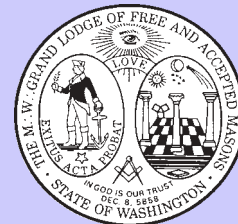


Masonic

Tribune

Winter 2007 Vol. LXXXVIII No. 3



GRAND MASTERS MESSAGE

FROM WHENCE DID YOU COME?

Warm fraternal greetings to all of my Brothers. Our travels around the jurisdiction and visits to many Lodges have been both fun and informative. My general feeling is that Freemasonry in Washington is in great condition and is poised on the brink of greatness. Thank you all for the hard work you have put into making your Lodges successful.

In the past few months we have lost many prominent Masons from our ranks due to being called to the Celestial Lodge. I am going to mention but three of them in this commentary, even though there are others that deserve mention. First we lost Very Worshipful Brother Ron Brodzinski of Tri-Cities last Autumn, in December Most Worshipful Brother Frank Ulins of Wenatchee departed and in January Very Worshipful Brother John Brewer of Pullman departed. Each of these Brothers were good and true Masons in their own right, and all of us should take a moment right now to remember them and their families.....

All three of these Brothers, as many of the rest of us, never forgot from whence they came. No matter what honors they received from Scottish Rite, York Rite, Shrine or any other organization of which they were a member; no greater distinction can be given us than to be greeted and recognized as a Master Mason. In all that these Brothers did they thought of themselves as Blue Lodge Masons first, last and always. Their conduct and commitment to our Craft demonstrated that love for and dedication to Freemasonry.

In our installation ceremony the Secretary is told that, "As the prosperity and success of the Lodge in a great measure depends upon the ability, faithfulness and assiduity of the Secretary...". I suggest



to you, my Brothers, that this is a Charge that each of us should take personally. We cannot set back and expect others to do the work just because they have the collar of office and we do not. The prosperity and success of our Lodges and Masonry, in general, depends on the ability, faithfulness and assiduity of each of us. Never forget from whence you came. Work in your Lodges for the betterment of that Lodge and Freemasonry. Attend and support you Master and officers. Apply your abilities using the Working Tools of Masonry to make your Lodge the best it can be.

In closing, I would remind you that our Annual Communication is fast approaching. We will be in Tri-Cities on June 14-16. As I have stated in many encounters with my Brothers, ALL Master Masons are invited and encouraged to attend. We will have great fun this year and we have some very important work before us to further the future of Freemasonry in Washington. I am looking forward to seeing you in June.

Never forget from whence you came!
MW Charles W. McQuery
Grand Master

CITY OF FEDERAL WAY HONORS LANDMARK ON THE SOUND WITH PROCLAMATION Des Moines Community Recognized For Services Offered During Wind Storm Recovery

SEATTLE – Landmark On The Sound, a new non-profit community for people 62 and better, was honored by the City of Federal Way with a proclamation naming January 2, 2007 "Landmark On The Sound Day." Landmark On The Sound opened the doors of the 1926 Building, known in the region as "The Castle," as a Red Cross shelter following the historical wind storm in December. The property, which is owned by the Grand Lodge

of Washington, has been a staple in the community since 1926.

During the days following the storm, over 100 people stayed at the shelter from South Sound communities including Des Moines and Federal Way. According to The Red Cross, area shelters served nearly 200 people and over 520 meals. "We are

(continued on page two)

Grand Lodge Elected Officers

Grand Master
MW Charles W. McQuery
Deputy Grand Master
RW Wayne L. Smith
Senior Grand Warden
RW Douglas E. Tucker
Junior Grand Warden
RW Gale H. Kenny
Grand Secretary
RW David P. Owen

Deputy Grand Master
Message page 2

Senior Grand Warden
Messagepage 3

Junior Grand Warden
Messagepage 3

Grand Secretary
Message.....page 4

Technology
.....Page 5

Youth Groups
.....Page 6

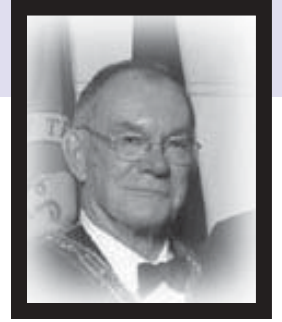
Masonic Tribune Staff

Editor
VW Donald M. Watkins
Staff
W Robert George
W Anthony Schwab
W Kenneth Thompson

Grand Lodge Hot Line
1-800-628-4732

Let's "Walk the Talk". *We care.*

By RW Wayne Smith



As I think about our programs that have really caught fire, two dynamic examples come particularly to mind. They both promote Masonic philosophies, tenets and our Grand Master's motto — "Walk the Talk". Two words succinctly describe both these programs and what we as Masons do well: *We care.*

CHIP's

First, consider CHIP's, our Children Identification Programs. This valuable service assists parents or guardians of young children, and our law enforcement agencies, by providing critical information at a time when it's most needed — in the tragic event a child is lost or missing. When you think about all that a responsible adult must be able to instantly provide to police in such a terrifying circumstance, I suspect any one of us would be sorely tested. Thanks to CHIP's, participating adults are prepared ahead of time, with a complete packet containing a current video of their youngster, and his or her DNA samples, dental impressions, fingerprints, date of birth and physical description. The package which each of these adults receives from CHIP's is entirely confidential — Masonry does not retain any of the documentation, with the exception of the consent form authorizing us to proceed in the initial compilation of their youngster's profile.

Is the CHIP's program "expensive"? Yes, somewhat...but the cost is insignificant compared to the consequences of delaying law enforcement's attempts to locate the vulnerable youngster because of incomplete or inaccurate details. A portion of CHIP's costs is borne by community groups, professionals, businesses, and grants. What can Masons do to help "chip" away at CHIP's costs? Make sure that you purchase at least one of the Grand Master's commemorative coins. *All* of the profits from the sale of these commemoratives go directly to CHIP's. In addition, some Lodges have made sizeable monetary donations, and others have sponsored CHIP's events within their communities, financially as well as with labor and facilities. Contact your District Deputy to purchase the GM's commemorative coin; contact your Worshipful Master to learn more about your Lodge's sponsorship or support of a CHIP's event.

BIKES 4 BOOKS

The second exemplary program is Bikes 4 Books ("B4B"). Many Lodges across our jurisdiction have adopted this program as the very best way to promote reading and literacy amongst elementary school children. As our Grand Master has stated many times, "If a child cannot read, they cannot succeed".

Every school, public or private, already has a reading program. Rather than attempt to impose some new program, we instead offer Bikes 4 Books as a means for schools to enhance their existing reading curriculum. While we do not impose requirements, we do discuss with each school how Bikes 4 Books has worked to the advantage of children in other schools. Probably the most common approach to successful utilization of Bikes 4 Books is for a specific grade, or several grades, in a school to reward participating students with a raffle ticket for each book he or she reads. The teacher or school sets the standard for winning a ticket. Usually, it is required that the book be age/grade appropriate. Frequently, a teacher will query a student, to insure

that they have in fact read the book; sometimes, a short book report is required, to promote reading comprehension.

The sponsoring Lodge normally provides two bicycles, AND helmets, for each quarter or semester of the school year. The bicycles and helmets are sometimes purchased outright, but it is common for a participating Lodge to approach a community business to partner with them. This partnership arrangement may mean a discount of the retail price, or a "buy one/get one free" agreement. To encourage local businesses to join in the Bikes 4 Books partnership, we have arranged with the Grand Lodge Library and Museum Foundation, a 501.c.(3) non-profit corporation, to provide an IRS EIN number, so a business can declare its contribution as tax deductible.

The bicycles are then strategically displayed within the school for that quarter/semester, to whet the youngsters' reading appetites, and encourage their participation. As a ticket is earned, it is deposited into a barrel (or similar receptacle); at the end of the term/semester, both a boy's and a girl's name is drawn as the winners. Some schools have carried this further, with additional incentives. But the end result remains constant — improved reading skills.

Our Grand Master has created a "Lodge Scholarship Assistance" fund, to help provide seed money to any Lodge that does not have adequate finances to initiate their Bikes 4 Books program. A Lodge in this situation may apply privately to the GM by letter or e-mail. To fund our GM's Lodge Scholarship Assistance endeavor, a handsome Masonic ring is being raffled. Tickets for a chance to win this keepsake are only \$5 each — the more tickets you buy, the better your chances! (Attend your upcoming District or Regional meeting to purchase a handful.) The drawing will be held at Grand Lodge, at the Fellowship Banquet, June 14th, in Kennewick.

Contact a member of the Public Schools Outreach Committee or any of the Grand Lodge elected officers to learn more about how your Lodge can help its community and youth through Bikes 4 Books.

Brethren, let's keep up our good work and support of these programs. In doing so, we increase Masonry's visibility in our communities. Let's "Walk the Talk". *We care.*

CITY OF FEDERAL WAY HONORS LANDMARK ON THE SOUND

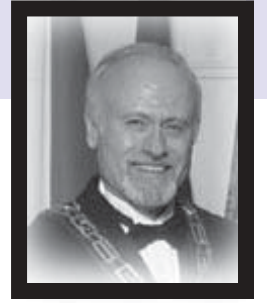
(Continued from page one)

extremely honored to be recognized with a Proclamation from the City of Federal Way," comments Jane Ipsen, CEO of Landmark On The Sound. "It is our mission to help people, it's what the fraternity is all about, and we certainly are glad we were in a position to be of assistance."

To demonstrate their gratitude for our "true spirit of community service", the city of Federal Way issued a formal Proclamation, dedicating January 2, 2007 as "Landmark On The Sound Day!" We are deeply honored by this recognition.

Clear Communications A Necessity

By RWB Douglas E. Tucker



It has been said that communications is the illusion that an event has happened. In many cases, unfortunately the event stays past tense because of poor planning or inadequate notification. This is not a problem unique to our craft, but it certainly is, too frequently a part of it.

All too often the planners of an event make the assumption that everyone knows as much as they do when in reality this is hardly the case, especially, when many of the attendees will be coming from outside the local area.

For there to be truly effective communications from the planning side of the event, all necessary information concerning it must be broken out to the basic elementary level. Remember, just because you know when, where and how does not necessarily mean everyone else knows.

Is there a physical address to your functions? Be sure to publish it in your invitation. Many people traveling nowadays have GPS systems that will bring them right to the doorstep.

Now let us look at the responsibility of communications from the attendees. Believe me, this is not an indictment on any one particular individual or group, but on every one of us. All invitations to district receptions of the Grand Master, regional workshops, etc., require notification to the deputy of that district or the coordinator of the event so the proper amount of supplies can be obtained and purchased. The sooner they have been made aware of your intentions the easier the job will be appropriating the necessary items.



Hello, brethren. I wanted to talk to you about one of the most important assets that we have in this great fraternity, our youth. You have heard the phrase that “our youth are the future leaders of tomorrow” many, many times in the meetings of our concordant and appendant bodies. These eight little words are so very relevant to the growth of our fraternity, but so many times I hear the phrase and it seems like it has fallen on deaf ears. As our Grand Master says, we must “Walk the Talk.” We must do more than just echo the phrase; we must take the necessary action to show that these words are not just platitudes and empty words, but words of action and support, words of encouragement and caring, words of hope for the future.

I have been involved with Job’s Daughters for the past 24 years, at the local Bethel level and at the State level on various committees and as Associate Grand Guardian. I could not think of a more rewarding experience than that of giving of my time to help at the Bethel Council level working with the adults and daughters. To watch these young women develop from shy little girls always looking down at their feet and the floor, to poised young women holding the office of Honored Queen; planning and running their meetings with confidence and poise, knowing their ritual and floor work and the administrative duties that go with the office. They have become the leaders of tomorrow with a toolbox full of tools in leadership skills and abilities. To watch how these young daughters cross the age differences between that of a shy 10 year old and the

Brethren, it does not take that much time to notify those in charge of a function of your intentions. As a matter of fact, it is down right rude to ignore a request to RSVP. For those who are not aware, RSVP is French for “respond si vous plait” translated to “respond if you please”. It is a courtesy that, even we as a craft have over time, ignored.

I have even seen this happen on a larger scale at conferences for the elected grand lines throughout this country. People are just showing up with no notification whatsoever. This throws a planning committee into a panic, because now they may need to make some last minute arrangements that could cost extra of which they had not counted.

If you find you will not be able to attend at the last moment for whatever reason, send the person in charge compensation for your dinner. It was purchased on your behalf, so compensate your host for his kindness, and accompany it with an appropriate apology.

Brethren, these are things we already know. We have just become sloppy and lazy in our application of them.

Respectfully submitted,

RWB Douglas E. Tucker, SGW

Why Youth?

By RW Gale H. Kenney

more mature 20 year old, mentoring and helping each other regardless of age, is priceless.

I know that all three of our youth groups are important to each and every one of us and we want to see them grow and succeed. The result of working with our Job’s Daughters, Rainbow for Girls and DeMolay can not be measured. Those adults who work with our youth know of what I speak. The excitement that our youth derive at having visitors sitting on the side lines is so very encouraging to each and every one of them, and they are so very proud of showing us how well they can preside at their meetings; but all of this will be for not if we as adults do not support and actively become involved with our bethels, assemblies and chapters. Many of our youth groups are barely surviving, not only for lack of members, but more importantly, for lack of good, quality adult involvement and supervision. A couple of meetings a month is not much to ask for. We are all busy in our daily lives, but we should not be so busy that we can’t take the time to invest in our future. If we don’t take the time to nurture our youth, but instead turn our back on them, then they will surely parish and disappear. I for one do not wish to see this happen and I know that you do not want to either. Please take the time to get involved and visit a Bethel, assembly or chapter; you will be glad that you did.

So Mote It Be

RWB Gale H. Kenney, JGW

Temple Boards – Why update?

By RW David P. Owen



Over our Masonic history Lodges have formed various types of Corporations for the general purpose of managing real estate for Masonic Entities. The Washington Masonic Code (WMC) requires such formations to receive the approval of both the

Grand Lodge Committee on Jurisprudence and the Grand Master. The WMC reads in Chapter 12 and 21:

Sec. 12.06 B.L.

Incorporation of Bodies for Masonic Purposes. No Mason or group of Masons shall organize or sponsor any incorporated body for any declared Masonic purpose, without permission of the Grand Master and the Committee on Jurisprudence.

Sec. 21.08 B.L.

Title Holding Corporations.

1. A Mason, or a group of Masons, may organize or support an incorporated body for the purpose of holding title to Lodge property under the following conditions:
 - A. Adopt Articles of Incorporation and Corporation By-Laws on forms specified by the Grand Lodge,
 - B. Submit the forms, in duplicate to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall transmit the copies to the Committee on Jurisprudence who, after signatures of approval, shall forward the forms to the Grand Master. If disapproved by the Committee the forms will be returned to the incorporators for changes; and
 - C. Corporation By-Laws, approved by the Grand Master, shall be effective immediately but subject to confirmation by the Grand Lodge at the next Annual Communication. A copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Corporation By-Laws shall be transmitted to the Grand Secretary so as to become a matter of record. The original Articles of Incorporation and Corporation By-Laws, and one copy, shall be returned to the Corporation.
2. The Articles of Incorporation and Corporation By-Laws may provide for sharing of ownership, management and control of real and personal property by and for the benefit of both Masons and non-Masons, or by and for the benefit of a Constituent Lodge or of Masons only, regardless of profit motive or tax-exempt status, provided, however, that no Lodge shall transfer its right, title or interest in any real or personal property to any such title-holding corporation whose Articles of Incorporation do not specifically provide that the net assets of such corporation shall be distributed to the transferring Lodge, or to the Grand Lodge, according to the Lodge's "Contribution Percentages" upon dissolution of such corporation,

3. Amendments to Articles of Incorporation and Corporation By-Laws must be submitted in quintuplicate for the approval of the Grand Master and the Committee on Jurisprudence on forms specified by the Grand Lodge;
4. All accumulated annual corporate income, in excess of cash reserve necessary to pay:
 - annual expenses of operation
 - maintenance and repairs
 - taxes and insurance
 - other current expensesshall be distributed to the Lodge(s) based upon its share of ownership of the corporation; and
7. To maintain the separate identity of the Lodge and Title-Holding Corporation, the incumbent Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden shall be ineligible to serve as officers of the Corporation except as members of the Board of Trustees.

Now some of you might ask, why is it Grand Lodges business what we as a Lodge do? The simple answer is that the liability originating from a Lodge flows up hill. Another very relevant answer is that the Grand Lodge has a "duty" to insure that both civil and Masonic laws are adhered to.

Last year Most Worshipful Grand Master, Alvin W. Jorgensen started a process requiring **ALL** Temple Boards (Title Holding Corporations) or any thing resembling the same to update their Articles and Bylaws with the Grand Lodge standard forms. Again this year Most Worshipful Grand Master, Charles W. McQuery affirmed these actions and the other elected Grand Lodge officers will insist on compliance. Brothers it is not going to go away with the passing of the Grand Master from year-to-year. WE all have an obligation and commitment to follow the rules and regulations of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Washington. **DON'T BLOW IT OFF!**

In this years' legislation is the requirement that all Lodges with real estate will incorporate and use the Grand Lodge standard forms. We need to protect the future of Masonry in Washington State. In today's ever increasing litigious environment we can not be naive and think that it won't happen to me. The Building Corporation is an excellent entity for preserving and protecting members of the Lodge and Grand Lodge. The simple truth is we must follow the rules.

Oh by the way the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens can not be officers of the Corporation, but can serve as members of the Board of Trustees.

Brethren if you have any questions concerning the forms or are having problems with the Secretary of State please do not hesitate to give me a call at the Grand Lodge office or at home if necessary. God Bless this Great Fraternity and remember, "IT IS A GREAT DAY TO BE A MASON."

Brethren

If you change your address, or know of someone who has, Please contact your Lodge Secretary and let him know a.s.a.p. to insure continued communications.

Technological Challenges

By VW G. Santy Lascano



Our forefathers have established ideals that we adhere to as we move forward and carry on the traditions of Freemasonry. Looking ahead to the future there is a need for us to reconsider these ideals and try our best to live them in parallel with the change of times. Very recently there is a significant change in the way we live our lives due to the fast phased development of technology. These changes affect how we do things in our daily livelihood. There are several aspects to consider on how these changes correlate with how we follow on to the traditions of our fraternity. As we move along, we tend to overlook some of these changes and just focus on the traditional nature of our actions. It is indeed a great feeling to enjoy the benefits and appreciate the values of the craft, but we have to be aware of the fact that we have to institute changes to support the future well being of our beloved institution. Our leaders are in a constant search of ideas that will promote these changes but very carefully so to protect our ancient landmarks. Our duty as members of this Grand Jurisdiction is to stay positive and support the challenges they face in implementing the changes.

Grand Lodge Insurance Policy – Liquor

1) When do you need a liquor license? When a non-profit is selling spirits, wine, or beer (alcohol) to be consumed on the premises and/or when selling the same in unopened containers to be consumed off-premises. See WAC 314-05-020. If you are simply serving alcohol (but not selling it), your lodge does not need a special occasion license.

(2) When do you need to add liquor liability insurance for an event? The Grand Lodge liability policy does not provide coverage for claims arising out of the sale of alcohol. This means that if your lodge holds an event, such as a fundraiser, and the members or the general public must pay for their alcohol, you need to add Liquor Liability insurance for the event.

For example, under the Grand Lodge liability policy, a Masonic Lodge has an Oktoberfest Festival with a beer garden open to members and guests. If a guest slips and falls, unrelated to the serving of alcohol, the insurance policy will cover the damages. But a different result occurs when the damages are related to liquor liability. For example, an intoxicated guest leaves the festival and crashes his car into a neighbor's fence. The neighbor sues the Masonic Lodge and the guest. The Masonic Lodge may be liable. The insurance policy in place will cover the lawsuit if guests were not charged for the alcohol. If the guests had to pay for the beer, the policy will not cover the lawsuit, unless the Lodge obtained an additional liquor liability policy for the Oktoberfest party.

If you are planning an event where you will be selling alcohol, or if you have questions about whether you need to add liquor liability coverage for a specific event, please contact Payne Financial Group, 1-877-455-6767 in advance of your event.

Our Long Range Planning Committee has long term objectives of maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of our vision as a Grand Jurisdiction. In due process the committee has identified several key objectives that will assist in achieving our goals and live the Grand Lodge vision with excellence. The Membership Development Committee has been providing us with valuable information to assist us in improving the way we take care not only of our prospective members, but also in maintaining our active membership. The Leadership Training Committee moves around the jurisdiction to provide functional workshops on resourceful topics for self improvement to make us better capable in the management of our lodges. These are just a few of the committees that are always ready and willing to support us. Their approach is to work with the individual Mason and their lodges to find opportunities where our goals can be achieved in a manner balanced and in parallel with the technologically challenged world we live in.

The new wave of members that are coming into the fraternity has a totally different perspective on how they look at the way we operate. We need to initiate changes and show them that we can keep abreast with the changing world while preserving the good nature of our institution. We need to identify positive ideas and work with our committees in getting them implemented. Let us look into our established goals and objectives and reevaluate them to synchronize them with the changes. Monitor the changes and measure your successes. Be consistent, document the process, validate, revalidate and refine the metrics set to achieve these goals. Let us work together as one and uphold the brighter future of our fraternity with pride.

Always do good for Freemasonry and your community, always do good for somebody who is trying to do good for Freemasonry and his community and always stay positive in all the challenges we face as Freemasons and as citizens of the world.

Attention all Motorcycle Enthusiasts

The Grand Master has given us permission to form a Chapter of the "Masonic Motorcycle Club International" in our Jurisdiction. If you are interested please send an e-mail to VWB Steve Guffy at steveg@genext.net. Please include the following information: Your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and your Lodge name and number. You have the chance to be a Charter Member of this Chapter.

Our Masonic Youth Groups

By WB Steve Wilt

Brethren for those of you unfamiliar with our Masonic Youth Groups I would like to take a few minutes to explain to you one of the best kept secrets in Masonry. A few months ago in Yakima, I completed my year long term as the Washington Idaho State Rainbow Dad. The experience was culminated with not only celebrating the 80th year of Washington Idaho Rainbow at Grand Assembly but I was given the great honor of receiving the Grand Master's Masonic Youth Award.

Being a retired Naval Officer with 28 years of Service, I had in my career received many awards and decorations. I can honestly say that none meant more to me than having the honor of being selected as the 2005 - 2006 State Rainbow Dad and receiving the Grand Master's Award. I wish I had the talent to put into words the joy I received serving in this position and being part of this wonderful organization. I have met so many hard working, dedicated young women, who's only desire was to further their organization and live the life of a Rainbow Girl's promise; which by the way follows the basic tenants of Masonry.

I wish to relay how Rainbow personally helped me in my time of need. Earlier this year I had a tragic personal loss, when my wife of 32 years was suddenly diagnosed with a terminal disease and passed on 3 weeks later. I can not begin to tell you the unbearable pain I felt, the loneliness and the huge empty hole centered in my chest. I even considered resigning my State Rainbow Dad position because I just didn't see how I could continue on and support this wonderful organization - the way it deserves to be supported. On a trip to Eastern Washington, I was telling Mrs. Barbara Brown our Supreme Inspector of Washington Idaho I.O.R.G. my thoughts. She looked at me and said, "Steve I will not let you resign". You will need Rainbow more then ever to support you through your time of need. She then relayed to me her own personal story of loss and how it was Rainbow that got her through her sorrow. Brethren I am glad I listened to her because she was correct; why did I doubt. Those young women understood my loss and pain far better than most adults. They did not need to ask how I was doing or how I felt. I could see in their young faces and in their eyes the concern, sympathy and yes fraternal love. Their hugs were the best medicine I could ever have and yes they did help me get through the first dark days and still do! I owe them and this organization far more then I can ever repay.

So now I would like to suggest to you what you can do to help our Youth Bodies. First; I would like apologize to our two other Youth Bodies Demolay and Jobs Daughters. I have not intentionally neglected your groups. I chose Rainbow because of my familiarity with the organization. But the problems facing our Youth Groups are indicative to each group. Yes, the Assemblies, Chapters and Bethels could use your financial support, but what they really need is your "physical" support by attending their functions in what ever capacity you can. Do you enjoy ritual? Some of the best ritual I have seen in Masonry is done by the Youth Groups; attend a local meeting. Do you have time to help them at their events, maybe by driving or being a chaperone? Help rejuvenate a Demolay Chapter. You are never too old. The real point here is **get involved Brethren**; the reward and satisfaction is well worth the outlay. Don't know how to reach a youth group or

Disney Membership Trip Renamed to Honor a Wonderful Brother

By VW John Henry Williams

This letter is to inform you of the progress the Rainbow Girls in Washington and Idaho are making in their efforts to stem the downswing of membership in their assemblies. There is no longer a negative number but instead we gained in our ranks; be it only a few, the change is significant.

Last year a new Membership Incentive Program went into place which helped to assist in that change. Each girl who is the first line signer on a petition has her name entered into a drawing for a trip to Disneyland in the form of a \$2,000.00 travel voucher. Each time she is the first line signer, her name is entered. The more girls she brings in, the more times her name is entered. Each new initiate's name is entered as well. The drawing will be made at Grand Assembly each year. The winner needs to be present in order to collect her prize. I would also like to take this opportunity to announce the new name for the Disney Trip. It will be know as the Lew Rambo Memorial Membership Disney Trip in honor of a wonderful supporter of Rainbow. Lew devoted countless hours to helping the girls of Washington and Idaho, it is only fitting we honor him memory in a way that will bring joy to each years recipient.

This program proved to be a huge success. We are following last year's success with another trip to be awarded this coming year at the 2007 Grand Assembly. The money is raised by various means and through donations made to Grand Assembly earmarked for that specific purpose.

The youth groups of today are potential members of the Fraternity tomorrow.

Should you require any additional information or have any questions, I would be delighted to hear from you. Donation can be mailed to

Membership Trip
P.O. Box 33787
Seattle, Washington 98133

**Please remember to make the check payable to
IORG Disney Trip.**

With warmest personal and fraternal regards,

John Henry Williams
Disney Trip Fundraising Coordinator
williamsjh@aol.com
206-546-7972

your lodge does not have one; please contact me at steve.wilt@wavecable.com, or by phone at (360) 876-4272 and I will get you connected. Thanks for listening to a firm supporter of our Youth Groups – Our future leaders!

WB Steve Wilt
PM, Port Orchard Lodge #98

Update on damage to the Masonic Park

Terry Gibbs, Chairman
Masonic Park Board

Kenneth Thompson, President
Masonic Park Executive Committee

Brethren All,

In late November, an email was sent out concerning the damage that was encountered by the Pineapple Express Storm at the Masonic Park in Granite Falls, Washington. The Masonic Park experienced a substantial amount of damage this year, not only from the unusual flooding of the Pineapple Express, but also encountered a heavy snowstorm, an ice storm and hurricane force windstorm and it wasn't even winter yet.

The employees at the park have been quite busy making some temporary repair to the park for preparation this spring, when we can get a good start on the restoration project for the park. Large amount of rocks and other materials can be recycled from the park, however, gravel, lumber, and other miscellaneous construction material cannot. The repairs estimates are in with the total estimated damage to the park by all these storms figures in at approximately \$86,500. We are hoping to enjoy some major reduction in this figure through the efforts of volunteer labor and donated material, however, there is still a concern over the necessary finances to ensure a restoration project that we all can be proud of.

The following items are presently being attended to at this time, but at this time have not been completed:

1. We had a main water line rupture, which drained the water tank and our employees were without water for several days. With the required digging and line repairs, the cost for this item was approximately \$2,340. Water service has been reestablished to part of the park with additional work still being required to establish water service to the rest of the park.
2. Secondly, the main electrical power lines for the park received major damage. There were 20 spans of wire and several poles broken off, as well as large amounts of damage to some electrical hardware. The estimate for repairs totaled \$25,000, which includes poles, one roll of wire, hardware, and installation. Work still continues on this project to bring power to the entire park.
3. Work has begun on the repairs to the lower roads by the creek, the roads are usable but they all still require extensive work

The following items received extensive damage and work will begin on these items this spring:

1. The flood washed out the old culverts and the road. We will need to install a new oversized culvert at the lower pond drain, across the road. The estimate for repairs is approximately \$3,000.
2. General road repairs to all the lower roads from flood damage have been estimated at \$8,500.
3. Repairs to the open-air lodge: Upon initial inspection, there was severe speaker wire and seating damage. The tier seating around the lodge room will need to be rebuilt

and re-graveled. Estimated cost for repair of the open-air lodge area is approximately \$6,000.

4. Required repairs to the roof on the big kitchen, caused by tree damage have been estimated at approximately \$500.
5. The rebuilding of shelter 58 and the Maple Grove (area 3) from damage caused by the flooding is estimated at \$3,000.
6. Rebuilding the canyon creek bank and reinforcing the areas that took heavy flood damage at an estimated \$30,000.
7. Relocate and repair the Al Jorge shelter in area 1 and repair the ground damage at the estimate cost of \$3,000.
8. Rebuild the small Whidbey 15 shelter by the swimming hole at an estimated cost of \$3,000.
9. Repair dividers between the fishponds: Two of the dividers will need repairs done to them and one will need to be replaced completely. Estimate repairs for this project will be \$1,900.

A special account has been opened at Key Bank for the sole purpose of the Masonic Park Restoration. If you would like to make a gift or donation by cash, check or money order, please mail it to Masonic Park, PO Box 1379, Granite Falls, and WA 98252. For those desiring to make a gift or donation by use of your credit card, the Masonic Park has opened a PayPal account (masonicpark@msn.com). Please be sure to designate your donation to "Masonic Park Restoration Fund." For further information, please contact Fred or Paula Turner, our Park Managers, at 360-691-6641 or email them at turnermasprk@msn.com

It Begins With a Plan

By VWB Michael L. Sanders
Chairman, Long Range Planning Committee

I received a telephone call the other day from my brother. He is a past-master of a small lodge in Illinois, just outside of Chicago. He was excited to tell me that his lodge had performed two Entered Apprentice Degrees the previous evening. "It has been years since we have had two EA's at one time." he said. He then went on. "There seems to be something going on all over our district. Nearly every lodge has new candidates coming in."

I told him how great I thought that was, but then added "Eric, you want to know something even better? New candidates are coming into our fraternity all over the country. We are definitely experiencing that here in Washington. Men, both young and old, are looking for what we have to offer: Values. They want to be associated with people who care about right and wrong, who want to improve their community, and build strong families. They want to be Masons." (*Just in case you are wondering, I'm really not that fast on my feet. I have given that little speech before.*)

Right now our fraternity is poised to experience growth like we have not seen in several decades. The question is: Is your lodge ready for it? No one wants to join an inactive lodge. Are you

(Continued on page 9)

At Last, a Place to Host Your Website!

By WB Jim Kendall, Co-Chair Technology Committee

After seemingly endless planning, countless committee meetings, technology changes, compromising, debating, emailing, phone calls, and all the usual painful process of decision making, we finally have a solution to creating and hosting our Lodge Websites.

Grand Lodge has arranged for a dedicated server that will be programmed specifically and solely for hosting Lodge Websites. This server is being installed and configured to be ready for hosting no later than the end of March, 2007, with select lodges as "early adapters" to help us work out the kinks.

The Grand Lodge has agreed to provide the "seed money" to get this started. A nominal fee will be charged each lodge for hosting. This is an excellent service for lodges and another part of our Long Range Plan is coming to fruition. We are "Walking The Talk" and the Technology Committee believes the costs are reasonable.

How it will work:

The server will be configured to provide common Masonic graphics files (images, logo's, etc) for easy access, and a "generic" website will be provided that participating Lodges can then modify to make it specific to that individual lodge. You can use this generic website or create your own, with some restrictions. The intent is to provide a complete website but without excess "bells and whistles." The server will not support Frontpage Extensions for example, however you can create your website using MS Frontpage. These MS Frontpage Extensions are unique to MS Frontpage and are not "standard" to HTML website creation and hosting.

Each participating lodge will have the option of using the established domain (www.bluelodge-wa.org/yourlodge) or you can register your own domain with the provider.

Why this is a good thing:

With a server dedicated to our Fraternity, there is no competition for resources with other customers (server and internet for example). The dedicated server allows us to configure the server to our specific needs, including any special features we may wish to add later. One such feature that we *will* add, for example, is a common calendar that will permit activities to be posted for all to see.

Lodges can easily share information and Masonic education resources, making them readily available to all hosted lodges.

As the process matures more features will be added and existing features refined. The Masonic content will expand with use and will prove another invaluable resource for our fraternity.

Getting started:

The fee to participate is a one-time fee of \$15 to set up the website and create the account, and \$10/mo thereafter. The \$10/mo will be used to offset the expense of purchasing the hardware and hosting it, and excess revenue will be returned to Grand Lodge for

additional technology upgrades in support of the lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction. If a lodge wishes to create a domain and host it with this web server, there is no additional monthly fee. If your lodge already has a registered domain, and wishes to move it to this server/website, that can be done as part of the initial setup and there is no additional expense. Registering a new domain can be accomplished with the server hosting company for \$12.95/yr.

The basic fee of \$10 provides access to an account created on the server, access to a pre-created "generic" website that can be (should be) edited for the individual lodge, common graphics and documents (Masonic History, etc), and help with downloading and uploading website files. The "generic site" will have all the elements used to judge "best of class" websites at the annual Stated Communication of Grand Lodge. No additional applications or support (such as databases or webmaster services) will be provided for the basic fee, but can be arranged under contract or fee agreement with the hosting ISP, or a third party of your choice.

To participate, or for more information, email webhost@bluelodge-wa.org, or call 360-613-5220 and ask about the Masonic Lodge Hosting Plan. Once the web server is in service, information will be posted on the website hosting site at www.bluelodge-wa.org. (www.wa-bluelodge.org takes you there as well!)

Wardens Seminar 2007

The Wardens Seminar will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Yakima on March 23-25. Below is the information and the registration form to print and send to the Grand Lodge office. There is also a Child Care Registration form if you require. The deadline for the Registration and Child Care Registration forms is February 23, 2007.

- Wardens Seminar Information
- Registration Form
- Child Care Registration Form

Each Warden, Senior Deacon, and Secretary will receive the above information in the mail. If you have further questions, please contact V\W\Jim Mendoza, 253-686-9122 for questions regarding the seminar or Marty at the Grand Lodge Office, 800-628-4732 or 253-272-3263 for questions regarding registration.

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Washington Freemasons Best Kept Secret!

By Masonic Float Chairman - WB Larry Brown

After seeing movies like the DaVinci Code and National Treasure you probably thought there were no more Masonic secrets left. Well I'm here to tell you that there might be one secret left. That is the fact that the Grand Lodge of Washington has not one but two Masonic floats that our lodges can use to promote masonry in Washington State and beyond.

The "A" float is beautiful in royal blue and white it holds 5 people and has a small bridge going over to a lighted pentagon carrying high in the air, a large coin with the Square and Compass on one side and the emblem of the presiding Grand Master on the other. The smaller "B" float is a majestic blue and silver with room for the driver and one passenger and has logos around the sides from our Masonic concordant bodies and a large Square and Compass on the back.

I'm still amazed when I'm talking to a brother who either doesn't know we have floats or has heard of them but never seen them. Whether it's 50,000 people seeing our float in a televised parade or 500 people seeing it live in your home town's parade, I believe that the Masonic floats are our BEST tools for marketing our craft to the public. When was the last time the Masonic float was in your community?

Sponsoring the Masonic float is quite easy. Just fill out a Parade Request form, that is available from the Grand Lodge web page, mail it along with a check to the committee chairman. If the date is available, he'll add your parade to the calendar and when the date rolls around, we'll be in your town, ready to parade.

Who marches with the float? If you're the sponsoring lodge, then you decide. My suggestion is to get as many brothers



possible in their regalia to ride or march along then include members of concordant bodies like Eastern Star, Amaranth, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Daughters of the Nile, Ladies Oriental Shrine, etc. AND DON'T FORGET OUR YOUTH GROUPS! If you want to add excitement and animation to your parade experience, include several Rainbow's, Jobies, and DeMolay and YOU'VE GOT EXCITEMENT!

The place where we have built many of our floats in the past is being torn down. The Masonic Float Committee is looking for a place we can build and refurbish our floats, store equipment and supplies. I was wondering if we might have a brother who has some space in a convenient Seattle-Tacoma area location for our use. If so, please contact Masonic Float Chairman - WB Larry Brown.

The parade season is starting and we're looking forward to hearing from you and coming to your town.

It Begins With a Plan

(Continued from page 7)

making your presence known in your community? Are you actively participating in community events and good charitable causes? Do you have a website? Is your building well marked? Can people find you? Is your membership program ready to handle the inquiries, degrees, and education that will undoubtedly come your way when men begin to see who you are? If not, now is the time to get started. And it all begins with a plan. The Grand Lodge Long Range Planning Committee is anxious to show you how to identify what is important to your lodge, help you set goals, and assist you to design a program to achieve them, and we'll all have fun while we do it.

The men of your community are waiting for you.





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Jan 2006

MARK YOUR CALENDAR GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION KENNEWICK – JUNE 13 – 16


By VW Norm Watts, Chairman, Arrangments

Hotel reservations are being made at a rapid rate. Please call one of the hotels on the published list and make your reservation soon as there is a soccer tournament that same weekend. Your committee has tried to make this Grand Lodge of 2007 a memorable one.

There is a golf tournament at Canyon Lakes Golf Course on Wednesday, the 13th, at 12 noon with a “shotgun start”. It will be a “scramble” for everyone who would like to join in the fun. After the golf, there will be trophies and prizes awarded followed by a barbecue for golfers and non-golfers. If you are playing golf, be sure to make your hotel reservation for the extra day.

Grand Lodge in the Tri-Cities will be one to remember. There is so much to do in the area before and after Grand Lodge. Come and enjoy with us.

Masonic License Plates
The “Help Kids Speak” license plates



The revenue generated will go to the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders program

The Mission of Freemasonry

From Rex R. Hutchens,
Grand Master of Masons in Arizona
in his August/September 2006 message

“Pico della Mirandola (1463-1494), in his Oration on the Dignity of Man, noted, “whatever seeds each man cultivates will grow to maturity and bear in him their own fruit...” The principle mission of Freemasonry is to encourage the cultivation of the moral virtues and our most explicit statements of this mission are expressed in the Obligations and Charges of the three Degrees. From the very beginning of Freemasonry the actual adherence to this mission has been our greatest challenge. The Charges and Obligations emphasize our relationship to each other. Thus are we obligated not to injure a Brother in his person or good name; interestingly, there is no codicil to the effect that we may do so if he deserves it. The ban is absolute and irreconcilable with any breach, however slight. This duty is a burden greater than some who would call themselves Masonic can bear. We should heed the advice of Albert Pike and carve our Brothers’ virtues in stone and write his vices in sand.”

And later:

“...While the natural tendency of man to try to be, in some way, better than those around him, it should be remembered that the whole point of being a Mason is to strive toward self-improvement. That is, be better – not than other men – than our natural tendencies and inclinations may lead us without the moral compass of duty.”