districts and it did not fail to deliver.

Here are some of the comments:

"Had a great time, there was a lot of good discussion and insight into the many differences we typically see in our Lodges."

"The Lodge of Instruction this morning was amazing. Good food, good lessons with good Brothers."

"It was well received. I liked the "stop and go" technique you used."

The two Deputies of the Grand Master for the respective



Districts worked off an annotated 1st Degree cipher worked up by Past District Deputies, VWB Clayton La Vigne & VWB Brian Morgan. It contained notes on the many mistakes we see in the ritual work in various Lodges throughout the jurisdiction.

Since this was a Lodge of Instruction, we made sure it was in a "secure place for instruction" as directed by the Standard Work. The event took place in the Little Lodge Room of the Olympia Masonic Center.

Then operating in a "stop/start" fashion, we moved through the opening of the Lodge on the Entered Apprentice Degree.

Remember, ANYTHING that is not in the Standard Work is not part of the ritual even though many Lodge Traditions dictate it as such. The Ancient Landmarks are recommended but have never been adopted by Grand Lodge. So, we didn't get too hung up on making points (and blunting them) in regard to these things. We tried to limit it to the reasoning behind the practices and move on. Believe me, there was plenty to talk about.

We covered such things as:

- When exactly does the JD knock or not knock
- Report or Repair
- Post or Place
- Flag carrying and presentation
- Staff carrying
- How the Bible is to be opened

The list was nearly endless. It took nearly three hours to get through the opening alone (with lunch, of course...



where discussions continued unabated).

This Lodge of Instruction was a stellar event. It is something that many have wanted for years. It will be an event that many will talk about for a long time. And it will be repeated again next year as a joint District 16 & 17 event possibly covering different items or Degrees.



Fraternally,
VWB John Shull
DDGM - District No. 16



District No. 24 News

An opinion on Freemasonry today

Good men made better, our Brothers, living our values, keeping our obligations

(Walla Walla, Wash.) - "Freemasonry makes good men better." We say it when we define ourselves to those who don't yet know us well.

But who are those better men and what makes them "better" and how do they reflect our Masonic virtues? What makes them better is what they do for the lodges where they meet, the communities where they live and what they do for the greater good of our Fraternity in all its bodies.

Especially noteworthy is that they do so from the depth of their character just because they have something special to give and the drive to serve. When someone asks them why, the theme of their replies is generally something that sounds like "I'm a Mason, it's what we do."

Every Brother knows the Masons I describe because they're in every lodge in our Grand Jurisdiction. Whether the Brother is "Bob" in a small lodge in a rural agricultural area or a "Jim" in large metropolitan lodge, whether a longtimer now eligible for waiver of dues, or a relative newcomer to our Fraternity, these role models are everywhere in Masonry. They represent themselves individually and all Masons collectively, and they do it honorably with quiet grace and without fanfare. Their actions, however, all but shout to the world what a Mason is and does.

These Brothers have answered the call when our Fraternity needs them, when another Brother needs them, or have given of their kind offices to all mankind, in general. These Brothers are out there and they're around you every day. We see them especially at our stated communications, but the rest of the world sees them far more often than we generally do. Who are those role model Brothers who define what is and what makes "a Mason?"

* Sam and Paul, helping ensure the success of future leaders and role models in and out of Masonry by providing access to needed resources so young adults can develop their greatest potential. Their cultivation of those who need a hand up the ladder to success helps guarantee future opportunity. By seeking out high-caliber candidates for fraternal assistance, they help build talented people with a drive to achieve excellence and who will likely be productive and successful contributors wherever they go.

* Joe and Jack, giving endlessly of their talent and time, ensuring the financial future for Masonic philanthropy. Their quiet, yet constant efforts ultimately help mend broken children and lend dignity to their families. The hours, miles, labor and talent they give, all in the name of charitable giving for the good of mankind in general, are testimony to Masonic service to humanity.

* Bob and Bill, each with their own 50-plus years of service to their lodges and communities, have worked with equal regularity in service and leadership roles,

help to keep Masonry relevant to the present and future, while honoring our heritage and traditions. These Brothers have led from the front and demanded no more of anyone nearly so much as of themselves and always being ready serve wherever their skills and experience can do good for someone somewhere.

* Steve and Scott, who ensure successive generations of lodge leaders have access to insightful counsel and necessary service interpreting the all the laws, rules and constitutions of well-regulated lodges. When not ensuring the success of lodge leaders, they're business and community leaders who take their Masonic leadership, ethics, and values to help others succeed in the world outside the lodge.

* Gerry, who gives his talent with tools and special expertise in "re-purposing" to a community center that harvests reusable building materials which helps enhance the livability of homes for people who can't afford factory-new but are delighted to find affordable improvements. Dean, who gives of his time and home, to provide a safe and secure life for at-risk youth who might otherwise become statistics in society if they had no place to be with stability, continuity, values, and role models.

By now you get the picture. These Brothers described are in every Lodge everywhere. There are too many individual names to list, too many examples to list to give full justice to such description. These above are but a few examples. Do you know a Harold, Sean, Alex, Rodger, Randy, pick any Brother's name, who has found his own way to live his Masonry? Of course you do!

Now what do we do to help those men that Masonry has made better? First, reach out and take that Brother by the hand and reaffirm your fraternal bonds and commitment. Then afterward, lend your hand to that Brother as he works in service to the Craft and to mankind. When you're ready and need a hand from him or another Brother, it will be there.

So help me, God, and keep me steadfast. So mote it be.



Fraternally,
VWB "Dutch" Meier
DDGM - District No. 24



District No.29 News

Easter and Masonry

Recently I had the privilege of giving the 3rd degree lecture at my home lodge. Lecturing is no easy task and is not for everybody. It took me 2 months, 2 hours a night, and some time at work, talking to myself in the shadows, until I was satisfied that I could perform the task correctly. You see memorization does not come easily to me. But I feel very strongly that both Ritual and Lectures must be done from memory, in order to impress the importance of it upon the mind of the candidate. During this period of study and memorization, Easter approached, and as a matter of fact the degree itself fell very near Easter, and as is my usual custom during periods of study and memorization, I need a break! What better way to take a break, at least in my mind, then to open a book and temporarily escape my present reality. I had just finished a trilogy about the Rosicrucians, signifying that it was again time to choose another book. I looked at the date on the calendar and decided that a book about Easter would be most relevant. I went down to my study and pulled what looked to be an aptly named book titled: "EASTER its Story and Meaning". While reading this book, by Alan W. Watts, I couldn't help but draw parallels between what I was working so hard at memorizing and what was discussed upon the pages before me.

I will not, in this article, discuss much of the 3 degree lecture; though good portions of the lecture are monitorial, I feel strongly that it is best discovered by the candidate while receiving the degree, and not before. The first thing to bear in mind is that Easter is not just a Christian story, after all one of Freemasonry's tenets is religious tolerance. I will say, as did the author, that the biblical account of Easter is best done from the pulpit on an Easter morning. I will share some of what I did learn in the next couple of paragraphs.

From time immemorial Easter has been an occasion of rites and observances having to do with the mystery of death and resurrection. Myths, have been used as vehicles to convey these special kinds of languages, and are used to symbolize certain realities beyond time and space. There are many traditions that have to do with death and resurrection. Easter according to Watts, "is a theme common to almost every religion and every people. Usually observed with special rites at a certain time of year, it is the theme that through death man can enter an eternal life." Ok, you may be thinking but what does this have to do with Masonry? (and die in the hope of a glorious immortality, anybody) Well, we to have a myth sacred to us, a myth and a tradition that tells very much the same story. These myths, having to do with death and resurrection, are sometimes portrayed as a physical death and at other times as a psychic death of self-denial and self-sacrifice. All of these are contained within the 3rd degree. The Easter theme is expressed in; "stories, myths, and dramatic rituals having to do with the adventures of hero-gods and other symbolic figures" says Watts. Well chalk up another one to masonry we have a symbolic figure as well. One I believe who is portrayed in a dramatic fashion, he dies and in some form is resurrected. But what are some of these other hero myths and gods?

The Sumerians had the story of Tammuz, a god whose name meant; "true son of the deep waters". Tammuz would die and resurrect every spring. The story of Tammuz moved westward to Phoenecia and Syria on the extreme east of the Mediterranean. There the name of Tammuz was changed to Adon or Adonai, meaning "the Lord". In Greece the name was Adonis. Adonis was the child of Myrrha, the myrtle tree, al-

most all the gods were associated with some form of tree; Tammuz with the tamarisk and willow, Osiris and Attis with the pine, Christ with the Tree of the Cross, and might I mention a certain widows son of the tribe of Naphtali with the Acacia. When Adonis had grown to manhood he was slain by Artemis (or Ares depending on the Myth) but the gods allowed Adonis to return every spring to his love Aphrodite. Attis was caused to go out of his mind with magical powers which caused him to mutilate himself and die beneath a pine tree. The divine power of the goddess brought about his resurrection as well. The same pattern again happens with Osiris of Egypt as well. His death was premeditated by Set who conspired with 72 others against Osiris for the rule of his kingdom. Osiris was sealed in a casket and thrown into the river where it drifted out to sea, only to end up in Byblos where it washed ashore and grew into a great tree. The tree was then cut down and made into the central pillar of the king of Byblos's palace. The pillar was later taken down and Osiris was taken out of the casket(his column was broken) and his parts gathered and resurrected. It is interesting to note that in some Egyptian hieroglyphs, ancient Egyptian initiates are shown being raised from a sarcophagus by a lion in imitation of this resurrection.

I need not go into the details of the Master Mason degree, however with its trials its suffering and its termination in death it truly has many of the same qualities of all of these myths. I suppose what dawned on me, while reading and researching what I read, were the common elements in all these stories, you may think of them as a single drama performed again and again with different actors. The god dies and is resurrected again. In Masonry we celebrate the Mysteries. We bring the story to life. We are a continuation of the old rites, where initiates enjoyed a union with their god. We first put our initiates through trials, make them prove their fidelity, and then allow them to emerge from a new perspective. In a way they are born again, hatched from an egg, raised from darkness to light. Worshipers in these old rites repeated the drama of their gods' death and resurrection to teach the truths of life. Do we not do the same? At the end of many of these ancient dramas were various symbols of the resurrection of their gods, many times, says Watts; "corn or wine or sacrificial animal" was given as a feast to the devotees. I seem to remember something of corn wine and oil somewhere along the way.

I suppose what this all impressed upon me was the importance of doing a good job when performing the ritual. Freemasonry has a truly ancient lineage. Some say we started in the ancient stone guilds and formed into a Grand Lodge in the 1717. Whatever the beginnings of Freemasonry it is sure that its authors knew the myths and dramas of the past and desired to impart what had worked for centuries, and continues to work this day. How to make a good man better? Bring him closer to the trials of god. Show him the suffering. Show him the sorrow. Show him the good. Show him that out of death springs life. If a healthy stock of corn did not die and drop a seed to the ground, there would be no life Just as the mosaic floor of a lodge, checkered with good and evil. We could know no good without evil. Hence my Brothers how important it is that we should endeavor to imitate our Grand Master. Remember when you are doing a degree it should be done with the reverence it deserves. The similarities with the Christian Easter, the betrayal, the passion, the resurrection on the 3rd day, are important to remember. These stories set the mood for your degree or so it seems to me.

Fraternally,
VWB Erin Nielsen
DDGM - District No.29

*Some references used for this article came from:
Easter Its Story and Meaning by Alan W. Watts copy right 1950
Bible Myths by T.W. Doane copy right 1882 4th edition
Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry copy right 1929*



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. No additional entry was added to this listing from the last issue. Please spread the word around so we can have more members to advertize in this column.

Directory Listing - April 2013

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frank@frankseldenlaw.com

www.frankseldenlaw.com

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coreykent@gs.reyrey.com

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Telebyte NW Internet Services

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Tel. 360-613-5220

Email - info@telebyte.com

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Phone 253-848-0977

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Broker: Boe Lindgren

Tel. 206-391-6224

E-mail: boe@AshlarRealty.com

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Tel. 206-391-6224

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PCS Services WA.

Lic# PCSSES*891QALicensed, 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

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Gentry@nventure.com

www.GentryCustomRemodel.com

Hardwood flooring installation and refinishing

Lane Hardwood Floors / Showroom

14700 Aurora Ave. N.

Shoreline, WA 98133

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Email: jeff@lanehardwoodfloors.com

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