



MASONIC TRIBUNE

A QUARTERLY NEWS AND INFORMATION PUBLICATION OF:

GRAND LODGE OF WASHINGTON

FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS



A Very Merry Christmas to One and All!



Happy Holidays

VOLUME XCVII No.2 - Winter 2016 ISSUE

This Issue

Editorial Note:

It's installation season and we gather a lot of happy feelings in our Lodge rooms. The attendance is up and we see a little more than usual in the participation of our members. As it is the holiday season, we have more time to offer and make ourselves available for the once a year celebration, our installation of officers.

As we may notice during our conversations during the festivities we come across members that are not aware of the events and activities that had happened during the course of the year. This is the only time when they realize what they had missed. Better yet, the success stories and accomplishments of the Lodge was never brought to their attention.

The Masonic Tribune is the vehicle to communicate to our members the news about our Lodges, our Districts, our Grand Jurisdiction and the Fraternity in general. The more we keep our members informed, the more it strengthens their interest to join in our assemblies. I encourage everybody to contribute an article or two to make this publication more attractive to our reading audience.

Thank you, Congratulations to our newly installed Lodge officers and Happy Holidays to all!

Fraternally,
MWB G. Santy Lascano
Chairman, GLWA Masonic Tribune
A Sub Committee of:
Public Relations Committee

g.santy@comcast.net

(Guidelines continued)



6. Video clips are acceptable. Please send me a separate email so we can arrange for the transmission of your video media footage (g.santy@comcast.net)
7. When sending your article, your email subject field should say "Masonic Tribune Winter 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.

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Article submission deadlines:

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

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Learn & Change

Jit is amazing how fast the year is passing as it just seems a short time ago that you elected me your Grand Master. Your elected, appointed officers, and committee members have been doing a lot of traveling and visiting Lodges in this Jurisdiction. So far our District Deputy's have had 12 very successful District meetings where they arranged interesting activities, discussions, and fantastic food!

In our travels we have learned a lot about the Lodges within the District and how they are working and helping their communities. There is also a lot of activity and learning occurring within the Lodges. It is not all Masonic education but also learning about the Lodge members, their families, employment, interests, and background. We are sharing experiences, getting better acquainted, and gaining more enthusiasm for Masonry and with that attracting new members.

Your Grand Lodge has many committees and the Brothers on these committees are there to help you, your Lodge and temple boards, all that's needed is for you to ask. These committees can be found on the Grand Lodge website. One committee that is really helping Lodges increase quality members is Membership Development. Through our travels to other Jurisdictions we have seen programs that have been developed that are working and creating noticeable improvements. The "Six Steps to Initiation" is a program we first saw in Michigan that is also being used in California and British Columbia and has seen their membership grow. But most importantly is how it has helped their Lodges retain their new Master Masons after they are raised. This program allows the perspective Candidate to get to know the Brothers in Lodge and how the Lodge functions and what expectations the Lodge has of them. The Lodge then gets to know the candidate and he is not allowed to submit a petition until the Lodge is satisfied that he is a good man, knows what to expect, and is eager to become a Freemason. After using this program for more than a dozen years Michigan has an 82% retention rate of Brothers after they have taken the first step and been initiated. These Brothers go on to be raised and become active members in the Lodge. Your District Deputy's are there to help. These are Past Masters that have been very active and involved in your District and they are knowledgeable about the Washington Masonic Code, ritual, Degree work, and how Lodges and temple boards are supposed to operate. These are accomplished Brothers who care about their District and have devoted themselves to Masonry. Use them to better your Lodge and temple board. The ways in which they offer to help are not intended to

harass or control the Lodge but to ensure that the Lodge maintains the integrity of Freemasonry and what the collective membership of the Lodge feels will make them better men, Masons, and members of their community. Your Deputy can be immensely helpful to your temple board in all of the complex business issues they face today. Along with the Grand Lodge Finance Committee they can be an important resource to the Master, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Lodge and the President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the temple board.

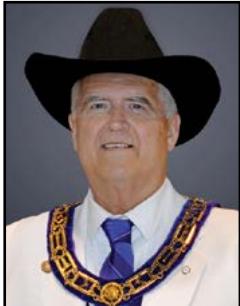
Masonry has tremendously evolved in the past 300 years and there have been many changes. Not in the tenets of Freemasonry, but in the makeup of our membership and the priorities we establish for ourselves and our Lodges. We are facing trying times with competition of membership from service organizations, replacing good members that have gone to the celestial Lodge above, retaining quality Brothers, and our own desires of how we make ourselves better men, husbands, fathers, and community members. But there is something we must always remember - without change nothing survives. We can only achieve quality change if we understand what our membership wants to strive for and be remembered for by learning from our Brethren and their priorities. 50 years ago the top two reasons why men joined Freemasonry was to belong to a men's Fraternity and to be involved in charity. Today the top two reasons they join are to belong to a men's Fraternity and to be around men they can trust and have as true friends. Charity is still there, but just not as important as it was 50 years ago. Do you know what the priorities are for the Brethren of your Lodge? Do you know who they are, who their families are, what their interests are, or why they joined Freemasonry and still come to Lodge or have quit coming to Lodge. We now have a wide range of ages of men in our Lodges with long time members and newly raised younger men. We should all be asking these questions within our Lodges and learning about our Brothers and then using this important information to make changes within our Lodge that best fits a compilation of their answers.

We must LEARN & CHANGE to make a positive advancement for the future. What is it that we want to leave as a legacy for our children and Grandchildren. How do we want to be remembered by our family and community.

Til next time,

MWB Donald G. Munks
Grand Master

Grand Master
Most Worshipful Brother
Donald G. Munks





He Has to Learn Before He Can Change – Himself and the World

At the recently completed World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges, RW Thomas Jackson, Past Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, shared these words:

"It is not the responsibility of Freemasonry to change the world. It is the responsibility of Freemasonry to change the man through the making of good men better. It is then the FreeMason's responsibility to change the world."

RW Sir, you have my attention. However, with respect, I would like to offer a modification. I believe that Freemasonry provides a platform – our initiatic process and the lessons contained therein – for a good man to become better. It is what that good man does with the platform provided that tells us whether or not he has become better.

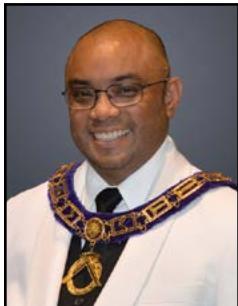
Whichever definition you choose to adopt as yours, one thing is very clear: Each of us bears a duty to those who will choose to enter our portals. Our work reminds us that "Freemasonry consists of a course of moral and symbolic instruction". Ask yourself strictly, how have we been doing? If we are honest, not as good as we should be.

In order for a man to understand what it means to be a Master Mason, he must learn the use of the symbolic tools with which he is expected to shape – dare I say, change – his future, moral, and Masonic life. We simply cannot confer a Degree, hand the new Mason a cipher with the expectation that he memorize the work, and then hope that he will be interested enough to stick around. We must buttress the ritualistic ceremonies with good & wholesome instruction.

Introduced in 1994 during the tenure of MW Ken Robinson, the New Candidate Education Program provides a course of instruction that works in concert with our initiation rites in helping to make our candidates active, informed, and productive Lodge members. Obviously, this program was considered so integral to our ceremonies that it was codified. Specifically Section 20.10 B.L. of the Washington Masonic Code states (in part) "...every candidate progressing through the Degrees will be furnished a copy of the New Candidate Education Program by his Lodge".

If you have not received your copy of the New Candidate Education Program, then ask your Lodge Secretary to get one for you. If your Candidates have not been presented with the New Candidate Program, then get it for them. My Brothers, I submit to you that if we don't provide our Candidates with a proper instruction manual then they will have difficulty understanding how to properly use the symbolic tools of our Craft. This leads to frustration, which leads to disinterest, which leads to one less Brother in our midst,

Deputy Grand Worshipful Brother
Jim V. Mendoza



one less Brother who was transformed by the platform of Freemasonry, one less Brother to change the world.

The men who are coming to us today do so because they are looking for something that they cannot get elsewhere. We just need to do our part in helping find that which they seek. Maybe, just maybe, through the use of aids like the New Candidate Education Program, we will have provided instruction proper enough for that good man to do good work with the symbolic tools that he has been given; and maybe, just maybe, he will be able to use the platform known as Freemasonry to change his little corner of the world.

Fraternally,

RWB Jim V. Mendoza
Deputy Grand Master

Legislative Update: The 2016 Legislative session is coming!

It's the new year, and now that the holidays and festivities are over, things will slowly get back to the normal daily grind for us. This is no different for our elected officials in the Washington State Legislature, as they once again return to Olympia. The 2016 Legislative session will start on Monday, January 11th. Since this is an even-numbered year, the session will last only 60 days.

Even though your Legislators are now in Olympia, you can still follow what is going on from your home town. Most TV cable and satellite services carry TVW, and during sessions, you can watch Legislative Week in Review, The Impact and Inside Olympia. You can also follow the sessions on the internet with the Capitol Record, among several other web sites. You might find these programs to be quite tedious to watch, compared to the major network programs that cover national politics, but the issues covered at the state level carry a notable impact on our daily lives in Washington.

There are also the official Legislature websites that include information on the bills that are being processed during the session, as well as the websites of the several state agencies in our government.

Remember, if you run across anything state-related that might have an impact on your Lodge, or its officers, do not hesitate to bring it to the attention of our Grand Lodge Elected Officers and myself. My E-mail address is Liaison@free-Mason-wa.org.

If you haven't had an opportunity to make an appointment to speak with your legislator during the 2015 interim, you can still make that call this coming spring. For most of the legislators, this is an election year, so they will be busier during

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TIME TO BE THANKFUL!

The Craft is comprised of many unique customs. One of those custom, referred to in our Lodges, is that of "paying wages". It seems that during our daily activities at work, home or in our Lodges, often our tasks and accomplishments go unnoticed because it is an assumed responsibility, "It's your job". In some instances, it is the perception that acknowledgment for labors performed is not essential.

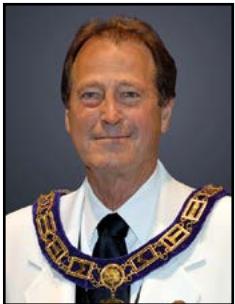
Acknowledgement and recognition are necessary in expressing our appreciation for deeds that often might go unnoticed. In our Lodges, the Worshipful Master, at his will and pleasure, may present a deserving member of the Lodge with a Hiram Award. This is the highest award that can be presented by the Lodge, honoring one of its members for his distinguished service to the Craft. Each year our District Deputies of the Grand Master might select a Brother from their District as a recipient for the Grand Masters Achievement Award. Both the Hiram Award and the Grand Master Achievement Award are presented to praiseworthy Brethren, who have made numerous contributions to our Craft, not because they were asked to do so, but because it just needed to be done.

I would like to take this moment, to acknowledge and thank each of you that have volunteered your time and support in promoting the growth and success of our Youth Groups. It is so gratifying to observe and trace the transition of the DeMolay boys, Jobs Daughters and Rainbow girls, as they progress towards becoming young responsible adults. Seeing the timid replaced by the confident and outgoing. Observing them gain the understanding of courtesy and respect. Your assistance in helping the youth obtain good qualities and a positive direction is indispensable. They are our future and hopefully will continue their participation in our Masonic Family. All our cooperation is important in helping to support our youth, such as when time permits, please try to attend their events and meetings. Our Youth Groups, like all of the Concordant Bodies in our Masonic Family, will never have "too many members". If you have a son, daughter or family member that you feel might benefit by what our Family has to offer, please provide them with the contact information available through your District Deputy or Grand Lodge Office.

Especially this time of year, we have so much to be grateful for. I thank each of you that continue to extend your cable tows in helping to lighten the loads of others, not because you have to do it, but because it is the right thing to do. I give thanks to each of you for providing me with the opportunity and trust in helping to lead our Craft into a flourishing future. I am grateful for all the

SENIOR Grand WARDEN
RIGHtWOrKShIPFUL brother

Warren R. Schoeben



new and everlasting friendships, I have made during my Masonic journey.

In closing, I would like to give a special thank you to my wife "Mary Jo" and family for their continuous love and support.

I wish each of you a Happy New Year!

Warmest regards,

RWB Warren R. Schoeben
Senior Grand Warden

Legislative Update: The 2016 Legislative Session is Coming!

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the interim working on their campaigns. Schedule your appointments early to avoid missing out.

In closing, always remember that your elected officials want to hear what you have to say. Never think that your voice doesn't count! Cementing a positive relationship with our state government is a team effort, and that includes all of us, not just a few. Your input is valuable, so keep that in mind as we, together, make a positive difference in our government.

Fraternally,

VWB Clayton La Vigne
Legislative Liaison

Newport Lodge, No.144

Annual Lumberjack Feed!



MWB Don G. Munks, Grand Master, shown being penalized for dressing inappropriately by wearing a tie. Since Lumberjacks do not wear neck ties according to the Buddha Book. His tie is cut short before he can join in the labors.



**JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
RIGHTWORSHIPFUL Brother
James H. Kendall**

Tis the Season!

Tis the Season of Joy and Peace. Tis also the Season of myriad installations. The second of these requires no particular explanation, but if you have been attending one or more installations, perhaps it is the season to reflect on what it means to be a Mason. From that reflection, for me, comes renewed insight into what keeps me going in my personal life, and in my Masonic Journey. The ceremonies of installation of officers of the Lodge remind and reinforce those attributes that I find so admirable in my Brothers, and in the Fraternity. The guideposts that we are to follow as Masons are many, and clearly marked if we will only pay heed.

The first officer installed in a Lodge is of course the Worshipful Master. Without the installation of a Worshipful Master, no other Officer of the Lodge can be installed. The installation ceremony for the Worshipful Master is by far the lengthiest, and with the most weighty of obligations attending that office.

The very first thing the Worthy Brother does, kneeling at the Altar after the Chaplains prayer, is to repeat his obligation. "I solemnly promise, upon the honor of a Mason, that in the office of Worshipful Master of (my Lodge), that I will, to the best of my ability, strictly comply with, abide by and enforce, the Constitutions and Regulations of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington, the By-Laws of (my Lodge), and all Ancient Masonic Usages, so far as the same shall come to my knowledge."

What does "Upon the honor of a Mason" mean? For me, it is the embodiment of a philosophy of, in large part, generosity and mutual regard.

One on-line dictionary has definitions of honor as follows;

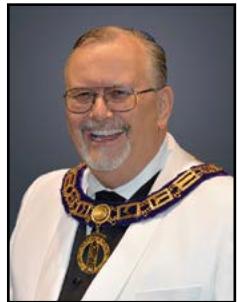
"Honor: A code of integrity, dignity, and pride. Honor is a sense of principled uprightness of character and personal integrity."

The attribute of honor is shared among all members of our Fraternity, not just Worshipful Masters. That is a hard-won truth we must never forget in our dealings with each other.

Charge to the Wardens: "What you have seen praiseworthy in others, you should carefully emulate; and what in them may have appeared defective, you should in yourselves amend."

Charge to the Lodge by the Worshipful Master when closing the Lodge: "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."

The common thread in all these and more is perfectly in tune with the "Reason for the Season" as



Christians celebrate the birth of the very embodiment of Brotherly love and forgiveness.

Merry Christmas to all and may the New Year bring joy and happiness to you and yours.

Faithfully & Fraternally,

RWB James H. Kendall
Junior Grand Warden



MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) was founded in 1958 by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. It is an entity of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York with its 15 Directors being appointed serially by the Grand Master and elected by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York at its annual convocation. Originally established by the Grand Lodge of New York, the forerunner of the MMRL was known as The Masonic Foundation for Health and Human Welfare and it played a major role in the defeat of rheumatic fever. The MMRL's current focus is on Cardiovascular Disease, principally focused on Cardiac Arrhythmias and Sudden Death syndrome, including Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Its newest venture is into Tissue and Organ Bioengineering with the goal of building new hearts for transplantation. In recent years, Masonic Jurisdictions of many states have joined with the Grand Lodge of the State of New York to further its important humanitarian work.

The Laboratory is administered by a Board of Directors and the Executive Director. The Board of Directors consists of up to 15 distinguished Freemasons elected to three-year terms. Their selection is based upon their outstanding business and professional experience. They all serve the Laboratory without compensation.

Grand Lodge of Washington is joining in the efforts to assist in raising funds in support of this organization. We have a committee that is in charge of accumulating funds to gather together our contributions to the MMRL. The committee is chaired by WB Jonathan Brown, Grand Chaplain assisted by the members of his committee. Your generosity to this effort will be much appreciated and will contribute towards the ongoing success of the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory.



MWB Donald G. Munks, Grand Master, shown being tagged for a contribution each time the committee runs into him. (it happens in every Masonic event the Grand Master is in attendance, close to almost everyday.)





MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR



David P. Owen

Grand SECRETARY
RIGHTWORSHIPFUL Brother

Brethren we are a Great Nation with much to be thankful for. As we finish Thanksgiving and approach the Christmas Season find those in your community who are less fortunate and make a difference in their lives. Each Lodge should develop one community program that reflects positively on Masonry and the positive work we do.

Christmas is celebrated differently around the world, but the story has a common theme, one of hope for a better future. WE can build that future today by what we do as Masons. How we are perceived will weigh heavily on how our community accepts us. If we do nothing the results are obvious. However, helping someone changes that perception exponentially. Helping the local food bank, cleaning a neighbor's yard, volunteering at the local school or church, delivering food to the homeless, or finding a family who is without food are just some of the things we can do. Brothers put hope in the hearts of those in need and you will make a difference.

Let us ring in the New Year with a commitment for a better tomorrow not only individually but as a family or community. Make time to celebrate what has been accomplished and plan for a brighter tomorrow.

The Grand Lodge Staff and I wish you the BEST BEST BEST of times over this holiday season. Hoping we all find peace in all that we do.

God Bless you and your family and a special prayer to our Military all over the world.

David P. Owen, Grand Secretary

& The Grand Lodge Staff



The Link between Lodge Director & Officers Liability & Masonic Lodge Management of Assets

Many lodges have assets they manage for their lodge. Our focus is on the management responsibilities for Lodges not the actual investment return.

The fiduciary responsibility for those individuals or groups who provide council as to how these assets are to be managed can expose themselves to personal liability by failing to provide appropriate and reasonable management recommendations. Director and Officers Liability for Lodges can be broadened for a small additional premium to include protection for failure to provide "management recommendations and guidelines" for those who are retained to carry out the investment strategy on behalf of the Lodge.

This is another reason why Lodges should consider Director and Officers Liability coverage. There are three areas that should be addressed by the fiduciary of those funds.

1. Has the lodge put together an investment strategy to manage the funds? If not, Grand Lodge is willing to share and help you with guidance to set a strategy in place. This will provide future direction.
2. As the fiduciary of these assets, are you getting monthly or quarterly reports identifying how these assets are performing? If you are not, who is? What is happening to the funds? Who is reporting to the lodge?
3. Since you are personally responsible as the fiduciary of these funds, are you properly insured for this risk/exposure? Fiduciary liability coverage is inexpensive and can protect your personal assets. It is usually purchased along with the Directors and Officers insurance policy.

Definition of Fiduciary: Any person who so named in the plan instrument or has discretionary authority or control with respect to the management, or administration of the plans assets or benefits. The definition is broad in order to hold accountable all those individuals who may be responsible for the misuse of plan assets and any losses that may occur to the participants.

To find out more about the **Grand Lodge Insurance Program** for Masonic Lodges or Temple Boards contact:

PayneWest Insurance

Eddie Eugenio

827 West 1st Avenue, Suite 225
Spokane, Washington 99201

(877) 455-6767

EEugenio@PayneWest.com



The information is not a contract. Refer to the insurance policy for the actual terms, conditions, and exclusions relating to coverage.





How well do we listen?

I have left yet another installation of officers of a Masonic Lodge. While driving home along Crescent Lake I thought about all of the installations that I have attended as a Mason. And the thought struck me that I don't always listen well to the words of the installing Master as he performs his duties. This time I had listened intently to the words of installation for the Senior Warden and pondered on their meaning and their message to the Senior Warden as well as to the Craft in general.

"The level reminds us that we are descended from the same stock and partake of the same nature" and I realized that we are being told that WE as humans and more especially that as Masons that we all come from the same place to achieve the same purpose "that of searching for the spiritual light that God had intended for us to see" or at least this is how I see it.

"And although distinctions among men are essentially necessary to preserve subordinations".

This means to me that I must remember that just because I have been put in a position of leadership or have been given a title that this does not make me more special than the others; my title is symbolic of the faith and trust of the Craft placed in me, and nothing more. For this I am grateful.

I pray that I have never given that impression to the Brothers of our District while serving as your Deputy. It was my honor and my privilege to do this for you my Brothers.

"And that he who is placed on the lowest spoke of fortunes wheels may be entitled to our regard"

This means to me that whether I am wearing my Past Deputy Apron or the Jewel of the Senior Grand Deacon that I am a Master Mason first and foremost and as such may I never offend another Brother Mason or non-Mason knowing and willingly by being unkind to them.

"For a time will come and the wisest knows not how soon when all distinctions but that of goodness shall cease and death the Grand leveler of human greatness reduces us all to the same state".

When we are finally laid to rest, will we be remembered for the goodness that we gave or for the misery we may have inflicted??

In closing I would ask each and every one who reads this to take the time to reflect on why we are Masons and how blessed we are to be a member of the oldest Fraternity on the face of this earth. How well do you listen??

VWB Darel Maxfield
Senior Grand Deacon



The Level

Stands for equality but not the type of equality that takes away distinctions between people. If that was the type of equality it represents men would have confusion, anarchy, and insubordination marring their meetings and gatherings. It does mean that equality which recognizes the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. It recognizes that all move on the same plane toward immortality. In the final result all men are exactly equal and no wealth, stature, or fame will have any effect.

The Level is the jewel of the Senior Warden and shows that the craft, when at labor, are on a subordinate level of equality. It is also his function to look down the line of the level and plan for the future of the Lodge accordingly.

The Level is used, among other things, by the operative Mason to make sure that the stones of a building are uniform across their surface and that they are also uniform across all the stones of that layer. To accomplish this accomplishment time after time requires many men to work together in absolute harmony.

These are not the only meanings and uses of this important symbol of our Craft.

If we look at the level in conjunction with the plumb we will see that one pins us to the center of our existence and the other leads to the boundless realms beyond comprehension. The plumb points to a solid center and the level points us to the provinces of the unknown for it only touches that plane with which we are familiar in a single point. Then, as the earth curves, the line extends straight out into the starry heavens. For this reason the Level teaches us to reach to the future and work to make it better than today. Used together the Plumb and the Level bring us to the third jewel of the Lodge. For if a man conducts himself by the plumb always reaching for the future he will always be living upon the square. It is this way because as he keeps his virtue upright and true and works toward the immortality of the future he is forming a right angle at all times.

The level is also a measure of our emotional existence. It is an absolutely straight line from cradle to grave and can be looked at like the surface of a still pond. When we do things or have things affect us that take away from this stillness we deviate from the ideal level of travel and this can be devastating to our maintaining our solid foundation until corrected. This can also affect our emotional existence and make us move from the upright behavior dictated by the plumb.

We, as Freemasons, must always watch what we say and do in order to maintain the stillness of the water so that we can study and work toward understanding our lives with clarity and peace of mind. This will also help prepare us for the culmination of our existence. That existence dealing with how we deal with our understanding and response to people, events, and ideas for all of our days. None of us are perfect and we all fall short of the ideal. How we deal with those things associated with our working tools will, in a great measure, define how we have lived our lives.

VWB Charlie Tupper
Past DDGM, District No.5





Pursuing Excellence in Ritual Work

One of the few things that separates our Craft from the many other community and civic organizations is our ritual. As a new Mason, grasping the old English references are sometimes difficult and at times we struggle to understand not just the words but the context. Every so often within the Craft there are calls for modernizing the ritual work to make it easier to learn and understand. Efforts such as these are generally met with mixed results.

Of course learning anything that is new is difficult at first. Welcome to the challenge of becoming a ritualist: learning to memorize.

When the subject of memorizing ritual comes up, I often hear one of the following comments...maybe you've heard some too:

"Simply memorizing ritual does not make you a better Mason."

"I'm never going to have it down 100% but I get the point across."

"They are just parroting what they learn, but they don't understand it."

"I'm just not that good at memorizing"

I might suggest that these are all reflections of the fact that learning to memorize IS difficult and it's too easy to sell yourself short that you are not good at it. If your son or daughter came home and announced that they were not good at math would you console them and say not everyone is going to be good at math or would you encourage them to tackle it from another perspective and keep working at it?

The truth is, for most of us memorizing doesn't come naturally and we have to work at it. The ancients such as Pericles and Demosthenes understood that the art of memory was something that had to be cultivated, and when done so, would result in a level of oratory skill that could be used to inspire a nation. Think of our modern era orators like Ronald

Reagan, Martin Luther King, Jr., John F. Kennedy, or Winston Churchill, who once said, "of all the talents bestowed to men, none is so precious as the gift of oratory." Do a little digging and you will find that while pop culture would have you believe these men were simply born great orators, they actually spent a great deal of time honing their skill.

I would suggest that when one has honed their ritual of the standard work extremely well and to the point they do know every word, that labor takes on a much different meaning for them. As a craftsman, our body of work becomes part of their trade and you can be sure they begin to contemplate what is being conveyed in our ritual.

In fact, the more you work on your art of memory the better you will be at it and knowing how you as a person work best at memorizing is paramount to improving at it. Some can simply read it, some of us have to hear it, some have to tackle little bits at a time, while some need to visualize it. If you are having a hard time memorizing, I encourage you to tackle from another perspective and keep working at it! Pick up a book called "Learning Masonic Ritual" by Rick Smith and see if that helps. Having met Masons who learned English as a second language or who had speech impairments as a child still master our ritual work, I am convinced that with effort, persistence, and mental labor, everyone is capable of mastering our ritual. The choice is up to each one of us as to whether we tackle this endeavor.

Of course this brings us to the point of why we are memorizing this ritual work in the first place. Externally, it is done to pass along our system of instruction. When done well, the candidate becomes inspired to study our precepts and tenets. Internally though, the result of learning to tackle this difficult task is quite analogous to what we are trying to do as Masons: laboring to make our rough ashlar a perfect ashlar. This pursuit of excellence is what defines our journey as a craftsman, is it not? We learn in Masonry to take those skills and ideas we learn in Lodge to the outer world. Can you imagine tackling life's challenges with the same pursuit of excellence? With the same pursuit of perfection? I suggest that is exactly why we have famous Masons like Buzz Aldrin, Henry Ford, Ernest Borgnine, Brad Paisley, Mark Twain, Arnold Palmer, Harry Houdini, Ty Cobb and the list goes on. These Masons understood that life is full of challenges. Their response was to face those challenges with a pursuit of perfection. As a result, they impacted the world forever and we celebrate their accomplishment. And each one of us is capable of exactly the same thing.

Use your Masonic ritual work as a cornerstone to build upon your pursuit of excellence, not just in Masonry but in life. You are a craftsman in the finest institution the world has ever known. Let's use our tools to change the world.

WB Zane McCune
Grand Lecturer





Local Lodges, Looking in and Around.

Alpha Lodge, No. 212, F&AM of Washington held their installation of officers last December 9, 2015 at the Marysville Masonic Center. The installing team was headed by MWB Don G. Munks. Joppa Lodge, No. 112 AF&AM un-

der the registry of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon joined in in the ceremonies. They presented the Worshipful Master, WB D. Dean Bonar with the Travelling Bible which travels back and forth across the border in each their annual installation day. The members of the entourage from Joppa Lodge, No.112 comes to this almost event every year aboard a full size tourist bus. It is always a great pleasure for both Lodges to share the joys of Brotherhood during the auspicious solemnity of the occasion. Alpha Lodge, No. 212 returns the favor every year in the month of September and travels to White Rock, B.C. to share the camaraderie and spirits with the Brethren of Joppa Lodge, No. 112.



Remembering the past to grow the future.

One of the keys to being great Masons is by helping others. We all learn this as we travel our journey, some better than others. I remember one such conversation I had as a new Entered Apprentice with the Worshipful Master Richard Beers. His term was winding down and told me one of the things he would have loved to do was to form an Ashler Masonic Lodge Scholarship at Cascadia Community College. We already give our youth group graduates \$500.00 scholarships if they ask as they go to college, but we also know the growing costs of college so it won't go far.

I don't know why of all the conversations we have had about the future of our Lodge and the community, this idea stuck in my head. Five years later as I am in the East we now have taken a huge step to making our community a little better. I also knew I needed a great Brother to take on this task with me so I asked the best, the same VWB Richard Beers, he ran with it in a big way as we now have the Ashler Masonic Lodge, No.121 Scholarship through Cascadia Community College. This is a perpetually funded scholarship that will continue to give well after we are gone. Now that's a notion that is a little hard to conceive.

We will continue to add funds to make it larger each year so it can grow into a great future. The staff at Cascadia Community College was awesome at helping us with exactly what we wanted. We knew we wanted to still help our Masonic Youth so we added a stipulation that if they apply they will have first option. If there's no Masonic Youth, then there are set up guidelines in order to receive our Scholarship. They must have some type of community service completed in our community. It also must go to a person from our community.



Such a great process to set this opportunity up.

As we continue to grow as a Lodge and build for the future whether it be an endowed scholarship or our Bikes for Books program. We must remember to see what our Brothers have built for us in the past and build for the next generation that will come after us, this we owe to them. The one thing I have learned is with great Brothers working together for a better future, our Lodge will stay strong for many years to come.

WB Dan Southerland
Worshipful Master
Ashler Lodge, No.121





How should Masons Meet? On the Level.

One of the aspects to my mind, I love puns and thus I think of the words as they are spoken and I think of the many forms of that word can mean. So, I got through thinking about many of phrases with the word level. Strictly on the level – honest, truthful; dependably open and fair: By following a level of integrity, we can set high standards for ourselves.

Someone's level best. In every situation, we do our best.

Find one's own level. To find the position or rank to which one is best suited. We all have different levels that we can achieve. But, when we meet, we recognized that we all are Brothers

Level something at someone or something - to direct something at someone or something; to aim a remark at someone. We can do this in the friendliest manner.

Level something down or off - to make something level or smooth – This reminds me of the perfect ashler. That by meeting on the level we are working on the plain of the perfect ashler.

Level something out - to cause something to assume a more level course or path. Such a path is a noble path for Masons to follow.

Level something up - to move something into a level or plumb position. When we are centered, balanced, we make a better foundation for ourselves and others to follow.

Level playing field - a situation that is fair to all; a situation where everyone has the same opportunity. That is how Masons meet.

Even the word level is so well balanced, that you could spell it backwards and you would still be on the level.

I did some further research and found:

In Latin libra was a balance, the root of our libration, equilibrium; libella was the diminutive form of the same word, and from it has come our level, an instrument by which a balance is proved, or by which may be detected the horizontal plane. It is closely associated in use with the plumb, by which a line perpendicular to the horizontal is proved. The level is that on which there are no in-equalities, hence in Masonry it is correctly used' as a symbol of equality. "We meet upon the level" because Masonic rights, duties, and privileges are the same for all members with-out distinction.

The Encyclopedia of Freemasonry (1916 edition) relates: "In the year 1830, the architect, in rebuilding a very ancient bridge called Baal Bridge, near Limerick, in Ireland, found under the foundation-stone an old brass square, much eaten away, containing on its two surfaces the following inscription (dated 1517):

I. WILL. STRIUE. TO. LIUE.

WITH. LOUE. & CARE.

UPON. THE. LEUEL.

BY. THE. SQUARE.

Next time you meet someone, more especially a Brother Mason do remember to meet on the Level. Think of the different meaning to Level.

WB Dean Markley
Masonic Tribune Committee

Step Zero

The confirmation that the Six Steps to Initiation is working is coming in from many of the Lodges that have begun using that process! The men (and their families) who are considering the Fraternity have a better understanding of who Masons are and what they do; they accept the Lodge expectations of the Degrees and appreciate the commitments of membership. In brief, those Lodges are getting better Candidates, better members.

Their Candidates look forward with anticipation to the conferrals and are excited to return the Degree proficiency and in open Lodge. They tend to prefer the full proficiency over the 'short' or alternate version and the quality of the work is as good as the coach. They are willing and ready to help other Candidates that are on the same or earlier Degree, becoming coaches and mentors themselves.

As members, they want MORE. More history, philosophy ... more events and activities, more Masonry! They typically are willing and ready to help with Lodge occasions. They regularly attend meetings and want to visit other Lodges. This only verifies what Grand Lodge and most Lodges already knew. Those that implement the Six Steps program are investing in time, up front, in quality men and not spending time, energy and money (\$\$) in men that have filled in spaces on a piece of paper... time and money that they can never get back.

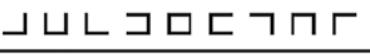
But the question for some Lodges that are (or are not) thinking about the Six Steps is what I call Step Zero. In a statement for you and your Lodge to ponder, is this, "When a good man is seeking the company and association with good men; make sure that you and your Lodge can withstand the examination."

Sam Roberts, PGM
Grand Lodge Trial Committee, member

SUDOKU SYMBOL PUZZLE

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



(Solution on page 13)





FROM MY PERSPECTIVE:

I've heard it said before, many times, "We need a Veteran's Day Parade." Everyone around agrees. Then, the thought goes no further and the streets remained silent.

Scott Robinson said, "We need a Veteran's Day Parade." He turned to his Brothers in the Masonic Lodge and said, "We can do this," and with only four weeks until the big day, they got busy. Ideas came quickly, and were followed by energy. People were contacted for advice and guidance, and they stepped up and got involved. It was amazing to watch the excitement and enthusiasm build as more and more people added a good idea, gave of their time and talents, and volunteered themselves and their resources to make this happen. Everyone wanted to make this happen. It was a tsunami of excitement and involvement.

You cannot imagine how the people of Goldendale came together. The City was impressive to work with, the Chamber was enthusiastic, Casey volunteered to line up the parade, Shirley volunteered decorations for the dinner, Goldendale businesses got on board, organizations said they would march in the parade along with units from out of town, and the list kept growing. Scott was everywhere and no one even wanted to say "no". This was going to be a good thing.

And the Parade! The crowd stood and placed their hands over their hearts when the color guard marched by, they cheered when the Veterans went by. The Veterans' faces glowed with pride and gratitude as they heard those cheers and they saw the waves from the crowd. Old Glory snapped at attention in the breeze from almost every entry. The crowd became a part of the parade, not just bystanders. They stopped feeling the cold for a few minutes and felt the warmth of pride instead. Oh, and when the Goldendale High School band marched by and broke into the Goldendale Fight Song, we clapped along and the words slipped through our lips; "Onward Goldendale, Onward Goldendale....." The joy of seeing our band again after such a long time, rippled through those who watched.

When the last unit had passed and the Parade came to an end, everyone was welcomed into the warmth of the Goldendale Masonic Hall for Elk Stew and huckleberry cupcakes. Soldiers from young Dressel to our WWII Vets mingled to share their experiences. Our State Representatives commended our little town, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, Bruce Vesper, of the Masonic Lodge reminded us that we will see the last of the WWII Veterans in the next generation, and the Parade Grand Marshal, Brother Harold Hill, shared a few stories of his time in the Battle of the Bulge. Our Mayor, a veteran himself, was there. Business leaders were there. Community leaders were there. And regular people were there. It was a great day.

But Goldendale is a community, and as the day drew to an end, the American Legion hosted a prime rib dinner for Veterans at the Legion Hall. They spent their time decorating and cooking, just so they could do their part to show our Veterans a measure of appreciation. By the size of the gathering, their efforts were greatly appreciated.

For this one day, I glimpsed the Goldendale I remember as I grew up, and saw a Goldendale I believe we can become again. This time, I gave up my time and sacrificed my huckleberries; a small offering to those who gave so much. What is the next great thing we can do? Let's not just mention it and then let it go silent in the streets. Let's follow up with "We can do this".

Becky Goddard

Wife of Bro. Nick Goddard
Secretary, Goldendale Lodge, No. 31





BUTTON MAKER'S DEGREE Fund Raiser

In honor of our "blue collar" heritage,
Steadfast Lodge No. 216
will confer our fun, but farcical
2nd Annual Button Maker's Degree
Saturday, April 23, 2016

\$20.00 per participant (MM only)

(Proceeds will split between the Washington Masonic Charities and the Steadfast Temple Association, with \$3.00 per ticket going to the Button Maker Sustainment fund)

Lunch begins at 11:30 AM

The Degree will start at 12:30 PM

Price includes:

- A special Button Maker's Lunch
 - Participation in the Degree
 - Button Maker Lapel Pin
- Wallet-sized Button Maker Card
 - Certificate of Completion

Purchase online:

www.wilcur.com/Steadfast216/Online_Payments.html

Or contact

WB Harry Boyd – 360-340-7247

WB Tim Curley – 360-627-7700 / 360-286-5223

Reserve your space early – limited to 60 participants

The Button Maker Degree (Saturday, April 23, 2016)

DON'T MISS OUT...Earn your Button by attending the Button Maker Degree, hosted by Steadfast Lodge No. 216 of Manette (Bremerton) Washington!

The button pins, accompanied by a wallet card and certificate of Degree Completion, will be passed out to successful inductees to a special pseudo-masonic degree (or induction ceremony) beginning at 11:30 AM on Saturday, April 23, 2016.

This will be Steadfast Lodge No. 216's second annual Button Maker Degree. The brothers that took part in last year's event had a great time. The Button Maker Degree is a "blue-collar" nonsense-based farce on more traditional ceremonies that advance a Mason through three steps in Masonic growth. The story begins with a problem in the culture where times were hard and the brethren became poor. Eventually, their clothes became tatters. The King decrees that the workers need to become better dressed and that buttons were required to fasten the improved clothing. He then decrees that a Lodge of Button Makers should be created in order to fill this need. The degree is designed to initiate the group, certifying them to make the "exalted" buttons. After going through the colorful history of the need for the buttons, the inductees line up and file behind a secrecy panel to get their button. In the future, when a certified Button Maker (wearing his button pin) is asked by a non-initiate "How did you get your button?" the Button Maker should offer the acceptable response...(Earn your button to find out what this response is.)

The latest occurrence of the Button maker Degree we've verified was 1986 (although some reports mention the early 2000's). The original event, from what we've heard from old-timers, was designed to raise money for a widow of one of the Brothers. Another version we've heard was that it was designed as a fundraiser for the old Masonic Retirement Home in Zenith/Des Moines Washington. The proceeds will be split between the Washington Masonic Charities and our Temple Association, with a \$3.00 share going to the Button Maker Sustainment fund. This year, Steadfast Lodge is celebrating the Centennial of the founding of our local Lodge in Manette, a "suburb" of Bremerton. We researched the Degree and decided we wanted to revive this dying tradition – we plan to make it an annual event. It's a type of gentle, fun-based hazing...in keeping with the nature of secrecy prevalent in Freemasonry.

What is Old... is New.

Many Masons are surprised when they stumble across Masonic symbols or references in seemingly unusual places. Many concepts or principles thought to be Masonic are truly universal and generally accepted across many religious and cultural boundaries. What may be more surprising is that the dissemination and acceptance of these 'virtuous' philosophies are not promoted or as prevalent as they once were. Masons and Masonry are rapidly becoming one of the few advocates of virtue and civility in a world that appears to accept disrespect and uncivility as normal.

We, as Masons, have our obligations and charges that should be the Square of our actions and the Compasses of our needs and ambitions. For all others that can't relate to obligations, lectures and charges; I'd like to offer the following.

I love to read and have a fondness for getting engrossed in the authors and works of mid-century pulp fiction and adventure. Much of this genre was published as weekly/monthly serials in magazines in the 30's – late 50's. They hugely influential in the youth of the day (me). They have easily recognizable heroes and villains. Good and bad were clearly different. And I have my favorites including Talbot Munday, Edgar Rice Burroughs and H. Rider Haggard. While a lot of this work is no longer politically correct, I'd like to share a piece from the latter author in a story about Alan Quartermain (a template for the Indiana Jones character). The central character, Quatermain, is talking to a young girl. He tells her to 'always try to do your best to be good and do what you know in your heart to be right, rather than what happens to expedient or pleasant. In the end, even if other people sneer or make fun of you, what is good and what is happy and satisfying are the same thing... otherwise, you live in vain.'

Happy reading,

MWB Sam Roberts, PGM

SUDOKU SYMBOL PUZZLE (Solution)

(Solution of puzzle from page 11)

J	O	R	N	C	7	L	D	U
7	N	C	L	R	U	O	C	J
L	U	C	D	O	J	7	N	R
U	7	L	R	J	C	C	O	N
C	R	N	O	7	C	U	J	L
O	C	J	U	L	N	R	7	C
N	D	O	C	U	R	J	L	7
C	J	U	7	N	L	D	R	O
R	L	7	J	D	N	U	C	C



Question #2: Our Grand Master's theme is "Learn & Change". Beyond the obligatory requirements, what do you believe is the most important thing that a Mason should learn and why?

Historically, the ideal of Masonry is to make good men better through a system of moral and ethical teachings. We accept that to be an engaged member of our Lodge, we must actively seek out and learn new information with the goal of growing and changing as a result of our experiences within the craft. For this goal to be successful, the most important thing that a Mason should learn to do is to use these Masonic teachings to subdue their passions. To subdue something is to bring it under control, especially by an exertion of the will. The focus is on moderation, not elimination. Subduing passion enables one to be a better listener and truly meet a Brother on the level, and is a critical element in our ability to learn and change.

Expressed in different ways throughout our Masonic traditions, subduing ones' passions is a fundamental principle of creating harmony while empowering Masons to be open to learning the moral and ethical lessons of the craft. When we get caught up in our own passions, we fail to listen and learn and we miss out on the possibility of understanding and connecting with each other. Without this shared understanding, we fail to unite in those truly Masonic principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Unless we can truly listen and be open to new information and points of view, building and maintaining harmony may be beyond our reach.

The ability to subdue ones' passions enables us to express a genuine interest in differing opinions as well as ultimately empower those around us and ourselves. This is especially true when trying to 'walk the talk' and embody these Masonic principles in daily life, or at the very least, emulate a Brother who you respect and admire. While having many paths open to us in Masonry allows each of us to find our own personal direction and passion in the craft, our unchecked passion for our own way of thinking can separate and limit us from growth and true connection to the Brotherhood.

My Brothers, Masonry is about making good men better. Our system of moral and ethical teachings changes and strengthens each of us as moral and ethical Brothers. Through this process of learning to subdue our passions each of us is enabled to learn and change and become that esteemed and emulated Brother who continues to shed more light in Masonry.

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

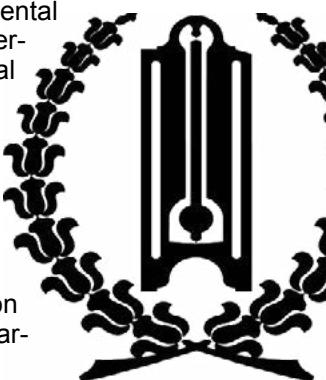


Question #2: Our Grand Master's theme is "Learn & Change". Beyond the obligatory requirements, what do you believe is the most important thing that a Mason should learn and why?

Amy Brothers, when I saw this question, my first thought went to the horrific events that occurred in Paris and how such events would not occur if our Masonic values were accepted by all. As I considered this further, other thoughts came to mind such as:

- What in others may have appeared defective, you in yourselves should amend; and
- Masons need to communicate and put our values into action.

Finally, I decided that the most important lesson for a Mason comes from our Closing Charge, "for every human being has a claim on your kind offices." What are kind offices? This lesson encapsulates the values of our gentle craft. It calls on us to provide good consul to all, to assist all to make them better, and provide leadership through our good acts. This goes beyond individual relations, it goes to all of humanity. The Masons of Washington have an obligation to make society better.



Historically, Masons have been the leaders of our communities, our country and across the world. We are all aware that many Masons have served as President. But our obligations to society start with our individual communities.

As I have attended District meetings around the state, I have been encouraged by the efforts by many of our Lodges to improve their communities, especially those in smaller communities. While these Lodges may have few members and limited financial resources, they demonstrate their commitment to society by participating in Bikes for Books, scholarship programs for local high school students, make their facilities available for community activities, and are involved in many other local activities. We all should follow these examples of the kind offices of these Lodges.

Collectively, Masons can have a bigger impact on society by individually serving community. There are obvious ways we accomplish this, such as being advisors to our youth organizations. We can also work in the Quarries with non-Masonic community service organizations like Habitat for Humanity. If we honor this lesson and we all provide a little service to society, this world can be a better place for ourselves, our children and Grandchildren, and all of humanity. Then, maybe, events like those in Paris will not be as frequent as we have seen of late.

For these reasons, our closing charge's admonition to honor the claims made on our kind offices.

Fraternally,

VWB Chris Coffman



Question #2: Our Grand Master's theme is "Learn & Change". Beyond the obligatory requirements, what do you believe is the most important thing that a Mason should learn and why?

That he should continue to learn throughout life.

Too often in life we tend to fall back on lessons we have learned in the past and this leads to not being willing to move forward to learn and do new things. When this occurs we stagnate and become totally fixed in our behavior and our ways of doing things. Our lives become obsolete and basically meaningless in the context of a changing world.

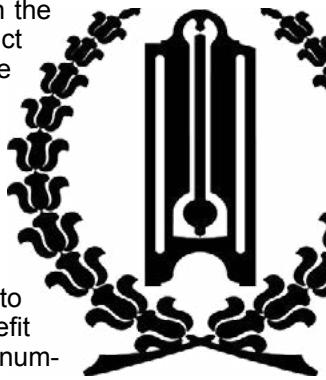
The lessons we have in our ritual can be put into a context of life as we have been living it or it can be put into a context where it is life as we wish to live it. If it is the first of these we will be the ones on the sidelines who are not willing to try anything new, refuse to see merit in the ideas of new generations, and work to obstruct any change in what they consider to be the only way. They have learned all they wish to and don't see a future any other way. These people are going nowhere and wish to take everyone else along for the ride.

Those who continue to learn find new ways to accomplish tasks. They learn to behave in new ways. They become better enabled to work with one another in new ways that benefit all. When a man has been a FreeMason for a number of years and he has continued to learn and contemplates on the lessons and he puts them to use in his life he comes to realize what a gift learning really is. He becomes transformed into something that he only dreamed of in his previous life and he looks forward to the changes that tomorrow brings.

In addition this type of man is looked upon as one to whom one can go for help and advice. He is one who is known for being open to the ideas of others and is willing to help whenever he is needed.

Life comes with its own lessons on a regular basis and not all of the lessons are welcomed. They are all, however, necessary for the finished product that we all look to be. The rough edges are smoothed over time by lessons learned by living and those learned by study. The lessons that we can learn never end and the ability and willingness to learn and utilize what we learn is truly a great gift that we can each give ourselves.

VWB Charles Tupper



Question #2: Our Grand Master's theme is "Learn & Change". Beyond the obligatory requirements, what do you believe is the most important thing that a Mason should learn and why?

Jin answer to the first part of this question, I would say self-discipline would be most important aspect of Masonry for a Mason to learn. Masonry is a constant learning process and what is important to one, may not be the same for another. I believe it all starts with learning to subdue our passions, and that takes discipline.

I understand that social norms have changed but that does not mean we have to change along with society. As Masons we need to stay true to our obligations, the three tenets and four cardinal virtues of Masonry. By doing so we are setting an example for our families, friends, neighbors and society to follow. If we as Masons are not true to our values, how can we expect others to follow our example? Freemasons have a long tradition of setting a positive example for society through our words, actions, and deeds.

I also understand that society's moral compass has changed since I became a Mason 20-plus years ago. As an Entered Apprentice Mason we learned to subdue our passions in order to improve ourselves. Today it has become much easier to follow the masses than to be recognized as being different. As human beings we have a natural tendency to follow instead of lead. By applying all of the working tools of Masonry on a daily basis, we stand a better chance of staying true to our Masonic beliefs. If we fail to do so, it may become easier to act in a non-Masonic way and thus face sanctions by our great Fraternity.

Here is my reply to the second part of the question as to why. Over the years I have seen an increase in the number of Masons brought up on Masonic charges. This, in my opinion, is a very disturbing trend and one has to wonder why this is occurring. I think this trend can be traced back to the lack of self-discipline. Ask yourself the following questions. What made these men act in such a manner that would open them up for Masonic sanctions? Did they just forget the obligations they took at the altar of Freemasonry? Did they not understand what the meaning of these obligations were? Did they believe that these obligations did not apply to them? We all took the same obligations as Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts and Master Masons. Others have taken additional obligations by taking a more active role in our Fraternity. It takes discipline on a daily basis if we are to live up to our numerous obligations.

Be true to yourself, and the principals of Freemasonry and by doing so you will set an example for your friends, co-workers and society as a whole to follow.

Remember Vote for the Good of Masonry.

Fraternally: VWB Charles Wood





Question #2: Our Grand Master's theme is "Learn & Change". Beyond the obligatory requirements, what do you believe is the most important thing that a Mason should learn and why?

This is an excellent question especially given our society today. On the face, Masonry is not a business, but once you peel away the fraternal part, it becomes clear, there is a business component to this Great Fraternity.

Every Lodge needs to understand the business fundamentals of their Lodge. Although the Master is the key leader, all members of the Lodge need an understanding of the business of the Lodge and how the pieces fit together to support the Fraternity.

Learning as defined by Webster states that, "To gain knowledge or understanding of, or skill in, by study, instruction, or experience." The Lodge Leadership must first commit to getting involved and not accept mediocrity or the mind set, "that's the way we've always done it."

There are several key elements everyone in the Lodge should understand, especially the Principal Officers. These elements include the following:

*How to develop a basic budget; and what it means not to have enough revenue to support expenses. This experience and understanding will cause a fundamental shift in thinking.

*Understand and know which forms or reports are required of Grand Lodge, local, state and federal agencies. It is critical for the success and future of Masonry; we all comply with the laws and rules of the land.

*Another essential for the leadership to learn is that there is a difference between the Craft and the business community. It is perfectly okay and is encouraged that both exist side-by-side, however it is necessary to understand the law and potential consequences for actions in order to facilitate healthy Lodge decisions.

One way to comprehend this basic premise is that, WE are a Fraternity with business rules that must be followed, not a business with Masonic rules that must be followed.

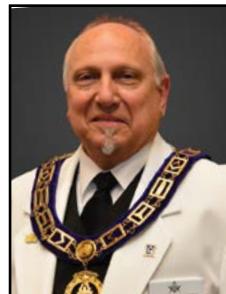
Brothers if we ignore the fundamental business aspects of our Great Fraternity we will find ourselves on the outside looking in. There may have been a time when Masons had a great influence on laws and rules of society, in today's society, which embraces diversity and openness, our greatest strength is to build synergy around Masonry and to demonstrate to the World we are the BEST.

To learn is to take today's rules to heart and apply the necessary change to create the greatest worth for our Fraternity. WE can never stop learning. Masonry has a business

component and it cannot be ignored. The leadership of the Lodge must insure that learning key business elements for Lodges are not a once and done event. It must be part of continual leadership development in every Lodge.

God Bless our wonderful Craft - It is a Great Day to Be a Mason

RWB David P. Owen
Grand Secretary



Question #2: Our Grand Master's theme is "Learn & Change". Beyond the obligatory requirements, what do you believe is the most important thing that a Mason should learn and why?

This is not the simple question that it appears to be at first glance. Can a Leader or any concerned Lodge Member really identify and elevate one single aspect of 'Lodge business' without looking at all the possible effects that it has with all the other facets of the Lodge. If you think so, ask five men to name the most important thing and you will likely get five different answers.

And then, what Lodge Leaders are we talking about? Officers? PMs? The "doers" of the Lodge? Who is it that is ready, willing and able to make a change in the Lodge's business? It's a shame that those Leaders don't come with a tag, perhaps like the one that says, "Do not remove this tag under penalty of law." It would then be easy to know which leaders we are talking about.

This much I do know about leaders. They are leaders because, first and foremost, they already know how to learn... and adapt or change. Oh, they cherish the fundamentals, hold dear the legacy and know their history. For the Business of Masonry, the Lodge, they embrace new technology, analyze processes for benefits and improvements, explore and test methods for increasing attendance and saving time/money/resources. True Leaders learn to be open minded, inclusive, patient, helpful and civil in all things. They strive for excellence by leading by example. And because of this, they can focus on the business of the future of Masonry, that being the Masonic tripod of; membership services, secure finances and quality of ritual.

MWB Sam Roberts, PGM



Washington Masonic Charities Update



Want to Get Started with an Estate Plan, but Don't Know Where to Turn?

While it may not sound that exciting, people often discover that by creating an estate plan they can make gifts they never dreamed possible. Sometimes it is even possible to make a living estate gift, meaning that you can enjoy watching the good you are doing.

Where do you start? The best place to start is to sit down with your spouse or partner and a trusted financial advisor or estate attorney to discuss your future goals for your financial and legal health as you age. Things to discuss include living wills in case something happens that leaves you incapacitated, whether or not you want to leave something for your children or Grandchildren, and the ways you might want to improve the community with a gift to charity after you are gone.

The key is to work with a professional who can recommend the best options that fit your circumstance - whether you want to leave \$500, \$50,000 or \$5 million, a professional will give you the best advice and represent your interests.

To find a professional it is always helpful to ask the people you know and trust who they would recommend. Most regions also have what are known as planned giving or estate planning councils - these councils are made up of legal, financial, accounting, and philanthropy professionals, and they will be able to provide you with information on who is reputable in the community. Below are several regional planned giving council contacts in Washington. In addition, there are several Masons who are working as professionals in the field who are more than willing to start a conversation with you and to help guide you. Give us a call if you would like more information.

Estate Planning Council

Directory or Web Address

Seattle Area: http://www.epcseattle.org/member_directory.cfm

South Sound Area: http://www.tacomaestateplanning.com/assets/tetc_roster_cat_2015.pdf

Spokane Area: <http://www.spokaneepc.org/members/directory-print/3/photos/discipline>

Tri-Cities Area: <http://www.tcestateplanning.com/>

Bellingham Area: <http://www.nwepc.org/members/directory-print/3/photos/discipline>

Southwest WA Area: <https://epcsww.org/member-directory-last-name/>

Fraternally,

Bro. Ken Gibson
Executive Director

Types of Planned Gifts

Planned gifts can range anywhere from a simple bequest in a will all the way to interesting and complex gifts like charitable remainder trusts where both you and the organization can benefit. Here are some of the types of planned gifts that people use in their estate planning. If you're so inclined, consider naming Washington Masonic Charities in your estate plan.

Bequest

You may specify a specific dollar amount or property, a percentage of your estate, or the residual after other designations are fulfilled. You may also designate the funds to our general operating budget or to the endowment fund. Visit our web site for sample bequest language.

Beneficiary Designation

You can name a charity as a designated beneficiary of many different assets - your IRA; 401(k), 403(b), or other qualified retirement plan; life insurance policy; commercial annuity contract; bank account; or brokerage account.

Charitable Remainder Trust

A charitable remainder trust pays you and/or your loved one an income stream for life or a specified number of years. Upon the trust's termination, the charity receives the remaining assets held by the trust.

Charitable Lead Trust

A charitable lead trust makes payments to the charity for your lifetime or a specified number of years. At the end of the trust term, the remaining assets are either returned to you or distributed to your heirs.

Retirement Assets

This includes IRAs (regardless of the type of IRA) and most qualified retirement plans, such as 401(k) and 403(b) plans. Request a Beneficiary Designation Form from your plan administrator and designate the charity of your choosing as a beneficiary of either a percent or a dollar amount.

Life Insurance Policies and Commercial Annuity Contracts

Simply complete and return to the insurance company a form designating that your selected charity will receive all or a portion of the death benefit associated with a life insurance policy or the remaining contract value, if any, associated with a commercial annuity.

Bank Account

You can instruct your bank to pay to your selected charity all or a portion of what remains in a checking or savings account. Your bank can provide you with the appropriate beneficiary designation form.

Investment Account

You can instruct your investment company to transfer to your selected charity some or all investments held in the account at the time of your passing. Your broker or agent can let you know the process for doing this.

Outright Gifts of Other Assets

You may contribute not only cash and securities, but also, in some cases, real estate, savings bonds and commercial annuities. Employee stock options may or may not be transferable, depending on your company's plan. Even if they are not transferable, you can arrange charitable gifts so that the tax payable upon exercise of the options will be substantially reduced.

Overall, there is a wide range of ways people can give. Make sure to talk with your financial and legal advisors to learn more about which ways make sense for you.



Directory Listing of Services

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

Directory Listing - May 2015

Ultimate Health For Dogs

Liquid Dog Vitamins Formula

"Protect Your Dog Naturally..."

Order Directly Online at:

www.UltimateHealthForDogs.com

360.264.7526

John@UltimateHealthForDogs.com

Estate Planning and Charitable Giving

Frank Selden Law, PS

Bellevue, WA * 425.990.1021

frank@frankseldenlaw.com

www.frankseldenlaw.com

Masonic Aprons - Regalia - Embroidery

Masonic Graphics Designs and Projects

GSL Graphics, LLC - G. Santy Lascano, Proprietor

123 Alder Street, Everett WA 98303

Tel. 425.200.0594 or 425.350.5371

Email - g.santy@comcast.net



Internet Access, Domain Hosting, Website hosting

Telebyte NW Internet Services

PO Box 3162, Silverdale WA 98383

Tel. 360-613-5220

Email - info@telebyte.com

Adamson and Associates

Planning and Management Solutions

Local Government management studies

Strategic Planning, land use planning

John R. Adamson, President

Phone 253-848-0977

Ashlar Realty

A full service real estate company

1805 Hewitt Ave. Everett, WA 98201

Broker: Boe Lindgren

Tel. 206-391-6224

E-mail: boe@AshlarRealty.com

1805 Limousine

Affordable limousine service for friends

1805 Hewitt Ave. Everett, WA 98201

Tel. 206-391-6224

Facebook: 1805 LIMO

E-mail: boe@1805Hewitt.com

www.BoeDeal.com

Find savings on cell phones (& service)

Television, ADT, Gas, & Electric.

1805 Hewitt Ave, Everett, WA 98201

Tel. 206-391-6224

E-mail: boe@lindgren.com

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



INVICTUS
Laser and Engraving

Romy Labonete
360-649-3554
romylabonete@yahoo.com
Facebook @Invictus Laser

Everett Masonic Center

Space for Rent for Business Office

120 People capacity Party Room w/ Kitchen

234 Olympic Blvd., Everett WA 98201

E-mail - Pat Marlatt - patrickmarlatt@comcast.net