



Masonic TRIBUNE

WINTER 2011 VOLUME XCI NO. 2



GRAND LODGE OF WASHINGTON

AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

1. The Mason and his interests in the fraternity
2. Masonic relationships between the members
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The Mason and his interests in the fraternity — There must be a desire within a person's mind and known reasons why he joined the fraternity. These reasons contribute to the level of interest he has to offer. Due to the nature of the traditions of the Craft, the interest becomes progressive as he develops his awareness and understanding of the fraternity. Therefore, we should constantly ask ourselves these questions: Am I aware of what it is that makes me interested to still be part of the group and do I understand my responsibilities to support this interest? If we within ourselves make an effort to constantly maintain our awareness and understanding of our commitment to the fraternity, then we will have a clear path to follow as we move forward in our Masonic career.

Masonic relationships between the members — The Question: What are our responsibilities to assist in maintaining peace and harmony within the fraternity... am I my brother's keeper? We often look at each other's shortcomings without looking in the mirror to view our own. As mentioned in the Charge to the Wardens at our installation, "You should be examples of good order and regularity; for it is only by due regard for the laws in our own conduct that you can expect obedience to them from others." We sometimes break

the rule ourselves but do not admit to it and yet we see others' faults and we make them aware of them. We are all in this mission together. We should always be aware, understand our part in the puzzle, and not play "us against them." Awareness and understanding of our limitations and relationships with our Masonic friends and brothers makes us invulnerable and able to achieve that respectable character. It is the true meaning of Fraternalism.

Masonic Lodge Operations — Each lodge has its own character, traditions and financial state. Some have a stronghold in Fraternalism and practice a very keen ritualistic bearing but are not financially stable. Other lodges are very confident that their physical assets and bank accounts will carry them through until time can be no more. All these contribute to how we set our expectations to understand the actual situation of the lodge. We cannot expect the lodge to spend money to make its operations attractive

to the community if they do not have the resources to pursue it; nor can the lodge make an extra effort to provide the new member with an on-going mentoring program if they do not have the manpower to provide that assistance. Awareness and understanding of all the aspects of a lodge's characteristics and status brings us to the level of being knowledgeable about how best to approach the situation and assist in promoting its welfare.

Grand Lodge Operations — Many healthy discussions on this topic happen during my courtesy visits to the lodges. Lack of awareness and understanding of the history and the current state of our Grand Lodge results

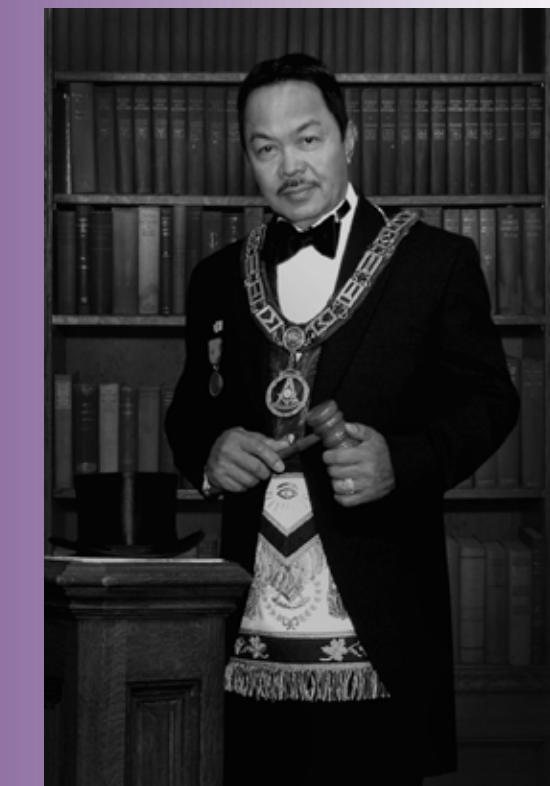
in not knowing what questions to ask or how they should be asked. Suggestions and ideas come from the brethren not knowing that the idea already exists or was in place, but for some viable reason failed. One of the more common questions asked is about the Public Relations Committee. The brethren ask why we do not go along with the idea of putting together a high quality video presentation to attract men to acquire membership in our fraternity. The answer is that we do not have the resources to fund the project. There are several ideas brought up that are of this nature. All their intentions are good, but they have to be aware and understand the effects their idea might bring to the system in order to avoid waste of their valuable time. Awareness and understanding of all the challenges we have at hand can lead us to the right path to take to institute changes and contribute to the growth of our beloved fraternity.

Let us spend the time to build among ourselves that awareness. Let us analyze our status and carefully understand our worth. We should always look at our situation in a better viewpoint in perspective. This we can achieve by "Working Together" and maintaining the highest level of "Awareness and Understanding."

MW G. Santy Lascano
Grand Master



Awareness and understanding of all the challenges we have at hand can lead us to the right path



Awareness and understanding initiates the task of taking on an undertaking or opening up a discussion on any subject.

In my travels in and around our Masonic jurisdiction, I conduct open forums to give our members a chance to raise questions and express concerns about the fraternity in general or our Grand Lodge in particular. These forums normally result in topics of discussion that, if awareness and understanding were apparent, could have been very productive subjects to discuss. The generalized topics commonly discussed referred to the following subjects:

WORKING TOGETHER



Albert Einstein said "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."

When I was in Officer Candidate School, my classmates and I were often given tasks to accomplish

that, while not impossible to do, were extremely difficult. On a typical morning, we would wake up and roll out for an hour of PT (Physical Training for the veterans, exercise for the profane). After PT we would have a very short time to get showered, dressed, clean the barracks, make our bunks, and fall out for inspection.

Initially we would all be scrambling around trying our best to make sure our personal areas were clean and our footlockers and wall lockers were organized with every article of clothing, toiletry, and gear organized exactly how it was prescribed to be. Our bunks had to be tight enough to "bounce a quarter on". Our barracks, personal areas, and personal appearance had to be good enough to pass a rigorous inspection. No one ever passed. That is, until we discovered that if we helped each other, we could get everything done to a higher standard in much less time. The lesson being imprinted on our minds was that if everyone worked as individuals we would fail, but if we worked as a team, everyone would succeed.

We all want to see our lodges and concordant bodies flourish and grow. We are anxious to share what we love about Freemasonry with our friends and relatives. We want to see inactive members return and become engaged in our activities. And yet for several decades we have seen our numbers decline and our participation hover between 10-15 percent of our membership. Obviously we have a problem.

Our Grand Master's theme this year is "Working Together." An active district wide association, such as a Lodge Officers and Members Association, is a proven way to increase communication between the lodges and promote visitations and joint projects. Inviting representatives from the concordant bodies to participate will provide fresh ideas and more opportunities for social activities that build friendships and improve engagement in all our organizations.

Lodges have to adapt to changing times or cease to exist. Lodges that do are flourishing or, at the very least, are not losing ground. They have found a way to remain relevant. Lodges that fail to adapt are shrinking. Many are to the point that, as is often said, we are simply waiting for a few more funerals before they are gone completely.

Moving our lodges into the 21st Century, or modernizing,

does not mean we abandon our history. I recently saw a cartoon that showed a little girl is sitting on Santa's lap, saying "Listen old man, I don't have time for this nonsense! Just give me your email, Facebook, and Twitter accounts so we can move this ritual into the 21st Century". We do not need to change our customs or beliefs, in short, we must adapt. Our ritual does not need to be changed. Our Landmarks will not be infringed. For the most part, it is what we do outside of the lodge room that will change the attitude and course of the lodge. We must change

the way we think about what we do outside the lodge room and face our difficulties by adapting to the times and following our Grand Master's theme of "Working Together."

RW Michael L. Sanders
Deputy Grand Master

We are anxious to share what we love about Freemasonry with our friends and relatives.

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On October 15 2010 the members of Prosser Masonic Lodge, Euclid #125, became an integral part in helping shape the lives of many young children. They recently donated a multitude of arts and crafts supplies to the Boys and Girls Club of Prosser. The Club has grown exponentially since its inception this August and one of the major unforeseen needs became these supplies. Euclid Lodge, as it so often does, went above and beyond and provided more than was necessary for these young kids.



COMMITMENT



At the 2007 Grand Lodge Communication when I was the Grand Historian, I started my report with the statement that we have problems within this Grand Jurisdiction. Then I asked a question. What are the root causes of these problems? I provided what I thought were the causes (planning, communication, commitment). In most cases, not a lot has changed.

Identifying problems without offering viable solutions is the equivalent of shooting one's self in the foot and not seeking medical help. Freemasonry continues to not only shoot but then to reload and shoot again.

You and your Lodge need to communicate effectively. This must include a comprehensive plan that is designed not only for this year but for the future. It does not work to have a plan for this year and have a different plan for next year and a different plan for the following year. This plan must account for all the members of your Lodge. We have over 10,000 Masons in this jurisdiction that are 62 years of age or older and they may or may not have internet access. It is your responsibility to find out how your Brothers communicate. They may want a phone call instead of an email or a posting on a web site or a posting on a Facebook page or a text message to their cell phone. Ask them what they want and then work with your Lodge to provide what they need.

We also need to take the time to know each other. Who we are; what we like, what we don't like, hobbies, other interests outside the Masonic Lodge. During this

process of discovery, we may find that we genuinely like each other and that we want to spend more time together.

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a stated meeting in the Seattle area where more than 50 Masons were in attendance and most were members. Additionally, they had over 10 non-masons attend dinner and stay for the evening's educational program. Why did this happen? This Lodge places an emphasis on Masonic education, ritual, tradition, charity, planning, and communication. And they have non-masons standing in line waiting to become members. This is occurring not by accident but by the work of the officers and members of the Lodge. It did not occur overnight. They have made a commitment to the teachings of Freemasonry, to their Lodge and to the long-term future of both. It is working for them and it may work for your Lodge.

They have non-masons standing in line waiting to become members

It is time for each of you make a commitment to your Lodge and to your Brothers; a commitment to become more active in Lodge meetings; a commitment to become more involved in the activities of your Lodge and a commitment to talk with a Brother who does not regularly attend or participate. Find out why and share that information with the officers of your Lodge. They might be surprised by the responses. Have them take action on the reasons. Then, take that one additional step and convince the Brother that he needs to become more active and participate in his Lodge.

RWB Dean W. Heinemann
Senior Grand Warden

BUILDING A STRONG LODGE COMMUNITY

Mentoring, in the non-traditional sense i.e.: sharing one's life experiences with another human being, in a two way transaction, from heart to heart, (soul to soul) forges some of the strongest friendships and bonds ever created. This is my opinion of course.

Mentoring as I envision it and practice it, is when a group of human beings come together for the sole purpose of sharing life's lessons in a relationship where all understand that it is a two way street. I have had very young men mentor me in a coach/mentor relationship. First they taught me how to do something and then explained their own journey on the same path, their setbacks and their triumphs.

I have mentored them as well. Mentoring is a two way street.

In the sense that I wish to present it, it is a process wherein we examine a clan, a tribe (we were all tribal in ancient times) and a village. Each of these elements had a commonality. That commonality was a sense of belonging. It is very similar in nature to the psychology employed when selecting men for small unit assignments wherein they become part of the "family of the unit"; Navy SEALs, Army Rangers, and US Navy Submarine Service personnel as examples. In each of these elements there is a bond forged that is rarely, if ever broken.

When we became Masons we embarked a «Spiritual Journey» whether we knew it or not. Those of us who have a deeper need for insight into our own spirituality have a deeper desire than that of having a dues card in our back pocket. (That is left to other organizations) We entered the Lodge with the expectation of belonging to something that was unique, and to some extent sacred. We were sadly mistaken, more often than I care to discuss, because we entered without ever really understanding what it was that we were seeking. It is not too late to clarify the understanding. Mentor each other. Share life's lessons. Become FRIENDS.

For a Lodge to have a «strong sense of community belonging it is necessary to clarify what our expectations of each other are. Who are the «hunters and who are the gatherers» so to speak. Develop a «community charter», if you will, where each and every member, and their family, have a sense of belonging to the «community of the Lodge», each having an avenue for input into goals of the Lodge, both in the Lodge and in the community. This is where the BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP are forged. Mentor each other. Become FRIENDS. Love each other. Share from the heart. Don't seek the differences between you, search for the similarities. Establish a commonality.

Unrealistic expectations lead to unrealistic resentments.-Be clear in your expectations of one another. Don't rush to judgment. Give the benefit of the doubt to your brother. He is after all, «YOUR BROTHER»

The only person in the room that you cannot see is yourself.--Remember that what you say, and how you

act are a direct reflection on you, your family and your Lodge Community.

Change is the only thing that is constant--Quit attempting to resist the change in the times and the attitudes of the non-Mason, they are doing the best that they can do with their «set of tools». We just have a better set of tools. It is called MASONRY.

It is hard to hear with your mouth open.--Take the time to listen to your fellow Mason and the members of his family when you are visiting with each other. Remember that you can easily become a «legend in your own mind». Don't regale them with tall tales, just listen.

All of these statements are true and undeniable. How many of us understand that? Out of all that I have written there is a secret, what it is I am not certain, BUT IT IS HERE.

An old drunk once said to me when I was struggling with the vexations of life and wondering why I could not make it work, "Dangelo, shut up, sit down and quit wiggling, you will get the answer you are supposed to get when you are supposed to get it". Another thing that he told me, (another of many "pearls of Wisdom"), was "don't analyze, utilize" In other words don't take the watch apart to see how it works just know that it works and be happy. Leave the rest of that stuff to the watchmakers. Sort of like Ritual.

Ritual is the heart of the Craft; Mentoring is the "soul of the craft". The "true mentor" as I understand the "art of mentoring" is to give from my core, that core being my soul.

The Creator will not take my heart to the Celestial Lodge, but he will accept my soul if I have followed the journey which he laid out for me at my birth.

In other words trust in your heart, open your soul, share with your brother, be happy and build a Strong sense of Lodge Identity. Learn to love one another. It is not hard BUT it is a little scary at first. BE SURE THAT IT IS UNCONDITIONAL.

HOWEVER, I caution you this. Do not become elitist in believing that your Lodge is the "Only Lodge". A Lodge is comprised of the members of the Lodge and their families and by extension, all other brothers and their families. Ergo, they are your family. Take care of them. Be good to one another. Follow "The Path", mentor and share. Here in lies the secret of building and maintaining a "Strong Lodge Community".

F/VWB Tom Dangelo
Chairman
Membership Development

REMEMBERING FROM WHENCE WE CAME



All too often we Masons are so concerned about promoting the future, we forget about things and people of the past that should and will change the scope of the future.

When we were children, we dreamt of a new Rifleman gun, an extra piece of gum inadvertently put into a baseball card pack, finding that elusive pop bottle that would bring an extra penny for it's return to the local grocery store where we could find the treasures of a lifetime in the candy isle.

We thought of our brothers as competition and our sisters as meddling little vixens who drove us crazy with their incessant question of "Whatcha doing?" We all prayed for the end to the madness and looked for any opportunity to turn them both over to our parents to enhance our own personal status.

Our views changed from those of a child to that of an adult as we transformed from nativity to indestructibility. We all became more focused on our personal goals and attainments, giving little to no thought to the influence of our actions or feelings of others.

As we evolved into old age, our goals changed to being more sensitive to the needs of others instead of personal gain. We quickly realized that the world is a much more palatable place if we recognize the importance of others before our own independent needs. Thus, we grow as a person, becoming a better husband, father, friend and a better brother. We become mentors to many instead of the adversary of a few. With this progression comes wisdom and the ability to share our faith, our beliefs and our hearts. Until a brother realizes that his personal internal drive comes second to the greater goal of others, he will be condemned to walk in the darkness of ignorance.

The previous few words will fall silently on the ears of those who have not come to the realization that it is more important to serve than to be served. One can preach the practice of good but until he sees it with his own eyes, he will not understand.

We as Masons strive to do the right thing, even when no one is there to see. As a candidate we knock on the door for enlightenment but without the brother who answers that request, the door shall remain closed forever and we remain in darkness. If not for the caring of others, none of us would ever have the honor of participating in the rights and privileges of the Craft. It does not take a Grand Master to open the door, it doesn't take a Right or Very Worshipful to pluck off his shoe, it simply takes a Brother. No greater gift can be given a candidate than the selfless act of a brother who has faith in you. Your adherence to the ancient landmarks of the Craft, your diligence in remembering your obligations verbatim, your true belief in being a good man will influence those whom you hold you in veneration to "ask to be one".

Often times, there are ways of recognizing the influence of those Masons who have made a difference in the lives of other Brothers. Some receive public recognition in a lodge, a plaque from his peers or a lapel pin denoting his dedication to the craft and with those whom he has labored in the quarries. However, one of the most unique honors that can be bestowed is when a father and son have shared the prestigious duty of serving together in their labors, belonging to this beloved and gentle Craft as Brothers. A father and son can share their memories proudly by wearing a Lewis Jewel that denotes the lineage of the insurmountable honor of this auspicious feat.

This very type of influence was recently displayed at Mt. Moriah Lodge #11 under the direction of newly installed Worshipful Master Brian Bigelow. On December 15, 2010 four sons of Brother Earl Bernard Lingle (deceased) received the Lewis Jewel in a special presentation from MWB G. Santy Lascano. The sons of Brother Bernard were (as they are commonly called) the Lingle Boys, Brother Roger Lingle, Brother Dennis Lingle, Brother Richard Lingle and me RWB Jerry Lingle. Also in attendance was PGM Matt Martin of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington and PGM Art Bush of the Most Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon. (No pressure on the new Master huh?)

MWB Santy did an exemplary job on the presentation with the assistance of WB Brian. A large group of family, friends and Brothers were present to observe this wonderful event.

It should be noted that MWB Santy made special arrangements through a request to present the jewels to the Lingle Boys, but more importantly our Grand Master truly exemplified the true meaning of Masonry by acting upon the level in honoring us. MWB Santy will always be honored by the Lingle family for his actions. May God Bless him always for his dedication to the craft.

The night was memorable and I know that Dad was there to watch with all of his pride bursting out of his own Lewis Jewel. However, the simple closing words from

Brother Roger Lingle ring clear in the minds of those in attendance that evening in December when he said "All of us Lingle Boys, we Brothers owe this to our Dad, Bernard, He was the reason that we joined, I know he's watching and is very proud tonight."

Brothers, I encourage you to think of from whence you came, to consider those who have layed the pavement for your path in Masonry. Take the time to thank those who influenced you the most, for those who dedicated their actions to mold your choice to join this wonderful Craft. Know that for all of those who have fallen, it is incumbent on you to bear the standard for future generations. Wear your accolades proudly but remember those who made it possible for you to do so. The price you must pay to honor those before is to be an exemplary Mason for those who shall come.

RW Jerry Lingle
Junior Grand Warden
Grand Lodge of Washington



The Seattle Valley Scottish Rite annual reception of the Grand Master had a very successful turn out this year. The activity had in its attendance a combination of 28 Worshipful Masters and Wardens in the immediate area. The Seattle Valley Scottish Rite sponsors this event every year where its leadership together with the Grand Master conducts a formal reception to welcome the newly installed leaders of the local lodges in the Greater Seattle area. The reception includes an introduction of the attendees together with their ladies as they go through the receiving line composed of the leadership and ladies of the valley with the Grand Master and his lady. A simple dinner banquet concludes the event where everybody gets a chance to mingle and establish acquaintances with each other. Photographed by: WB Darell Womack - Chairman, Grand Lodge Photography Committee.





It is a simple solution to fix the Shake N' Bake mentality but it does require us as Masons and Lodges to practice what we "preach."

In our ritual we learn that Masonry is a progressive science "taught" by Degrees only. We also learn that Masonry is a "system" of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by various symbols. It is further explained to the new Mason that at the building of King Solomon's Temple the workmen were so arranged into various "classes" based on the skill of the trade. Throughout Masonry and in the growth of a Mason are many words that define our great Fraternity as an institution of teaching. One is not left alone to figure out Pythagoras's theorem but through an explanation of the rule when applied it reveals the beauty of geometry.

Brothers, what we must do to improve the learning, teaching, system, allegory and advancement in the Degrees as part of Masonry and our society is to take time with each other and not just in the Lodge room. Some of the best and most rewarding time Masons share is working together in our communities.

When we bring men into our Craft the Lodge needs to embrace that singular existence like the birth of a new child. We need to foster and promote an environment of learning and involvement.

Here are a couple of ideas to promote Masonic growth:

-Develop a Masonic study group with multiple teachers. This can be done as a group or with an individual. Ensure that you maximize on the strengths of your teachers. Find out who is good at a specific topic. Divide the Degree into teaching components and have regular teaching/coaching sessions.

-Once a week call a Brother from the Lodge and go to the local restaurant and/or pub and talk Masonry

or whatever is on your minds. Remember that everything is not a one size fits all. Even Masons are Tolerant.

-Travel to other Lodges, but do not travel alone. See what is on the other Lodge's schedule and take new Masons. Be ready to answer questions about the Degree. Have the new Brother bring his New Candidate Education Program.

-Assign new Masons to learn various parts of the Degree and spend time with them reading that part. Try not to go from memory. Sometimes we learn bad habits. After he has memorized a part ask the District Deputy to attend one of your training/meetings to check him with the clear text of the Standard Work.

-Invite all new Masons to attend the District Meetings and/or Regional Communications.

We are the Best, and the only Fraternity this World can not do without. It is what Masonry stands for that has made America great. We can do no less with the new Masons who thirst not only for knowledge but a friendship that transcends time. Our commitment must be to make "good men better." This can only be achieved when each of us take time teach, mentor and

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coach new Mason and some old ones as well.

It is not about the number of men who are Masons. It is what we represent and how we pass the mantle of stewardship from generation to generation that will determine the greatness of our Fraternity.

RWB David Owen
Grand Secretary

NEW GRAND LODGE PROGRAM "GRAND MASTER'S CIRCLE"

Brethren, this year will be the start of the Grand Master's Circle. This program will allow Brethren to make contributions to various programs of Grand Lodge. The contributions are tax deductible and an excellent way to help Masonry.

The Grand Master's Circle will be offered each year and a Mason who contributes will receive an invitation to attend the Grand Master's Banquet at the Annual Communication and a beautiful medallion with collar will be presented to each contributor. All participant names will be included in the Annual Proceedings. The medallion will have a hanger for each year a Brother contributes.

Each Brother can designate all or a portion of his donation to one of the programs as listed. To be a member of the Grand Master's Circle, a Brother must donate \$1,000.00 during the Masonic Year (June to May). The following is a list of the four programs which benefit from your donation: Charity Fund, Masonic Scholarship Endowment, Masonic Outreach Services, and the General Endowment. The first three of these are tax deductible.

Later this year a formal brochure will be produced for the membership. It will also be on the Grand Lodge

website, but Brethren don't wait until then. Make the donation now. Make your checks payable to the Grand Lodge of Washington and include what program you wish to support. This is one great way for each of us to make a difference.

RWB David Owen
Grand Secretary



2011 GRAND WARDENS CONFERENCE

The future of Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction and in our Lodge lies with those who have been selected to be our leaders. To that end, each year the Grand Lodge sponsors the Annual Wardens Conference. The 18th annual Conference will be held the weekend of **March 11- 13, 2011**.

This conference is specifically designed for all Lodge Senior and Junior Wardens and Senior Deacons. The program is designed to lead our Lodge officers to a greater understanding of their role as a leader in their lodge and provide them the skills to excel in that role.

The theme of this year's Conference is "Building Your Lodge with Strength Based Leadership." Just a few of the topics to be covered include: Lodge Business Practices, Key Leadership Skills, Working with the Brethren, Term Planning, Membership Development, Planning and Running a Lodge Meeting, Long Range Planning for the Your Lodge, Installation Planning, Bringing the Best out of your Lodge Members, Lodge Management, Working with your Grand Lodge Counterparts, and a number of other relevant and important topics. The topics have been developed, tailored and grouped to be especially relevant to the specific officers and needs of your lodge.

Your Lodge officers are encouraged to attend this weekend of Masonic Leadership and Fraternity. An invitation has been sent to the Wardens and Senior Deacon of your Lodge to attend and participate in this excellent program. The cost is \$300 per attendee. Brethren are encouraged to bring their ladies with them for only an additional \$50 and take part in a special Ladies Program designed to help them gain knowledge about our fraternity and guide them on how to assist in the successful journey of their Masonic spouse in his Lodge Officer role.

The 2011 Wardens Conference will be held at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Yakima, Washington. The registration deadline is February 15, 2011. Late registration will be accepted after than date with an assessed late fee of \$50. Child care will be available for a small fee.

To register contact Marty McCarthy at the Grand Lodge Office at 253 / 27203263 or Marty@freemason-wa.org

For additional information or for questions, contact Conference Chair, WB Dave Compton at 206 / 714-3767 or dscompton@comcast.net

Section 6.01 of the Washington Masonic Code, states, that the master copy of the combined Esoteric Work, together with the Monitorial Work and amendments thereto adopted by the Grand Lodge, shall be the Standard Work of this Grand Jurisdiction. It further states that every Lodge shall practice that Standard Work and no other.

The Grand Lodge encourages every member of this jurisdiction to learn and study the Standard Work. The primary intent of committing it to memory is to create a culture for the lodges to be self sufficient in the Washington Standard Work. It has several other benefits including:

1. A form of recognition for all of the brethren of the craft
2. Create a resource to assist the smaller lodges
3. Create a desire in new Masons to become proficient
4. Prepare the brethren for the officers' positions, and
5. Help current officers to become ready to move up to the officer line and fill in when the need arises.

There is no doubt that mastering the Standard Work will provide many other benefits throughout this jurisdiction.

In our individual lives, it is appropriate that from time to time we should mentally distance ourselves from some of the well-established habits and everyday routine of our daily lives and take an objective view of some of these routines. Sometimes when we do a truly objective analysis of our mind, we may find that one or more of the things we do could possibly enhance our lives if they were done a little differently. This is true of the role the ritual plays in the life of a Freemason.

Before we were admitted into Masonry, we did not know what was meant by the term "ritual". If you were fortunate during your initiation, you would not have received the impression that those performing the ceremony were in fact reciting something which was written down in a book. During the ceremony, after you were in a position to look around you and observe the Worshipful Master speaking to you in a friendly and fluent way, your attention would have become more focused on the meaning of what the speaker was saying, and you would not have got the impression that he was reading something to you from a book.

Unfortunately, this is the ideal which very few lodges can perfectly accomplish. On a personal note, my entire Masonic career has been chartered by the fact that I was one of the fortunate ones. The PM who delivered the final charge to me did it so effortlessly, and with such sincerity, that when he finished, it seemed to be etched in my mind. I thought he was giving me some fatherly advice after the ceremony had been concluded.

THE PILLARS OF PROGRESS

During the year 2000, under the direction of MWB Bill R. Wood, a task force of approximately 40 "rising star" Masons from throughout the Jurisdiction was appointed and asked to come together for a workshop in Des Moines, WA. Led by two future Grand Masters, MWB's Al Jorgenson and Charles McQuery, this group, which included both young and not-so-young Masons from throughout the state, were given two charges.

The first of these was to create a statement that captured their combined vision of how Washington Freemasons would be perceived in the future.

Out of this meeting came the Vision Statement of Grand Lodge of Washington, which states:

Freemasons of Washington will be recognized as a relevant and respected fraternity, committed to attracting and retaining all men of high quality who strive for self-improvement and the opportunity to make a positive difference in their community.

The second charge was to identify what is important to Washington Masons, i.e. the craft's priorities, which would become the foundation for our Long Range Plan, whose ultimate goal is to see the achievement of our Vision Statement.

At the end of the day, the task force had put together a list of eight priorities:

- Grand Lodge Organization
- Education and Training
- Technology
- Family Involvement
- Community Involvement
- Public Relations
- Fraternalism
- Cooperation with Concordant Organizations

These priorities became known as the Grand Lodge Pillars of Progress, but they really are a composite of the priorities of ALL the lodges in our Jurisdiction. And although not every lodge is interested in all of the Pillars, EVERY lodge places a high value on SOME

Before we consider the role of the Ritual in Freemasonry, let us think about what we are setting out to do when we initiate a candidate into our fraternity. We have satisfied ourselves that he is a suitable person to be admitted as a member of our ancient fraternity and we want to impress upon him the honor we have conferred on him by accepting him into our midst. We also want to clearly impart to him the meaning of our ceremony and what is required of him as a member of our fraternity. It is paramount that the candidate fully understands everything he is being told during the ceremony.

This is where our Ritual comes in. It is the Masonic road map which enables the driver to transport the passenger from somewhere to some other place of which the passenger has only heard, but he does not really know where he is going. However, he has been assured that the place to which he is going is a good place to be. So it is essential that the driver not only knows how to read the map but can explain to the passenger things that happen along the way during his journey. Nothing should be allowed to happen which would make the passenger apprehensive or uncomfortable which would tend to lessen his appreciation and understanding of those things to which he is exposed during his journey. So in order to achieve the objective of making sure that our candidates fully understand and appreciate the ceremonies, it is essential that we impart the meaning of what is contained in the words of our ritual.

While the Grand Lodge has given us the ritual that we must use, they have left it flexible as to where we should pause in delivering it. It is therefore imperative that, before we deliver any part of the ritual in an actual ceremony, we learn exactly what the words are intended to convey. The importance of the ritual is paramount. Sometimes, the sound of words can trip off the tongue in a way which can fail to convey, or even distort, what the words are intended to mean.

The reason why I am saying this is to alert you of the importance of the ritual and to stimulate you to a deeper understanding of what our ritual is really about.

My brothers, the "ritual is fundamental to the Craft, and its preservation in its purest form is the life blood of our Fraternity". We cannot substitute top quality training. I suggest to the future officers of the lodge to examine and investigate their options.

What we stand for is contrary to any society which seeks to control, segregate, repress or persecute its inhabitants, and sadly that is the state of affairs in some of the countries of this world. Our Masonic meetings allow us to learn, train, educate, and debate on important things and it is our duty to preserve and, in succession, to pass it to the next generation.

VWB Alden D. Sarmiento
Grand Lecturer

OPT-OUT

We are aware that some Masons may elect not to receive the Masonic Tribune or other Grand Lodge Mailings. If this is your desire, please send your name and address information to:

**Grand Lodge of Washington
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Roaring into 2011 - Happy Holidays from Grand Lodge

During the holidays, Most Worshipful G. Santy Lascano decided that he wanted something different for the Elected's and their ladies to symbolize the Christmas spirit of his year. MWB Santy came up with the idea that he wanted all of us to have a Christmas card featuring us on a motorcycle, dressed as bikers.

To be honest, there were several looks of shock, disbelief and downright doubts, but MWB Santy knew what he wanted and why. Our Grand Master persisted and formulated his plan.

Our Junior Grand Warden was instructed to shine up "the old hawg" and get it to the Scottish Rite in Shoreline. Everyone else was told to dress in their finest leathers and meet at the pre-designated sight for a photo shoot that would be memorable to all and to all a good night (or afternoon as the case may be).

After several hours of shining, RWB Jerry's 2006 Harley Davidson Road King was ready to roll and WHAM!!!!...the rain started falling, and it never stopped. With some quick phone calls, several prayers and a lot of begging, a trailer, several tarps and bungee cords were located and the bike was ready to roll.

Once at the Scottish Rite, the Elected's and their ladies were strategically placed atop the motorcycle and shots were taken. The bike was reloaded and the day was complete. Thanks to our Grand Master's vision, we had accomplished one of the most unique renditions of a Christmas cards ever made in the name of Masonry.

Even though the day is gone, the memories remain. We all hope that the holidays were as fun for you as they were for all of us. But more especially, remember 2010 as the year of great memories, lots of travels and true brotherhood, but ROAR into 2011 and make it the most memorable of our years as Brothers of the Craft.



From left at the back: RWB Jerry "Kuddles" Lingle, RWB Dean "Wasabi" Heinemann, Kerry Heinemann, Karen Owen and RWB David "Pythagoras" Owen. In front from left: Araceli Lascano, MWB G. Santy Lascano, RWB Michael "Leeward" Sanders and Patry Sanders.

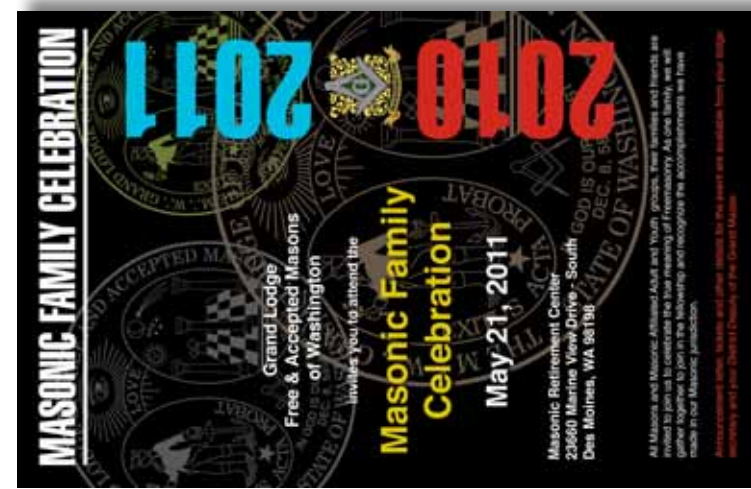
The Grand Lodge of F&AM of Washington hopes you will join us as we...
GATHER TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE MASONRY.

At it's time we gathered together to acknowledge the true meaning of Masonry, and to celebrate its positive impact to our personal lives and within our communities.

All Masons and Masonic-affiliated members and their families are invited to attend a family-oriented MASONIC FAMILY CELEBRATION on Saturday, May 21, 2011. There, we will celebrate organizations and individual members who have exemplified the true meaning of Masonry through their everyday actions and contributions. All activities and events for the day will showcase many talented Masons and affiliated members. There will be something for everyone to enjoy - including family games, live musical entertainment, dancing, a youth group parade, award presentations, crafts, balloons, clowns, movies, storytellers, and food. You don't want to miss this very special event at the historic Masonic Retirement Center, a magnificent location, which is located at 23660 Marine View Drive South in Des Moines, WA.

Tickets go on sale beginning February 15, 2011. You don't want to miss this special event! The Masonic District or Masonic-affiliated organization with the most registered members in attendance for the group photo will win a CASH AWARD to be used as their organization deems appropriate. Additional details will be coming...but if you can't wait,

contact: Vickie Roberts - Overall Coordinator - VickieAndSam@comcast.net



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TO DESCRIBE MASONRY

I find myself often contemplating Masonry and its description. As I try to describe it to myself I can only think of one thing in my mind and feel another in my heart. In my mind, Masonry is naturally compromised by the limits of language. The closest description such limitations can afford is the explanation granted to those outside this gentle craft; that Masonry is a fraternity fervently dedicated to the pursuit of taking good men and making them better, and thus the world.

This, however, does not even distantly approach the true description of Masonry. Masonry does not actually exist within the material world and therefore cannot be confined by the language therein. Masonry is a spiritual journey rather than a series of material landmarks. It means too much to those who share it with one another for it to be anything material. Masonry only uses material words, signs, and objects to best represent itself within a material world.

This feeling called Masonry speaks to us in a spiritual language, which is known on every square inch of the Earth, and every corner of the Celestial Lodge. Masonry is a language that is not spoken, but speaks to us, unknowingly to each other from one another. It captivates our hearts and minds, and implores us to pass it along to whoever pauses with the intention to diligently listen. This is in essence Masonry. It is the need to teach, to learn, to listen; the desire to improve ourselves with the assistance of others. True Masonry is that feeling I experience when I think of it. For Masonry is indeed a feeling, it cannot truly be described as an organization anymore. It can scarcely be described at all; the closest I can get is to call it a Brotherhood of all Man. The feeling called Masonry is the same feeling that drives all people, Mason and Non-Mason to do well and be better. It is a feeling greater than any sensory reaction stimulated by the brain and communicated by the nervous system. At times I think long and hard about this feeling. The feeling itself brings much joy to my heart, which in turn summons a tidal wave of memories that creates a self-perpetual engine of positive emotions.

I accept that despite our best efforts, Masonry cannot truly be described, but we cannot stop trying none the less. However, in thinking of this question I have stumbled upon two more: Where did this feeling come from that compels us to pursue this Craft - this Spiritual Vocation? And if it comes from somewhere, then where must it go once it is satisfied? While the answer to "what is the description of Masonry" is found outside

the circumscribed due bounds of language and is therefore unanswerable, I believe these two questions can in fact be captured by the written language. I don't believe such a magnificent mechanism could have been so gently and precisely carved from the minds of man. I instead believe that something far more breathtaking occurred. This feeling that I and so many others call Masonry was actually born; born in the soul of man when he first walked the earth. It was then nurtured by the warm and caring heart. Afterward it was translated by the mind with rituals, symbols, and allegory the mind could understand. Then Finally, Masonry is diligently practiced by those who think more of one another than they do of themselves. In short, my brothers, the feeling was always there, and will never be satisfied.

By Bro. Tristan Taylor,
Diamond Lodge #83



The Grand Lodge Seal DO NOT USE IT!!!

The Seal of the Grand Lodge of Washington as defined in the Washington Masonic Code, Section 1.10 B.L. is for use by the official representative(s) of the Grand Lodge; either the Grand Master or Grand Secretary and those so designated by the Grand Master when acting in an official capacity.

Some of the inappropriate uses by members have been on Lodge letter head or as an ink mark for general correspondence. It has been used as artwork by Lodges and members. This is forbidden. The Grand Lodge Seal is not to be used by Lodges or members of this Jurisdiction.

The seal of the Grand Lodge of Washington, when used, is in all practical purposes the official position or act of the Grand Lodge. It is used in all foreign correspondence or when communicating official actions or information.

Brethren do not use the seal of the Grand Lodge of Washington!!!!!!!

ONE DAY CONFERRAL

Our Grand Master, MW G Santy Lascano, has authorized the conferral of Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees one day to be performed on Saturday, March 26th. Grand Lodge will be opened at 8:00 AM that day at the Seattle Scottish Rite.

Since their adoption in this jurisdiction, One-Day Conferalls have been used to address the fact that there are many good men who will make good Masons, whose circumstances do not allow them to spend the time required by the normal degree process. These include men in certain professions, men with heavy current family responsibilities, and military personnel subject to deployment around the world. Done judiciously, One Day Conferalls can accommodate these good men, without replacing the traditional conferral of degrees in the Lodge.

All who will attend and experience the One Day Conferall will bear witness to an outstanding quality of work. Candidates will be placed in an environment where they will still receive an individual experience. The in-between degree instruction is assured to be to the point, and well delivered.

One of the great benefits of the One Day Conferall experience is that the lodge mentors will join alongside their candidates during the degree conferalls. This is done to reinforce and strengthen the bond between the candidate and his mentor, because it is well to remember that it is not what happens during the degree conferall; rather, what happens during candidate/mentor interactions after receiving the degrees which will determine the candidate's Masonic future.

Brethren, please make March 26th a priority on your calendar as we bring our brethren to more and further Light in Masonry.

WB Jim Mendoza
Grand Marshall

MASONIC INFORMATION BOOTH

For the first time there will be a MASONIC INFORMATION BOOTH at the Seattle Home Show. The show runs daily from February 19 through February 27 at the Seattle Qwest Field Exhibition Center. The Grand Lodge PR Committee will be in charge of the event that has been approved by Grand Master MWB Lascano. This very popular event attracts men of Masonic age from the entire Puget Sound region. The demographics are very much what Masonry is looking at in the 21st Century as prospective members.

The aim of this booth venture will be to let the public know that Freemasons do exist in the community and to answer questions. If asked about membership of course the booth will try to help the person to a possible lodge. However, there is no target of gaining petitions but rather of bringing the Masonic Community to the public view at an overwhelmingly popular venue.

To make this work the PR Committee will need support from the brethren throughout the area to man the booth. The success of this venture for future years rests with the entire Puget Sound area brethren. It is estimated that ideally the booth should be manned by four brothers all day. Older retired brothers can provide daytime support and younger brothers help in the evenings. Therefore, the PR Committee is asking for the help of not just Seattle/Tacoma area lodges, but also support from concordant bodies.

Volunteer to help. The coordinator and first contact person is Brother Dennis Wilkins at: denniswilkins@me.com. Brethren can also contact VWB CoeTug Morgan, PR Committee Chairman: notpgm@comcast.net for more details.

VW Coe Tug Morgan
Assistant Grand Secretary Emeritus
PR Committee Chair
Seattle's DAYLIGHT MASONIC LODGE of the ARTS
www.daylightmasons.org tel: 206/632-2970



Do you have yours?

"Help Kids Speak" license plate

Revenue generated will go to the Rite Care of Washington Language Disorders Program

