

A View to the Future

Having just completed the first five years of this decade, I am amazed at the many Masonic achievements which have been completed since we entered this millennium. If you will recall, we developed both a vision and a plan to achieve that vision. As we now move into this New Year, it is time to assess how we have done and make mid-course adjustments, always keeping the endpoint (our vision) in view. To this end, a "Tiger Team" composed of current and future Masonic Leaders from throughout this Jurisdiction were invited to participate in a program to review, revise and update our Long Range or Strategic Plan.

This review was accomplished in early December. I recently had the opportunity to review their proposals. Based on their findings, we still have a lot of work to do to achieve our vision. Most of the milestones proposed in the original plan are either accomplished or well on their way to being achieved. The Team suggested additional programs to build upon the foundation which has been laid and carry us through the remainder of the decade. This revised plan will be presented at the Annual Communication in June. I hope you will embrace it as we, the elected officers, have.

As we are halfway through the decade, we are also slightly over halfway through this Grand Lodge year. We have two major goals which I have asked you to assist me in achieving. The first is positive growth in membership. The second is greater recognition of the Fraternity by outsiders. Let me discuss our progress on each and what I envision for the future.

On several occasions, I have addressed what I call the "10 Percent Solution." It is based on the assumption that all our Lodges have an active participation of somewhere between 10 and 25 percent of the total Lodge membership. Our statistical history has shown that we have a trend of between 5 to 7½ percent loss in total membership annually. This loss is composed of between 4 to 6 percent due to death, 1 to 2 percent dropped for non-payment of dues (NPD), and 1 to 1½ percent being issued dimitts. Now for the solution, if every one of the active participants (the 10 to 25 percent) will replace themselves this year, 2006, we will show a positive growth of 2 ½ to 5 percent. Being conservative, I suggest that just 10 percent of us need to replace ourselves. Let me assure you this is doable as several Lodges were able to do so in 2005,



Lady Nancy at the District 8 Reception of the Grand Master.

Thank You

Masons of Washington

I am endlessly amazed at the generosity of spirit I witness while working with you, the Masons of Washington State. During my travels with Al since June, we have been overwhelmed with contributions to my chosen charity. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our Lodges. I especially want to express my sincerest gratitude to the Masons of District 8 for your generous contribution, the members of King Solomon Lodge, Deputy Jim Mendoza and the Lodges from District 13, representatives from Eastern Star, Job's Daughters, International Order of Rainbow, DeMolay Sorority, and DeMolay for hosting a breakfast and donating the proceeds of what turned out to be another very large contribution. It was heartening to see such a turnout. The Masons of the Lodge even made two additional trips to the grocery store for more food.

MS HUB is the charity I have chosen to contribute this year's proceeds to. I would like to convey why I am so motivated to support this wonderful organization. Early in 2003, my son-in-law, JR, my daughter, and their children were visiting on a Sunday afternoon. JR had been suffering from what he thought was a scratch on his cornea. That day he noticed dark spots in his field of vision that were getting progressively worse. They left our house for an emergency appointment with his optometrist. The spots progressed until, later in the day, he completely lost all vision. Nothing could be done for him until a neurologist could be seen. Within two weeks, we received the news that he had "Optic Neuritis," a significant symptom

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Make a Mason

There is a condition that concerns me, and I have spent a number of hours contemplating the situation and possible solutions. I will share with you some thoughts that other Brothers have put forth: "It is idle to deny that deep and widespread ignorance prevails throughout the Craft concerning almost everything Masonic except the ritual—the husk in which the corn of nourishment, or, if you prefer, the casket in which the precious jewels of the craft are enclosed. What portion of the members of our Lodges could tell, for instance, within two centuries, the age of our oldest records? How many Masters have never read a line of the old Charges of a Freemason, appointed "to be read at the making of new brethren?" How many Masonic dignitaries know the symbolic significance of the cable-tow? What Mason in Washington will tell me the symbolic teaching of the forty-seventh problem of Euclid?"

"My experience is that there is far too little emphasis upon Masonic education or in the real development of Masonic knowledge. A new Mason could very well spend several years in the Fraternity and not be able to answer any questions about our history and symbols, or have any exposure to our most important allegories. It is mostly left up to the new Brother himself to seek out and obtain the knowledge of the most basic Masonic principles and ritual. Too often we just want to get the "work" over with so we can get out of there. I sometimes wonder why we even came."

The first quotation was delivered by Hon. William H. Upton, acting as Grand Orator and delivered to the Grand Lodge of Washington on June 14, 1893. The second was written by Brother Robert George of Centennial No. 25 on February 18, 2005. It does not seem like things have changed much in the past one hundred years.

At the Conference of Grand Masters in Calgary last year, I had the opportunity to talk with the SGW of Alberta. It seems that Freemasonry in Alberta is growing with the addition of young businessmen who want to be able to associate with men of their own age and share their principals of Freemasonry. They prefer to associate and do business with Brothers who they know will behave toward them in an ethical manner. The new Brothers are taking their time advancing through the degrees. They wish to truly understand what it means to be an Entered Apprentice and a Fellow Craft before becoming a Master Mason. They are averaging three to four months between degrees to study and learn their meanings. This is working for them.

I know there are Brothers that are strong proponents for the One Day Classes we have used over the past seven years, while there may be some who are utterly opposed to the idea. I personally view the One Day Classes as another working tool in our toolbox, and, like all tools, it should be used appropriately.

The whole idea is that we should not be as concerned about making members, but should focus on making Masons. So what are we to do if we want to turn this lack of education around, and have better educated Masons?

First, I would suggest to each Lodge to start a Masonic Library. The Grand Lodge Library has books that they will give Lodges who want to start a library. In addition, there are a multitude of publications on the market for a very nominal cost that a Lodge could add to a library. Brethren should also be encouraged to contribute from their own libraries. There are also many Masonic books in the public library and a listing for the Brethren would be helpful.

Second, and related to the library, why not start a Saturday morning coffee and book discussion? If four or five Brothers were to read the same book and then come together to discuss the ideas, this would go a long way toward improving Masonic knowledge and promoting Fraternalism. Over time, growth will occur in both numbers and knowledge.

Third, restore the social element in our Lodges, and have no more meetings in which "nothing was done." Do this by having some kind of Masonic instruction and a bit to eat at

We must all remember that without the Lodge there can be nothing else.

every meeting which is not occupied with degree work. Let well informed Masons deliver written or oral addresses on any Masonic subject, and ensure Masonic instruction is the primary focus of these meetings. One Lodge that has started this is Queen Anne in Seattle. At every meeting there is a speaker. This year the Master has chosen the Seven Cardinal Virtues of the Fellow Craft degree, and has arranged for a speaker from Seattle Pacific University to cover the subject. I attended a meeting and found it to be both educational and enjoyable. Feedback I have heard is all positive. All it has taken is for the Master to do a little planning and locate speakers.

Fourth, institute a Mentoring program with the Lodge. Whether or not these Mentors are Masonic scholars is not important. That they are devoted to learning and helping a new member learn, is important. The Mentor may or may not be the coach that teaches the ritual, but is the one who educates the new Mason in Masonry. Our Leadership Development Committee has a program to help Mentors and Lodges with this. Who better to fulfill this role than the Scottish Rite Mason or York Rite Mason, who has the information and a mandate to share that knowledge? It is my position that the Lodges should be the primary focus of all Masons and that strengthening the local Lodge creates a strong foundation on which to build other Masonic bodies. We must all remember that without the Lodge there can be nothing else.

I believe we ought, as our ancient Brethren did, to do more for newly made Masons than to turn them loose with hardly a hint of the deep meaning, true value and real purposes of our Fraternity. "Universal benevolence, brotherly love and truth, acting by the square and living within the compass" are indeed most vital teachings of Masonry; but they are not the limits of our duty. These include preserving, and passing on to our successors, knowledge of the teachings and symbolism which are our heritage, and which give our Craft a value infinitely above that of all other organized bodies.



RWB Charles McQuery
Deputy Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Washington

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Things We Say And Do

How many times have you heard someone say “Bretheren” or “Bretheran” when “Brethren” is what they really mean to say? This is just one of the common errors you hear in a Masonic Lodge. Another pet peeve of mine is “Presiding Worshipful Masters” or “Sitting Worshipful Masters.” There is only one kind of “Worshipful Master,” and that is the one that is the current Master of his Lodge. You either are the “Worshipful Master” or you are not.

The only exception I concede to this is introductions during the annual installation of officers when it is common for the outgoing Worshipful Master to introduce the Masters that he served with during the preceding year and the newly installed Worshipful Master introduces the Masters for the coming year that he will be serving with.

How about during introductions, after several have been introduced by their title, name and position when the Worshipful Master says, “Join me according these Worshipful Brothers, Very Worshipful Brothers, Right Worshipful Brothers, and Most Worshipful Brothers the public Grand Honors?” This is entirely unnecessary and very convoluted. We are all “Brothers,” so forget the magic tongue work and just say: “Join me according these Brothers the Public Grand Honors.”

This brings up another common saying, “Assist me in according,” or, “Please assist me in according,” I submit that the Worshipful Master should not ask for assistance in this endeavor. When he tells you to “Join him in according,” that is exactly what he means and it is an order, not a request. It is also unnecessary to say “with me,” or, “on my lead.” We all know how to follow the Worshipful Master in according Grand Honors, and we will comply and follow the Master without this unnecessary verbiage.

We also often forget to stand when addressing the Worshipful Master. During all discussion in Lodge, that discussion is directed through the Worshipful Master, not to any other Brother, and you should rise and face the Master when speaking. Come on Brothers, it is only good manners.

Frequently, we confuse presenting and introductions. Unless the Worshipful Master has specifically directed otherwise, the Senior Deacon “Presents” Brothers at the Altar to the Worshipful Master. The Worshipful Master then “Introduces” these Brothers to the Lodge. All Brothers and Lodge Officers are presented and introduced as “Free and Accepted Masons of Washington.” Grand Lodge Committeemen, Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, Deputies of the Grand Master, and Elected Grand Lodge Officers are presented and introduced as “Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Washington.”

Consider for a moment “Lodge Traditions.” How many times have you heard that the reason XYZ Lodge does a particular portion of ritual or floor work in a certain manner is “Lodge Tradition.” While that is an admirable tribute to the history of our Lodges, is it really “Tradition?” Frequently, it is actually because the Master made an error two years ago (or so) and, as the upcoming Master was not familiar with ritual and floor work, he continued the same error. The then Junior Warden, having been really pushed ahead without adequate mentoring and training, repeats the error for his year in the East. Is this “Lodge Tradition” or just repetition of an error? We need to look at each of our Lodge Traditions and insure that they are really “traditions” and not just repetitions of errors.

Is there an easy way to correct our misuses? Sure, and the first step is to read. The standard work for Washington is all contained in the cipher and monitor. The recommended method of performing much of the ritual is contained in the Lodge Officers (LO) Handbook. The Standard work is mandatory and you may not make any innovations or changes to it without the approval of the annual Grand Lodge. The LO Handbook is advisory and contains recommendations. Why not invite the Grand Lecturer or your Deputy of the Grand Master to visit and have a “Stop and Go?” For those of you who attended one of the Regional Workshops this fall, you witnessed the Grand Lecturer VERY CAREFULLY following the standard work and Lodge Officers Handbook when the Grand Lodge Officers

opened and closed Grand Lodge. When an error was noted, he called it out and explained the error and the correct manner for the work. Besides being fun, it was instructional. With a little work and practice, we can improve our ritual and the conduct of our meetings.



RWB Wayne Smith
Senior Grand Warden
Grand Lodge of Washington



New Year's Introspection

January is one of those times in our lives that afford us a sense, either real or imagined, of renewal. It is a time to reflect on the most recent past, and depending on our individual or collective circumstances, we determine to improve, eliminate or totally change. Such is where we stand both collectively as a Fraternity and individually as a member of it. Each one of us has the free will to set his path according to what he believes, and, perhaps, at times in whom he believes.

Are we, as a Craft, going to be content with the course that was traveled before, or are we going to continually strive for betterment in ourselves, our leaders or our Craft? I believe each era did what it saw as improvement. Some made greater strides than others, but all looked to the future with hope for that brighter day.

We all have heard about the challenges with which we are all now facing. They are very real and most demanding. However, I am in agreement with a few brethren with whom I share some different thoughts. It is time we stopped concentrating on the negatives and began nurturing and cultivating the positives. What are the positives? Ask this question of the new Masons that have joined your Lodge. These men are equipped as well as you with an abundance of thoughts as well as pure excitement for their new found Fraternity. They just need to be asked to share.

Review our Washington Grand Lodge Vision Statement. In it we state that we are “committed to attracting and retaining all men of high quality.” Brethren, these kinds of men can be a challenge to sift out of the mainstream. It also tells me they are not going to be found through mass membership drives.

Our Grand Master has asked, as part of his 10% replacement plan, that we replace ourselves. This is not a difficult task. We all have more than a few friends and acquaintances to talk with and share our excitement about this organization. I am asking us all to reach out and share our experiences with these men, thus giving this special time of renewal true meaning.

I wish for each and every one of you a most prosperous new year and may it turn out to be everything you wish it to be.



RWB Douglas E. Tucker
Junior Grand Warden
Grand Lodge of Washington

and have been placed on our "10 Percent Solution Honor Roll." These Lodges are: Walla Walla No. 7, Union City No. 27, Newport No. 144, Daylight No. 232, Ridgefield Daylight No. 237, Mt. Olympus No. 298, Frank S. Land No. 313, and Hermanos del Arte No. 314. These are not the final statistics from 2005, as all reports have not been reviewed prior to the deadline for this edition of the Tribune. I fully suspect that additional Lodges will be added to the Honor Roll. As we are now in 2006, let's reset the counter, and I request each one of you to replace yourself this year. We can, and will, grow as you carry out our vision "to 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." We will be publicizing the Lodges which achieve the 10 percent goal and they will receive special recognition at the Annual Communication.

The second goal I have asked you to help me achieve fully supports the one mentioned above. As you remember, in November 2004, a new license plate bearing the Square and Compasses was made available by the State of Washington. Since that time, approximately 1,000 plates have been issued. By displaying the new plate on your car, you make it obvious the owner is a member of the Masonic Family. This reflects directly on that part of our vision, which deals with recognition. I cannot tell you the number of times I have heard someone relate that they had no idea a co-worker, a relative, a friend or an acquaintance was a Mason. This is generally caused by the fact we do not outwardly show our membership by displaying the Masonic Emblem. With the increased traffic congestion we are encountering throughout the State, sitting behind a car with the Square and Compasses displayed will at least send a subliminal message if not a overt one. The goal is for us to have 2,000 plates issued by the Annual Communication in June. In addition to helping our public relations effort, you will also be contributing to a very worthwhile Masonic Charity, the Scottish Rite RiteCare Foundation.

MW Alvin W. Jorgensen
Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Washington

of Multiple Sclerosis. JR lost his vision for the better part of three months. Thankfully, it gradually returned over the next year as multiple lesions on his optic nerve healed. It is rare that both eyes are affected, and even rarer for vision to return completely.

Thanks to the efforts of the doctors and staff of the MS Hub, JR was given excellent and timely treatment, preventing further damage and regaining his vision. He now faces ongoing physical symptoms and must have a daily injection. Every night he goes to bed, there will be the possibility of waking up blind, yet his outlook on life has never wavered. He is an avid sports car enthusiast and travels with a BMW race team as the lead technician. The year he lost his vision he had raised over \$15,000 for MS, and while in the midst of his recovery and still partially blind, he performed on stage with my granddaughter for her ballet recital! JR is a remarkable young man, and I am proud and honored to call him my son-in-law.

It means more to me than I can express to be able to support those who have done so much for so many, including: the Masons and all of their charitable efforts, the MS Hub and their treatment and research, and JR whose acts of kindness are endless.

The MS Hub works in conjunction with the University of Washington to research MS, and fights for a cure while treating over 6,000 people affected with the disease. They are a state of the art facility whose sole purpose is to provide the MS patient with a full service location. If you would like to donate along with this year's Masonic contribution, I would be happy to forward all proceeds. Contributions can be sent to the Grand Lodge Office, 47 St. Helens Avenue, Tacoma, Washington 98402-2698. Please make all checks payable to 'MS Hub.'



Thank You Masons of Washington State,
Nancy Jorgensen

Update to Building Corporations

Brothers All,

In December 2005, the Grand Master mailed a letter to all the Lodges asking that each Building Corporation update their Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Over the past several years, the Grand Lodge, working with legal counsel, updated these forms to ensure compliance with civil and Masonic law. The Washington Masonic Code, Section 21.08 allows for "Title Holding Corporation" or what we refer to as Building Corporations or Temple Boards. It also states that such entities will use the forms specified by Grand Lodge.

Some Brothers have expressed a concern about these changes. Some have even stated that it is none of Grand Lodge's business. Brothers, it is Grand Lodge's business and we are looking out for the interest of all our Masons and all our Lodges. The old forms were also Grand Lodge forms and required by the Masonic Code. The new Forms include language on Indemnification and Limits of Liability. The general gist of this language protects the Trustees and defines the lines of authority between these entities. A Building Corporation is a legal entity (if filed with the Secretary of State) and does provide some protection between the Lodge and the public.

On several occasions, various Building Corporation representatives have called the Grand Lodge office and inquired about their "Temple Board" and, after querying the Secretary of States website, found out that the Building Corporation was no longer active or it was still tied to an old Lodge that had consolidated with another Lodge. These Building Corporations are member Corporations. This means it cannot exist

without a Lodge. If a Lodge turns in their Charter, the Building Corporation has no standing because the member is no longer in existence. It is easy to check the status of a Building Corporation on the Secretary of State's website. Simply use the Corporation search engine at: <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/corps/search.aspx>.

When updating your Building Corporation with the new Grand Lodge forms, if the Corporation already exists, you will not be required to have "incorporators." You are merely amending and restating the Articles. There is a certificate form we prepared for this use. All of these new forms are on the Grand Lodge website under forms. Also on the website is a document that steps you through the process.

Remember Brothers, we at Grand Lodge are the guys with the "white hats." We are working to improve Masonry, and ensure the success of our future. If you have any questions about these new forms, please do not hesitate to contact the Grand Lodge office, and please also visit the Grand Lodge website at: www.freemason-wa.org.



RW David Owen
Grand Secretary
Grand Lodge of Washington

LITERAL HISTORY

VW R.K. BISH, Chairman
Library & Museum Committee

This article is about the presentation of a very significant, literary, historical gift. The list of support characters in this saga are somewhat unimportant. As the story unfolds, the list of characters will be revealed in chronological order.

First, however, the star of this event needs to be introduced. Dr. Susanne Baker is a long-time citizen of the United States who had original citizenship in Germany. This early citizenship is important to the development of the story. Dr. Baker was raised in Nuremberg during the Nazi take-over and control of the German government. As a young girl, in that location, she observed the systematic destruction and persecution of Freemasonry. Known Masonic members along with their belongings and real estate were confiscated or eliminated. Dr. Baker is convinced that her Father was a Mason but has no proof of that fact. At this time it was dangerous and even lethal for one to let slip any relationship with the Craft. Being very young, Dr. Baker was minutely aware of clues to her Father's relationship with Freemasonry. Even so, she recalls things that enforce her assumption of his membership.

Sometime in the 1939 time frame the Nazi government took custody of a Masonic Lodge near her home in Nuremberg. The Nazi's converted the Lodge into a museum to display, to the German public, the regime's propaganda effort to demean Freemasonry. The Lodge was provided with many elaborate inclusions that had no part in our gentle Craft. The bogus additions; descriptions of false meanings; and propaganda lies were promoted to ridicule Freemasonry. To strengthen this effort, to expose Freemasonry, a Museum Guide Book was fabricated and sold to those who visited and viewed the Lodge. This begins the reason this article is prepared. Dr. Baker and her Father toured the Lodge, in their neighborhood, and obtained a copy of the Museum's Guide Book.



Dr. Susanne Baker presents VW R.K. Bish (left) and WB Don Munks with Guide Book and translation.

Dr. Baker came to live in the United States sometime later. The Museum's Guide Book has remained in her custody all this time. The Guide, itself, was written in "Old" style German script. When Dr. Baker discovered the lies and misdirection of the Guide's descriptive propaganda, she decided to translate the German script into English. With the completion of this task, Dr. Baker sought a place where this effort would be appreciated.

Enter the supporting cast of this narrative. Dr. Baker approached V.W.B. Red Bell of Fidalgo Lodge No. 77 with her story. Bro. Red passed her story to M.W.B. Jim Vannice for action and follow-up. Bro. Jim, in turn, contacted Bro. Richard Fletcher of the Masonic Service Association of North America in Washington D.C. Bro. Fletcher found no outlet for this important Historical Document. Bro. Jim then contacted V.W. B.

Dick Bish, the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Library & Museum of Washington. Bro. Dick expressed a proper interest in the importance of this Historical Document. Arrangements were made for an 'official' transfer.

Bro. Red negotiated with the Master of Fidalgo Lodge No. 77 to "officially" receive the Document from Dr. Baker and then "officially" transfer the Historical Document to the Grand Lodge Library & Museum Committee Chairman. On Wednesday, January 11th, all the "official" transactions were consummated. Dr. Susanne Baker was invited to the Stated Meeting of Fidalgo Lodge No. 77, along with the supporting cast mentioned earlier.

W.B. Don Munks introduced Dr. Baker to the assembled ladies and Brethren. She held the crowds interest with her story. The Historical Document was then handed to W.B. Munks and in turn to Bro. Dick, who assured that a proper disposition and display of this important literary artifact would take place.

It is hoped that with the telling of this story it will provide comfort for those who have significant artifacts to display and share and are concerned about where they might reside when the day comes. Be assured that the Grand Lodge Library & Museum will take seriously the responsibility for display and protection of your cherished artifacts.

Masonic Lodge Donates to

Cle Elum-Roslyn Elementary School

(Article reprinted by permission of the Northern Kittitas County Tribune)

By Shaun Scott, N.K.C. Tribune Reporter

The Cle Elum St. Thomas Masonic Lodge No. 139 donated \$200 to Cle Elum-Roslyn Elementary School. Nick Henderson, a Past Master of the Lodge, presented CE-R Elementary School principal Matt Chase with a \$200 dollar check on January 10. "Every year we donate money to the school," Henderson explained. The money donated goes to a child who may not be able to afford the necessities. "The money is given to the school so they can use it to buy a child items they need like a coat, hat, mittens or boots," Henderson said. Principal Matt Chase is grateful for donations the school receives from the community. "We're so appreciative of the Masonic Lodge," Chase said. "It's a great example of partnerships from school community members."



NICK HENDERSON (on left) presents CE-R Elementary Principal Matt Chase with a \$200 check in front of CE-R Elementary School on Jan. 10
Photo courtesy of N.K.C. TRIBUNE/Shawn Scott

CHIP's Update

Brethren and Friends all,

I recently had the opportunity to meet with a member of the Seattle Schools System. The Member educator at Denny Middle School and I have been in communication since the State Fair in Monroe this past summer. He has been working with the Seattle School people and Denny Middle School in particular in an effort to bring CHIP's to the Seattle School System. Well, he has succeeded and on Saturday March 11th from approximately 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM, we, as a team, will be presenting the program to the 7 Elementary Feeder Schools that feed Denny plus Denny School itself. This program will be presented in West Seattle. Per our discussion, he informed me that there are approximately 700 students in Denny, and each of the feeder schools has approximately 500 students. This presents the potential of 4200 students plus any siblings. This may be optimistic, but if only 20% participate, that would be in excess of 1000 participants.

Brethren and Friends, your help is needed.

The goal for this presentation is to have 4 video stations running at the same time: 4 stations for members of the Dental Community and 4 stations for the fingerprinting portion of the program. We also want clowns to entertain those who are waiting in line and members of the Fraternity to speak to those participating, explaining and answering questions as to what Masons Do and What Masonry Is. We will also need members of the youth groups to ask questions. The Lady organizations are also very important to assist with the greeting of families, and men and other adults can help with the video taping.

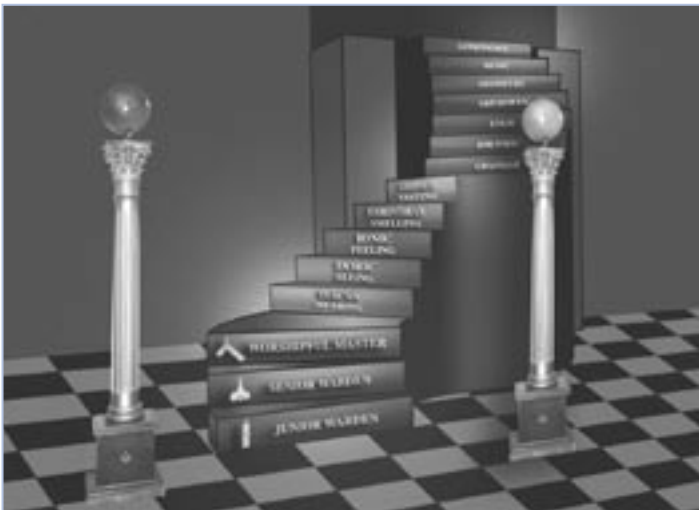


This educator is working to have TV, radio, and print media coverage of the program. The school will start advertising this program in the next 2 to 3 weeks within the Seattle School District. He is also working on having all the printing done in a minimum of 3 to 5 languages. He is having difficulty, though, in obtaining help from local law enforcement for fingerprinting. Can anyone help in this aspect of the program?

The educator is also working with the local business community to help cover the cost of all materials. The cost is somewhere between \$7.00 and \$8.00 per child (this includes wear and tear on the equipment). As a Committee, we presently own 2 Sony Camcorders that work, have a Fisher Camcorder available for use, 2 TV's for video taping, plus an additional 5" TV and VCR for recording and 3 Panasonic camcorders as backup. We also have microphones that can be brought to the children for interview purposes. Some equipment is temperamental, and does not always work properly. Now for an additional request, if anyone has a Sony Camcorder or one of similar make hiding in their attic or garage gathering dust, can we use your equipment? Please contact us at chips121@mindspring.com. All help and donations are greatly appreciated.

Fraternally,
WB Vincent DiGiulio
CHIPS Committee Chairman

Our Masonic eLectures



The Flight of Winding Stairs - Slide No.19 - Fellowcraft Degree eLecture

The electronic lecture series was first proposed as a way to provide an electronic substitute for the esoteric degree lectures in those instances when a Lodge was unable to secure a Brother to deliver it. The effort to research, propose, and implement the project was initially headed by VWB Coe Tug Morgan. The initial concept was to produce a full motion video of each of the 3 degree lectures. While a good concept, it became apparent that the cost and resources required to produce them were beyond our reach.

Later, VWB Winton Smith headed a team to develop and deliver a more cost-effective way to accomplish the same objective. They succeeded in creating a computer-based multimedia version of the First Degree Lecture that was launched for testing and approval under the guidance of the Jurisprudence Committee. When the trial period was deemed successful, release of the Lecture was approved by, then Grand Master, James (Jimmy) Reid Jr.

Another challenge arose when it became apparent that the need for a computer in the Lodge to deliver the Lecture was posing a barrier to adoption of the tool in many Lodges. This problem was addressed and rectified under the Chairmanship of VWB G. Santy Lascano by converting the Lecture into a DVD format, enabling it to be viewed on both computers and televisions. This final version of the First Degree Lecture was approved for distribution by MWB Jimmy Reid.

Things then got a lot more complicated as the Second Degree Lecture required a much more labor and resource intensive approach. One of the most challenging aspects was due to the interactive nature of the Lecture as it was designed and laid out in accordance with the standard work. Due to these challenges, MWB John D. McNab made the decision to develop the Third Degree Lecture first, and save the most challenging of the three for last. The Third Degree electronic lecture was then released during his term as Grand Master.

The development of the Second Degree Lecture was begun during the term of MWB Sat Tashiro. He also transferred the responsibility of developing the Lecture to the Multimedia Committee. This Lecture is now nearing completion and should be released during the term of our current Grand Master, MWB Al Jorgensen.

These lectures are proving to be a big hit with those Lodges who have taken the time to obtain and integrate them into their degree work. Some Lodges have also discovered that they are an invaluable tool in mentoring candidates for their proficiency examinations. We have heard much enthusiasm and many success stories from both mentors and candidates.

If you are interested in acquiring a Lodge copy of these lectures, please contact the Grand Lodge Office. These Lectures are limited to the authorized request of your Worshipful Master, acting through the Secretary. They are also sequentially registered to protect copyright regulations. Brethren, it is fitting to proudly announce that our Grand Jurisdiction pioneered the idea of this very unique concept, and successfully rose to the challenge of accomplishing this very worthy objective.

VWB G. Santy Lascano
Deputy of the Grand Master in District 8
Grand Lodge of Washington

Masonic History and Mt. Hood Lodge No. 32

Recently, the Brethren and friends of Mt. Hood Lodge No. 32 celebrated the Lodge's 125th anniversary. Our Worshipful Master, Worshipful Brother Jestin Galland, had suggested in a planning that he would like those Lodge officers so inclined to select a topic or event from the Lodge's official history and work up a short presentation. This history had been compiled by WB David Miller for our Lodge's centennial celebration. As I reviewed Worshipful Brother David Miller's wonderful work, the following entry immediately caught my eye:

"Included with the minutes of October 11, 1934 is a brochure from the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Research and Education which detailed a very ambitious and comprehensive program of Masonic Education for the Constituent Lodges to develop during the Grand Lodge Year of 1934-35."

These years were also a rather dark time for many of our brethren, their families, and for people throughout much of the world:

- The U.S. was still in the middle of the Great Depression,
- The Nazis enacted the Nuremberg Laws against Jews to prevent "racial pollution,"
- Heinrich Himmler started his breeding program to produce the "Aryan super race,"
- The year before, in 1933, Herman Goering held an interview with Grand Master von Heeringen of the "Land" Grand Lodge of Germany, and told him there was no place for Freemasonry in Nazi Germany, and
- By 1934, Freemasonry in Germany was being systematically eradicated, or driven underground.

Meanwhile, here in Vancouver, our Brothers were preparing a program that would help them share and understand the very principles that such tyrants have always found so threatening. It had been proposed by the Grand Lodge Committee that the Constituent Lodges adopt a program as a foundation and guide for their work during the (then) current year. The subject selected for exploration was, "The Charges of a Freemason." Upon these Charges, are founded many of the universal principles that have made for the strength of Masonry.

Realizing the wisdom behind the recommendation of the Committee, and the benefits to be derived by the Brethren from such an in-depth study of the several suggested subjects, the officers of Mt. Hood Lodge responded in the following manner: M.W. Wm. C. Bates and Bro. Horace W. Arnold both addressed the brethren on the subject, "The Mason in His Relation to Religion" at the January 24, 1935 meeting. On February 14, W. Bro. George M. Davison, P.M. delivered a fine lecture on "The Mason in his Relation to the State," and Bro. John B. Karaciewicz, Junior Warden, on March 28, spoke to the brethren on the subject, "The Mason in His Relation to the Profane." At the following meeting, April 11, Bro. Cecil A. Tuttle, Senior Warden, gave the brethren a fine lecture entitled, "The Mason in His Relation to the Craft."

In short, in the finest tradition of the Craft, these men appear to have zealously taken on the task of enlightening themselves and their brethren, on just what it means to be a Mason. It is that desire to seek out, internalize, and then share such deeper understanding that is the mark of a true Master. My exposure to Masons exemplifying such mastery started on that first Saturday when, as our Lodge's youngest Entered Apprentice, I showed up over in the Lodge building's card room for my first lessons in "the work." Brothers Stephen Fondren and Richard Wharton began to teach me that which I needed to know in order to begin my advance in Masonry. As they patiently helped me to read, and then memorize the arcane contents of a little black book, I began to detect a slight, and yet very wry smile from time to time. What were they smirking about? I would soon learn that this was the same look that people get when they give someone their first taste of, oh... chocolate, or

some other, even more compelling taste or sensation. It's that look that usually goes along with something like the words, "It's good, huh?" I think maybe they knew that they had found a junkie for the "Ah-ha" moment; that rush that comes with the leap of insight, when that which had been hidden is revealed. Over the following weeks and months, a number of men would take time out of their Saturdays to come and share with me, the other candidates, and their peers, their knowledge of our rituals and traditions, and more importantly, how the principles embodied therein have been put into practice by Masons throughout history.

Recall please, that the minutes from October of 1934 included a brochure from the Grand Lodge. In that brochure, it was noted that Albert Pike, one of the greatest students of Masonry as well as one of its leaders, once said: "Imagine not that you will become a Mason by learning what is commonly called 'the Work,' or even by becoming familiar with our traditions. Masonry has a history, a literature, a philosophy. Its allegories and traditions will teach you much; but much is to be sought elsewhere."

Reflecting again on Pike's admonition that "much is to be sought elsewhere," I am soundly struck by the similarity of the principles contained in our Masonic Charges to the many great systems of morality the world over. For example, the ancient Japanese Bushido Code is almost indistinguishable from the code observed by the Chivalric Knights of the Middle Ages, which bears many similarities to the "Futuwwah," the Sufi code of chivalry. All read as if they were a point by point distillation of our Masonic teachings. Even the method of passing on this knowledge is strikingly similar; the attentive ear of the apprentice receiving it from the instructive tongue of the master. That so many great men and even greater social institutions have, for millenia, taught these same principles, in virtually the same manner, is compelling evidence of their universal worth and truth.

Bro. John Nelson
Mt. Hood Lodge No. 32

Smoking Ban

The Grand Lodge has consulted with our legal counsel concerning the recently passed smoking ban and offers the following for your information.

Masonry is a private organization, and the current law that bans smoking in public places does not apply if the Lodge is a private organization. However, if the Lodge is used for public events or has employees, then the rule is applicable. Here are several scenarios for your consideration:

1. After the Lodge meeting, the Brothers and their Ladies are at refreshment. Does the law apply? No, it does not apply when the event only includes members, their spouses, and their guests.
2. The Lodge has several employees working for the Lodge or Building Corporation. Yes, the law does apply. Even if the employee is a Brother, you are now an employer and must follow the law.
3. My Lodge building is exempt from paying taxes because 51% of the building's annual use is for public events. Yes and No. If the building is used for purposes of public use, church meetings, parties, or other general gatherings, the rule must be followed. However, the other times it is used by the Lodge it is not applicable.
4. What if the Lodge rents the space from another organization? Yes, the law applies.

A simple rule of thumb to follow: If you have employees or the public is involved at a particular event, the law applies. If a Lodge agrees to adopt the no smoking policy, it has that authority much like the use of alcohol on the premises. Brethren, it is an essential part of our obligation as Masons to follow the civil law.

Brethren, this is one of the easiest and best ways to make a dramatic impact on Masonry in Washington State, please be a part of it.

Also, each new plate or renewal will provide a \$28.00 donation to the Scottish Rite RiteCare Foundation, helping young children in Washington State with language disorders at no cost to their families.

You do not need to wait until your next license renewal. The new plates can be issued at any time and there is no additional renewal fee. You can perform your annual renewal up to six months early and have them good for 18 months.

Each set of plates initially costs \$40.00, annual renewal is an additional \$30.00, and plates may be purchased at the County Auditor's office or license agent anywhere in the state.

Over 1,000 Masonic License Plates have been purchased. That is 250 more than at the time our last issue went to print. Our goal is to have an additional 1,000 issued by the Annual Communication next June.

It is a tremendous public relations tool that will pay continuous dividends if we take advantage of it. When going to purchase one, simply ask for the plate for "Helping Kids Speak."

Good News Brethren,

"Helping Kids"



Got Yours Yet?



TRIBUNE

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