

Masonic

Tribune



WINTER, 2007 Vol. LXXXVIV No. 2

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Brethren –

It is a GREAT day to be a Mason! And it has been a great year! We are looking forward to a continuation of the true fraternalism, fellowship and cordiality shown to me and all of our Grand Lodge Team members as we travel and visit throughout our remarkable jurisdiction. On behalf of all, THANK YOU.

Since our Grand Communication in June, we have performed a cornerstone ceremony at Skagit Valley Hospital on 18 August in conjunction with our MW Prince Hall brethren; constituted a new Lodge, LuzViMinda, No. 317, on 7 July; re-constituted a number of existing Lodges to commemorate their significant anniversaries; conducted multiple surprise visits of Lodges throughout our jurisdiction; and attended several District Meetings. (So far, we've held 4 District Meetings, with 17 more to come in the next 6 months – for our mathematicians, some of these are “joint” meetings for two Districts.)

In every case, the participation of our Brethren has made these events meaningful and memorable. It seems that when I am asked for comments, I always mention the fraternalism and fellowship that Masons demonstrate, it is only because it is so – and I am truly thankful and proud of your significant support and participation.

One of the great things that we promote in our fraternity is the advent and advantage of “high tech.” Times have changed, and our local Lodges and your Grand Lodge are enjoying the benefits of constant communications (or in today's vernacular, 24/7). On our Grand Lodge website is my calendar (Grand Master's itinerary), and information about many of our programs. Please check it frequently. We can keep our costs low and information up-to-date, by utilizing the GL website.

During their visitations to our many Lodges, your GL team has found that those Lodges with websites seem to be doing better in connecting with potential candidates, and reading and balloting on more petitions, than those which have yet to become a part of the “Technology revolution.” For that reason, your Grand

Lodge has procured a server that can now host Lodge websites at a very reasonable cost, and will provide assistance in setting up your website. To take advantage of this service, contact either of the co-chairmen of the Technology Committee. They will lead you through the process – it is easy and effective.

Have you attended one of the “Surprise Visits” of the Grand Master? Please take a look at my itinerary – they are annotated as “Surprise Visit - Contact your DDGM for further information”. We do this so that the District Deputy of the Grand Master can make it a true surprise. If the visit happens to be to your Lodge, the DDGM will probably gently mislead you, in order to maintain the element of surprise. However, if it is not to your Lodge, he will provide you with the name of the Lodge to which we will be making the unannounced visit, and a time and location to congregate (normally within a few blocks of the Lodge).

It is our intention that all “surprise guests” will file into the selected Lodge a few minutes after they open. The DDGM who sets up the visit always takes appropriate action to insure that one of us brings adequate refreshments, so the Junior Warden and Stewards are not trying to break the cookie into 12 pieces.

It is the responsibility of every DDGM to schedule a surprise visit in his District. Has yours? If not, please encourage him to schedule one NOW. And, when possible, please join us in participating in a “surprise visit” throughout this jurisdiction – it is a positive and personally fulfilling opportunity that sustains and refreshes our mission of fraternalism and fellowship.

Each District will have a District Meeting with the Grand Master. This is not intended to “honor” the Grand Master; rather, it is an opportunity for the Brethren of the District to join together in fellowship with the Grand Master and GL team members.



(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Grand Lodge Elected Officers

- Grand Master
MW Wayne I. Smith
- Deputy Grand Master
RW Douglas E. Tucker
- Senior Grand Warden
RW Gale H. Kenny
- Junior Grand Warden
RW G. Santy Lascano
- Grand Secretary
RW David P. Owen

Deputy Grand Master's Message page 2

Senior Grand Warden's Messagepage 3

Bikes for Bookspage 3

Integritispage 4

Saluting the FlagPage 5

Masonic Medical ReasearchPage 7

Masonic Tribune Staff

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



GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

I have left the format of each District's meeting to the DDGM – whether it be a formal, tiled meeting; an informal, untiled meeting; or anything in between. After all, the DDGM knows his District best, and that which the Brethren would prefer to participate in. All of the District meetings are shown on my itinerary on the GL website. If you have ideas or suggestions for your District's meeting, please contact your DDGM, and soon. If you do not find your District listed, please encourage your DDGM to get on the stick and get the meeting scheduled NOW.

At each of the District meetings, you will be encouraged to support Toys For Tots — the charity that my Lady Jan and I are mutually supporting. You can do so with cash (currency or check – payable to Marine Toys for Tots Foundation) or by bringing an unwrapped, new toy and placing it in the "Toy Box." As many of you may recall, Toys For Tots is a benefit of the US Marine Corps Reserve for the needy children in *your* local communities.

Toys For Tots is close to our hearts — our son, a Master Mason, is a Gunnery Sergeant in the USMC, who is recently returned from duty in Iraq, and presently engaged in working up for yet another overseas deployment this coming February.

Marine Toys for Tots is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit charity, and all contributions are tax deductible. Please contact me, your DDGM or Lady Jan for a receipt as needed.

The *Concordant Body of the Month* is a program based upon our Grand Lodge Long Range Plan, and is one of the strategic initiatives that support that plan. On my itinerary, you will see that each Concordant Body is specially featured during a selected month. I encourage members of these Concordant Bodies to particularly attend and participate in Lodge events, especially during "their" month, and to likewise join me in the events I am scheduled to attend. If you are a Master of a Lodge or President of one of our Lodge Officer Associations, you are likewise encouraged to invite a member of that month's featured body to be a guest at one of your meetings, and arrange for them to explain the goals and purposes of their organization. In this manner, we all can better understand the purposes of the featured Concordant Bodies, and support them.

The Concordant Body of the month for November is York Rite, followed by Order of the Eastern Star in December, Job's Daughters in January, National Sojourners in February, Rainbow for Girls in March, Scottish Rite in April, and Shrine in May.

Several of our Masonic charitable endeavors need your support also, and should be remembered in your Christmastime gifts.

• Do you have a Masonic license plate? \$28 of the State's fee goes to the Scottish Rite's RiteCare program, where we provide speech training for children. Go to your local license agency or County Auditor's Office, and ask for a "Helping Kids Speak" license plate.

• Have you purchased a Grand Master's Commemorative coin? The profits from the sale of these coins goes to our CHIPS/Children Identification Program.

• Have you sent in your donation for the Grand Master's Lapel Pin? These donations go to support our three youth groups: Rainbow, Job's Daughters and DeMolay.

• Does your Lodge support the Bikes for Books program? For information on this very worthwhile program, contact any member of the Public Schools committee, or one of the Grand Lodge elected officers.

Brethren, together we can make a positive difference in our local communities. When we do this, Masonry's presence is visibly enhanced. And our fellow citizens are reminded once again how important Masonry is to the wellbeing of all.

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

RWB Douglas E. Tucker, DGM

Brethren,

Travel along the Masonic pathway is as rewarding as it is different for each and every brother in this fraternity. Every man who has pledged himself to our craft has done so for his own unique and special reason, as well as to better himself. I believe all of us at one time or another had, and perhaps still have, grand designs on how we are going to make the world a better place to live. We want to make our individual communities more respectable and livable as a result of our having had a positive hand toward that end. We struggle to pass affirmative actions on to our children and our children's children. We even attempt to instill in our younger generations moral values as well as important self characteristics such as honesty, truth and integrity.

As we progress on our journey, many of us have someone else who has inadvertently been summoned to join us. She watches us depart on stated meeting night with the usual, "have fun" comment knowing without a doubt where we will be spending the next few hours. On occasion she will accompany us to a District meeting, a pot luck at the lodge, and even to the annual Grand Lodge communication. A select few will follow her man through the ranks of the elected Grand Line culminating with one year as the Grand Master's Lady.

How often do we men show our ladies just how much their support means to us? Do we get so tuned to our elaborate plans and other events that we fail to take the time for even a small "thank you" for the sacrifices she makes on our behalf?

I know, even as one of your elected officers, I have taken for granted that my lady will always be there. I get so immersed with the details of this meeting or that travel date, that I fail to stop and let her know how much she, her faith and support truly mean to me.

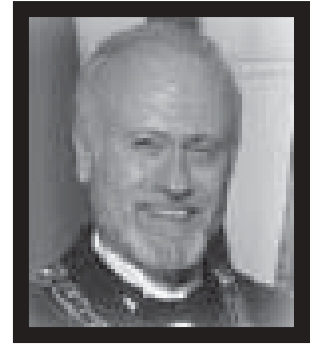
I realize that this is a man's fraternity, but there is not a brother in this jurisdiction who attends his Masonic events without the blessing of his one and only.

Since this is the month of Thanksgiving, I would ask each of you, before the hectic times begin, to take your special someone, be she wife, fiancé, close friend or significant other, and let her know without a doubt how thankful you are that she is a major contributor in your life.

Thank you,

Brethren and

**Happy
Holidays!**



WHO ARE WE, REALLY?

By Gale H. Kenney, Senior Grand Warden

Greetings, my brethren. I have been lamenting over who we are for some time now and wanted to pen a few of my thoughts upon the subject. As a Masonic family, we are just that, or are we? We do not tell people who we are, why? Have we forgotten our roots and where we came from as a poor blind candidate? We leave our Blue Lodge and join concordant and appendant bodies to seek further knowledge in Masonry. We are Shriners, Scottish Rite, York Rite, Eastern Star, Amaranth and others. So often I hear, "I am a Shriner," or "I am a Scottish Rite," but I do not always hear brethren say that "I am a Shrine Mason," or a "Scottish Rite Mason." My brethren, we are all Masons first and foremost. That is the basis of our Fraternity. We are one family of brothers and sisters "among whom no contention should ever exist, but that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who best can work and best agree."



Last year, M.W.Bro. Charles McQuery, best summarized it when he was giving remarks at a Masonic function, when he said that Masonry was like a quilt. On the front are many different squares of patterns and designs, which represent our concordant and appendant bodies, and on the back is a solid pattern that covers the entire quilt which represents the Blue Lodge.

It is from the Blue Lodge that the rest of the Masonic Family springs forth and grows. It is like a strong tree that has many limbs which branch out in many different directions, yet none can survive on its own without the nourishment from the strong trunk of the tree. The Blue Lodge is that trunk and the concordant and appendant bodies, the limbs. Our Masonic Family works with so many philanthropic programs to help others. We do so much good for our communities and in our communities, and yet, much of the population is not even aware of our good works and deeds.

A few years ago, I was visiting a college friend in Kentucky, who was showing me pictures of her children and apologized for the appearance of her son, who had been badly burned on his face and upper body. She told me when the accident happened; that none of the hospitals in the area were able to help. Finally, someone suggested the Shriners' Burn Center in Lexington. They called the Center and a helicopter was sent to bring them there, where the family was housed and her son received the surgeries necessary to aid in his recovery, all at no cost. She could not say enough of how grateful her family was to the Shriners and for all that they had done for her son. What a wonderful testimony to our Shrine Hospitals, but sadly, she was not even aware that the Shriners were Masons. She did not know that there was any connection between the two.

If our Fraternity is to grow and prosper, then it is so important that we let people know who we are and what we stand for. We need to change and adapt our ways of thinking and doing things. I know that all of us are proud of our Masonic heritage, but sometimes we forget that the rest of the world does not always know who we are and what we do. And so, my brethren, we must remember to share it with them. We must let the world know that we are good men and true and symbolically wear our white leather apron every day of our lives.

So Mote It Be

A SPECIAL VISIT

By: W. Br. Jerry Gendreau

Masonic Service Association

Representative to Veterans Medical Center
Spokane, Wa.

In mid August I received word that W.Br. Orville Berkey of Lakeside Lodge #42, Sandpoint, Id., was in the Vets Care Unit and desired visitation by the brethren. Upon contact I enjoyed an exchange of Masonic experiences, lots of laughter & a few tears with Br. Orville, and parted with a feeling of deep brotherly affection for him.

Several days later I received the following letter from his daughter, Mrs. Yvette White.

Dear Jerry & Ninna,

Thank you for making the special effort to visit my father, Orville Berkey, at the Vet's Eldercare this summer. The visit by a fellow mason meant so much to him; it gave him the extra courage to face the following and last days. May the Great Architect bless you for that touching kindness to a fellow brother. Our family is very grateful.

Dad passed away on August 25 knowing he had not been forgotten by the fraternity he had devoted much of his time.

When we were leaving to take Dad to Sandpoint the Staff Nurse, Tony Ruhle, asked Dad how one would go about investigating masons to see if it would be the right fit. He told my Dad that he had always been interested, but having known Orville and his courage and character was a deciding factor to ask about it. What a lovely tribute to Dad's life well-lived! Dad responded by telling him that he had just done what was necessary for the first step – he asked.

However, neither one of us had the time or wherewithal to pass this info onto a local mason. I'm passing it on to you and a couple others, just to make sure Tony doesn't get forgotten. What a beautiful gift, to be influencing young men right up through the final days. Please Jerry, if you would follow through with Tony on my father's behalf. I would be most grateful and I', sure so would my Dad.

Again, a heartfelt thank you,
Orville C. Berkey's daughter,
Yvette White

On October 24, 2007, during the annual Grand Masters visitation to the Spokane Veterans Hospital, a ceremony was conducted in which Mr. Tony Ruhle submitted a petition for the degrees in Masonry to our M.W. Grand Master, Br. Wayne Smith after which Mrs. Gerry Berkey (Past Worthy Grand Matron of Idaho) presented Mr. Tony Ruhle with a traveling Masonic lapel pin worn by her late husband, Orville.

M.W. Grand Master Br. Wayne Smith then presented the Orville Berkey family with a certificate of appreciation for their continued involvement in Masonry.

The ceremony was concluded with a luncheon at a Spokane restaurant.

April 11-13, 2008

15th Annual Warden's Conference

Clarion Inn in Yakima, Washington

**Wardens and Senior Deacon of your Lodge will
be receiving a personal invitation by January.**

Integritas

by David A. McCuiston, Grand Chaplain

It is often said that the only thing that is constant in the present day is change. I have also heard some Brothers say that “we need to change the way we do business to attract today’s men to the Fraternity.” And also by others who speak of the “lack of fun” in their Lodge.

Societal norms play a large part in our personal norms, beliefs and philosophies. While in some cases it may be a good thing, for instance the way technology has improved our methodology of doing business, more often these norms slowly erode the basic values which are foundational and fundamental to Freemasonry and its philosophy.

Many societal norms, in the interest of having more “fun” in life, have caused a severe and serious decline in our personal morals and ethics. All one has to do is watch the many advertisements, movies and television shows that have not only corrupted our morals, but also the work ethic of the populace, more especially among our young men; who are further confused and confounded by the excessive male-bashing video clips more favorable of the opposite gender causing them to question the importance of their personal integrity.

Hollywood’s view of open sexuality, the court rulings and political actions have slowly replaced many of the country’s basic religious beliefs in the name of personal pleasure, abortion and “separating church and state” under the First Amendment to the Constitution. The ever increasing numbers of legal actions against people who exercise little or no personal integrity also permeate the media, which educates our populace toward changing their basic core values – values that Masons have maintained for centuries and that are weakening in many Masonic Lodges around the country, evidenced by the increasing number of Masonic Charges and Trials.

I’m reminded of a speech given by now retired USMC General Charles C. Krulak in which he tells of the gradual erosion of the Roman Legionnaires sense of personal integrity through the influence of the “politically correct” Praetorians or Imperial Bodyguards. During the time of the 12 Caesars at their morning inspections, the Legionnaires would strike with their right fist the armor breastplate that covered their heart and yell “Integritas” (In-teg-re-tas), which in Latin meant material wholeness, completeness and entirety. In other words, the integrity of the armor and the man was sound, solid and completely un-impegnable.

The politically correct Praetorians had the finest equipment and armor (i.e. latest technology). They no longer had to shout “Integritas” as their armor was sound. Instead they would shout “Hail Caesar” to signify that their heart, and subsequently their integrity and loyalty, belonged to the imperial personage – not their unit, institution nor their code of ideals, i.e. their core values.

Although the Legionnaires continued to hold fast to their belief, even while changing the shout to “Integer” to indicate their completeness in integrity, the steady social decline had its effects upon the Legion. Slowly because of laziness, parade ground drills were abandoned, the armor became too heavy to carry and was cast aside, resulting in a loss of personal integrity as well.¹

In some ways I see a correlation in our beloved Fraternity. Ritual practice is too heavy a burden and is cast aside for someone else to do. Stated Communications are shortened because refreshments and conversation are more “fun.” Similarly, as the heavy armor was cumbersome and uncomfortable, coat and ties give way to relaxed fit jeans and sport shirts. Family nights at the ball game preclude attending Lodge and Lodge activities.

The idea of making a donation to promote some community function is easier than joining in service to the community. Brothers become angered because their Lodge’s work doesn’t please them, so they

quit attending, either seeking a dimit to affiliate with a Lodge more to their liking or gossiping about their anger toward their Brothers. Programs such as Bikes for Books and scholarships for the youth are shunned because it might take up too much time to promote the dreams of our youth.

The Great Light of Masonry provides excellent scripture on conflict management, answering the question of “should I face it” and/or “how can I manage it?”² The Closing Charge tells us to “remind a Brother in the most friendly manner of his fault, to endeavor to aid his reformation and to defend his character.” King David, who suffered a demise in integrity for a short period of time, tells us that he knew that God tests the heart and is pleased with integrity. He then asked God to keep this desire in the hearts of His people and keep their hearts loyal to Him.³ This passage implies that there is a close association between integrity and loyalty. Solomon also tells us that “The man of integrity walks securely”, that “the integrity of the upright guides them, and that “righteousness guards the man of integrity.”⁴

My Brother, while we might have to change some of the methods associated with attracting qualified and eligible men to our beloved Fraternity, I believe that we should not change our basic core values, beliefs and philosophies to influence increases in our membership. I believe the “fun” in Lodge comes from the intrinsic rewards gained from service and servant leadership of all Brethren as they “see” their Lodge involved in community affairs. I say, “The fun is in the doing!” Masonry is known for its basic value system and what it does for mankind – promoting and building the inner man! Let’s get back to basics.

Integritas!

Endnotes:

1. Excerpts from the *Keynote address for JSCOPE 2000* by General Charles C. Krulak.
2. *NIV Leadership Bible – Leadership Principles from God’s Word*, Matthew 5: 23-24; 18:15-17.
3. *Ibid.*, 1 Chronicles 29:17-18.
4. *Ibid.*, Proverbs 10:9; 11:3; 13:6.

The Masonic Postal Chess Club

Since 1975, Master Masons of recognized Lodges have joined the Masonic Postal Chess Club to play chess by mail (and now also e-mail) with Brother Masons in all states. Membership includes both beginners and experienced players. Members play as often and with as many opponents as desired for the same low price. Some members prefer to play with one opponent while others play several games simultaneously. All club officers are volunteers, and yearly dues are only \$20.00, with no additional fees for additional games.

For more information, or a membership application write to the club secretary, Brother Dennis Plymette, 304 Longmeadow Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 or se email to dennisplymette@yahoo.com.

Saluting the Flag

Something that I have been asked about frequently is Senate Bill 1877, a bill to amend Title 4, United States Code, to prescribe that members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform may render the military salute during hoisting, lowering, or passing of flag.

This bill was introduced by Oklahoma Senator James (Jim) Inhofe, and was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate. It was subsequently referred on Aug 10, 2007 to the House Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties where it remains with no action.

This bill has not been signed into law. I will continue to track this bill's progress, and if it is passed by the House and then signed into law by the President, we will then decide how we as Masons are to utilize this rule in our Lodges. If you wish to monitor this bill's progress in the legislature go to <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s110-1877#votes> or just Google (search) the web for Senate bill 1877.

As of this time I fully expect all Masons when in Lodge to pay respect to the flag in accordance with pages 1-7 through 1-13 of the Lodge Officers Handbook, which states in part:

"... the Brethren should come to attention, then place the right hand over the heart at the time when the Marshal lifts the flag and puts it in motion. They should remain in this position until the flag is in the place of honor and while pledging allegiance, then return to the position of attention until the Marshal has returned to his place in the Lodge."

Wayne Smith
Grand Master



Is your cable tow the "Easy Button"?

By VWB Tom Dangelo

Not long ago, while serving as Master of my Lodge, I had a brother send a summons to ME, the MASTER, to visit him. He had something that he wanted to discuss with me in the privacy of his home.

When I arrived, the Master Mason was pleased to see me. He asked me to sit down, and then exited the room. He returned with a small box in his hand. He said, in a halting manner, that he wanted me to have the box and what was in it. When I opened the box, I beheld a Master Mason's Trowel, given to him when he was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, many years before.

I asked him why he was giving it to me. He replied quite simply; "My health is failing and I can no longer attend lodge, so I feel duty bound to surrender my trowel. I can no longer live up to my obligation." I was stunned. Never before had I met a man with such conviction concerning the promise he had made upon the Volume of the Sacred Law. He stated that his cable tow was now "too short."

I fumbled for words. I was speechless. Then I did what I believed was the right thing to do: I told him that as Master of the Lodge I was empowered to forgive this matter, or heal it if you will. I also bade him to keep his Trowel until such time as he surrendered to the Grand Architect of the Universe. I further promised him a Masonic Burial and I would see to it that his Trowel would be laid up in the Archives of the Lodge.

Reflecting upon this incident, as well as other Masonic situations I have encountered, I have come to the conclusion that we have let the length of our cable tow become an easy excuse for not attending lodge or becoming involved in other Masonic Activities to the betterment of the community.

All too often it is easier to justify why we are not attending Lodge, nor living up to the other obligations that we swore, while kneeling before the Great Lights of our Craft. At that time we promised, before God, in front of a Lodge of Master Masons, that we would obey all signs and summons issued by a Lodge, or given by a Brother "if within the length of our cable tow."

I found the following paragraph, defining the length of the cable tow, in the Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, The New Revised Edition, Volume 1, 1921, by Mackey and Mc Clenachan.

Quote: Gadicke says that, "according to ancient laws of Free Masonry, every brother must attend his lodge, if within the length of his cable tow." The old writers define the length of the cable tow, which they sometimes called "a cables length" to be three miles for an Entered Apprentice. But the expression is really symbolic, and, as defined by the Baltimore Convention in 1842, **means the scope of a man's reasonable ability.**

Question: Has our cable tow become so short that it is choking our Lodges??? Have WE allowed the caveat, "if within the length of my cable tow" to become our Easy Button? Have we, in fact, lost OUR CHARACTER?

Character can be expressed as: having the conviction to carry through with a promise long after the spirit in which it was made has cooled. Are we loosing our character and consequently becoming just another organization of men who sometimes go to meetings? "For remember at the Altar you have promised."

My Dad used to tell me when I was a young man, "if I said I was going to do something, I had better "man up" and do it.

To this, I admonish you in the gentlest but most ASSERTIVE of manners: **Mason Up!**

Live up to our obligations. Fulfill the hearts and souls of mankind with our presence and practices. Become that Beacon of Light and Hope to those who need us.

It pains my heart to even contemplate that by use of an "Easy Button" as a convenient substitute for the length of our cable tow, we could loose sight of our duty, our dignity and our sense of purpose as Freemasons.

Look in the mirror and say to yourself— Mason Up, my brother, MASON UP!! Go to lodge. Your Lodge needs you. The Fraternity needs you. The World needs you.

A Conversation with Doug Haughton, Chairman of the Board, Landmark On The Sound

Why do you believe so strongly in Landmark On The Sound?

Landmark fulfills one of the missions of the fraternity. Landmark On The Sound continues the heritage of the Masonic Retirement Center (MRC) through three values:

1. Sense of Family — caring for each other and maintaining respect for the individual.
2. Relief — maintaining the dignity of the individual and being charitable to the individual in need.
3. Truth — honest dealings with all individuals and communicating on equal terms. It continues to serve those of retirement age providing housing with services in a model appropriate to the 21st century.

Today our goals are:

- Provide a physical community for folks to call home.
- Create a financially viable organization that will assist Grand Lodge in providing assistance to Masons, their wives, and widows that are in need.
- Provide a base for expanding services to Masons, their wives and widows in their own community - where they live close to family and friends
- It is to provide to all society the transparency to show that the Fraternity is more than what they think. We want to showcase the values of the fraternity to the general public.

Why is this community so important to the Masons?

Landmark On The Sound is important to the Fraternity because it represents the caring and the memories that Masons have experienced here over the past 80 years. It also represents a future - not unlike the future that the Fraternity envisioned in 1926 when the MRC was first built! While the existing building will be updated and added to, the heart, the soul, and the values will not and this is what is important to the Fraternity.

There are concerns that this community is too expensive and will never happen, what do you have to say about that?

The Masonic Retirement Center has been a pay-as-you-go system , or market rate, since 1994. Landmark is fairly priced in the market space in today's economy. I do not believe that these prices are too expensive; \$214,000 is not too expensive. Every market study we've done shows that that is a rational price. The average price in this market is \$370,000 and that is a market level price. The most expensive units at Landmark are in the \$500,000 range and they have all already been reserved.

The Brethren are concerned that they won't be taken care of now, how are the board and Grand Lodge addressing this?

Grand Lodge will continue to assist members of the Fraternity through the Charity Committee and the Masonic Assistance Program. The Landmark On The Sound Board of Trustees address this through responsible program planning at Landmark On The Sound and by developing community outreach programs to respond to multiple different needs of Masons in their communities.

There is a new media push for the community, TV, radio and print, what are your thoughts about this? Do you think it's exciting?

Absolutely! It is refreshing! The new approach provides respect to our heritage and what Landmark stands for. It demonstrates community; it offers choice and opportunity to those who live at Landmark On The Sound.

What do you want to say to the Brethren who aren't behind Landmark On The Sound?

Landmark On The Sound (or at least the recognition that the service model at the MRC) needed to be updated, and it has been under development since 1994. There is a great deal of misinformation circulating among the Brethren. If you have questions or something to say about Landmark, please speak with a Trustee - we want to be sure that everyone is responding to correct information. I have been on the Board for four years. The decisions about the direction we are going have already been set. I believe that it is the right course and program. For those who disagree they can only wait to see the results.

What do you want to say to the Brethren who are behind Landmark On The Sound?

Thank you! Landmark will be a future to be proud of!

What is the one thing you want your Brethren to know about Landmark On The Sound and the Board's support of the community.

It is the obligation of the Board of Trustees to review and analyze all proposed programs at Landmark to see that they are consistent with not only the Landmark values, but also the values of the Masonic Fraternity. The Board of Trustees works hand-in-hand with Grand Lodge to be sure the Fraternity is well represented.



Masonic Medical Research Laboratory

2150 Bleecker Street

Utica, NY 13501

(315) 735-2217

Contact: Ronald P. Kamp,

Director of Development and Communication

Development@mmrl.edu

***Circulation* Publishes Study from Masonic Medical Research Laboratory Suggesting a New Strategy for the Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation**

UTICA, NY [DATE] [DAY] – A study led by researchers at the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) in Utica, NY and published in the current issue of *Circulation* proposes a novel strategy for the management of atrial fibrillation.

Current medical therapies for the treatment of atrial fibrillation have substantial clinical limitations. Sodium channel blockers are contraindicated in patients with coronary artery or structural heart disease, potassium channel blockers can predispose patients to dangerous ventricular arrhythmias and mixed ion channel blockers such as amiodarone can be associated with multi-organ toxicity as well as ventricular arrhythmias.

There is a significant unmet medical need to find safe and effective new therapies for atrial fibrillation which are selective for the atria but do not have the unwanted clinical consequences in the ventricles seen with many current therapies.

The study by Alexander Burashnikov, Ph.D. and coworkers at MMRL and CV Therapeutics (CVTX, Palo Alto, CA) found major differences in the electrical function of the atria and ventricles of the heart. Ranolazine, a drug currently approved as an anti-ischemic therapy to treat chronic angina, was found to take advantage of these distinctions and to produce a potent depression of the sodium channel current and related parameters in the atria, but not in the ventricles, leading to effective suppression of AF in two experimental preclinical models. Visit <http://circ.ahajournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/CIRCULATIONAHA.107.704890v1> to view an abstract of the article from *Circulation* (available online ahead of print edition).

“These data suggest that atrial-selective sodium channel block is a potentially novel strategy for the management of clinical AF and that ranolazine has exceptional atrial-selective properties which may make it a unique compound for the treatment of atrial fibrillation. Our observations with ranolazine are consistent with other preclinical studies from our laboratory and large scale clinical trials which also have shown it to be safe and possess anti-arrhythmic activity,” said Charles Antzelevitch, Ph.D., senior author of the study and executive director and director of research at MMRL.

The prevalence of atrial fibrillation continues to increase with the aging of the baby boomer generation. It is estimated that one in 20 individuals will develop AF by age 65. The incidence increases to alarming one in five among individuals 80 years of age or older.

Funding for the study was provided by the National Institutes of Health, CV Therapeutics and the NY State and Florida Grand Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons.

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory, located in Utica, NY, is internationally renowned medical research and educational institute dedicated to studies of the electrical activity of the heart and the mechanisms responsible for abnormal rhythms of the heart and sudden cardiac death. The MMRL is also a center for genetic screening of inherited arrhythmic diseases. MMRL scientists have delineated the genetic basis for several inherited sudden cardiac death syndromes and uncovered the mechanisms responsible for many forms of life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias as well as the mechanisms by which drugs act to precipitate arrhythmias.

MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

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Masonic License Plates

The
"Help Kids Speak"
license plates



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

IT'S HAPPENING IN DISTRICT #30

By V.W.B. L. Ted Shrum , DDGM # 30

District # 30 has six Lodges, four of which participate in the Bikes for Books Program and/or some other community activities. Those Lodges and their activities are as follows.

Newport Lodge # 144

1. Three \$500.00 scholarships for three County-wide High School Senior Students
2. Bikes For Books serving three County wide schools for a total of 12 bikes per year. These are awarded twice a year to help continue and stimulate reading among the students. (Second in Jurisdiction to implement this program) Note the Newport OES Chapter and the Grange also participate in this program by either purchasing a bike or presenting a \$25.00 gift certificate for Bike Helmets.
3. Kindergarten reading award of two pet stuffed Dog each school "Bike Program" for three County-wide kindergarten schools (Only Lodge in Jurisdiction to have such a program)
4. Crisis Network support of money and materials,
5. First County New Year baby birth gift.
6. Prostate Screening Laboratory financial support held twice per year. The Lodge pays for the lab tests but the recipients must be told that the Newport Masons pay this fee so they can elect to either take it or not.

7. Junior High School Achievement dinner and awards for the three county school Districts.
8. Annual Food drive benefiting three County-wide food banks.
9. Member of the Newport and Oldtown Chamber of Commerce.
10. Other charitable monetary gifts to needy recipients both in the county and nation.

Deer Park Lodge # 134

1. Bikes for Books, Award of two bikes per year to two schools (Total Bikes awarded is four)
2. Local youth musical group financial support.
3. Friendship dinners for non Masons.
4. Annual town celebration where Lodge participates as food vendors and parades.

Colville Lodge # 50

1. Two High School Scholarships \$500.00 awards per year.

Kettle Falls Lodge # 130

1. One \$500.00 High School Scholarship Award
2. Bikes for Books with the award of two bikes per year to one school.
3. Several dinners and other community functions which vary each year.
4. Members are very active with other Concordant Masonic Bodies performing various community activities.