

Alaska Grand Lodge

Bulletin

Third Quarter, 1989

October 21, 1989



Our Trust being in God . . .

Where Have All the Good Guys Gone?

New candidates routinely make the observation; "Masonry isn't what I really expected." But when asked why, usually reply that they really don't know what it was that they had expected.

Logically speaking, it would appear likely that their uncertainty is simply because they didn't know what it was that they were looking for in the first place! But then, this is a common plight, we thought we wanted chocolate cake until we saw the variety of other pastries in the display case.

Masonry means different things to different people, and it is up to each individual to make his own determinations from what is made available to him; but in the final analysis, one must follow the principles set forth, or he has gained

nothing! Quite possibly, the individual who laments, "It isn't what I expected" fears that it might mean changing a life style he enjoys, thus becoming an unwilling participant.

It could be that the unwilling participant has picked up on something that has long plagued all organizations; a distinct lack of TRUST! To like or admire a person is one thing, to respect them yet another - TRUST is the essential ingredient for success! Many long solid organizations are withering because a lack of trust has become a malignancy within them. Society has ways of dealing with those who cannot be trusted; yet it is becoming the norm to pick up your toys and head down the road to another game if you don't like the one that appears to have short-changed you. Rarely

Where Have All the Good Guys Gone? (Continued)

however does the new game offer a greater degree of the one ingredient that will guarantee it's success, TRUST!

Members of any organization who knowingly allow infractions of their rules to occur without attempting to correct them are equally as guilty as the individual who has committed the injustice. And a lack of trust is as sure to follow, as day follows night!

Without a feeling of trust, an organization has nothing! Those in a position of leadership become drones who garner little more than basic acceptance with a degree of respect for their ritualistic ability. While its members (whose voices seldom speak well of their previous associations) quietly fade away into oblivion - and it is a fool who fails to recognize that 'word of mouth' has always been the most efficient mode of advertisement.

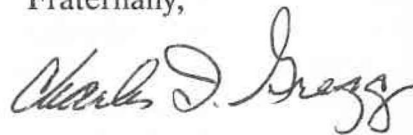
The formula for success in Masonry is so simple that many can't understand it!

As Masons we have been told that we are to regard the volume of the Sacred Law as the great light of our profession, and to follow the precepts set forth in it. Further explanation should not be necessary!

From the Installation of Officers, Charge to the Lodge - The Officers who you have selected to govern your Lodge are sufficiently conversant with the rules of propriety and the laws of our institution to avoid exceeding the powers with which they have been entrusted; and you are of too generous a disposition to envy their preferment. Therefore, I trust that you have but one aim, to please each other, to unite in the Grand Design of being happy and of communicating happiness."

If you can be "trusted", you will communicate happiness - It is guaranteed!

Fraternally,



Charles I. Gregg
Grand Master

GRAND MASTERS ITINERARY

Masonic Year 1989

October

31st - Matanuska Lodge No. 7 (Palmer)

November

4th - Joint Lodge Dinner in Fairbanks

13th - 16th - Grand Lodge of Nevada

18th - District 3 meeting in Anchorage

December and January

Currently void of activity in preparation for Grand Lodge in Anchorage - on 1st and 2nd of February 1990.

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Grand Master: | M.W. Charles I. Gregg (10/13) | Phone: 279-3116 |
| | 1419 H Street | Anchorage, AK 99501 |
| Dpty Grand Master: | R.W. David J. Thomas (6/11) | Phone: 262-4874 |
| | P.O. Box 291 | Soldotna, AK 99669 |
| Sr. Grand Warden: | R.W. Franklin W. Erie (3/12) | Phone: 456-7490 |
| | 102 1/2 Charles Street | Fairbanks, AK 99701 |
| Jr. Grand Warden: | R.W. Leslie R. Little (10/15) | Phone: 243-0481 |
| | 4313 Bridle Lane - | Anchorage, AK 99517 |
| Grand Secretary: | R.W. Neil R. Bassett (10) | Phone: 243-4875 |
| | P.O. Box 190668 | Anchorage, AK 99519-0668 |

DEPUTIES OF THE GRAND MASTER

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| District 1 | VW Paul J. Merkouris (2) | Phone: 443-2141 |
| | P.O. Box 951 | Nome, AK 99762 |
| District 2 | VW Alfred B. Cratty (9) | Phone: 486-4378 |
| | 1810 Chickenoff | Kodiak, AK 99615 |
| District 3 | VW Willie R. Josey (8) | Phone: 345-2985 |
| | 1911 Jarvis | Anchorage, AK 99515 |
| District 4 | VW John H. Grainger (1) | Phone: 225-5557 |
| | Box 5326 | Ketchikan, AK 99901 |

The Coach

Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the importance of selecting a qualified coach to teach and direct a candidate through the several degrees of Masonry. Although a coach is assigned to teach a candidate, it is the responsibility of the Lodge to train him in the responsibilities and privileges of FREEMASONRY, and the two should always remain distinct and separate.

The coach is perhaps the most important person a new candidate is ever to have as he is introduced into the sacred precincts of FREEMASONRY. His influence and the impression he makes is probably one of the most lasting and profound that a new Mason may ever have, and could very well set the tone for the rest of his Masonic career. No matter how far a Mason may travel or how high he may rise in the craft, the name of his coach will remain with him for the rest of his life.

Although a coach's primary purpose is to teach a candidate the proficiency lecture in each of the several degrees, his responsibility toward Masonry and the new candidate extends much further. He should be able to explain, not only the symbols and the allegories of the craft, but also their application and philosophy. He should be versed and understand Masonry well enough that he may be able to explain and communicate our principals and the nature of our craft. It is expected that he will instill, in a candidate, the interest and curiosity toward Masonry that will inspire him to proceed toward further light with pride and determination.

If a candidate never learns any more about Masonry than he is compelled to learn and commit to memory in taking the several degrees, he will never know much about the real beauty of Masonry.

The Coach

(Continued)

As Aristotle wrote:

"Each one of us adds a little to our understanding of nature, and from all the facts assembled arises a certain grandeur."

So it is with Masonry, in our search for the truth and perfection, and the interpreta-

tions of our philosophy, we add a little to our understanding of the nature of FREEMASONRY, and from these facts, the beauty of Masonry is exposed.

David J. Thomas

Deputy Grand Master

From the Senior Grand Warden

The summer season is a time for vacations and outdoor activities. As cold weather approaches we Masons return to our labor in the quarries.

Let us this new year work to improve our brotherhood and the public image of our craft. Every Master Mason has already learned how to do this in the Lodge room, so a simple review of the teachings of our craft might remind us how we should treat our problems.

If you have a problem with a Brother, go and tell him about

it in private. In the event that you don't agree with a Brother's position on a subject; remember that he has as much right to his position as you do to yours and that should not diminish our brotherhood.

Remember, if we treat our Brothers the way we should, the craft will be better for it. I am willing to try, are you?

Franklin W. Erie

Senior Grand Warden

To get an abundant crop from your garden, you must first properly prepare the soil, plant good fertile seeds, add proper quantities of water, eliminate the weeds and weaker plants and secure the blessing of the Supreme Grand Master's guiding hand. Masonry is no different!!

From the Grand Secretary

Preparations have begun for the Ninth Annual Communication in Anchorage on February 1st and 2nd, 1990.

Nine new resolutions and two Statements of Availability for Junior Grand Warden have been received and one resolution was carried over from the Eighth Communication.

Resolutions to be considered are:

89-16 (carryover) - Grand Lodge Officers to retain for life the highest title attained.

90-1 - Grand Master's recommendations to be distributed to the Lodges with the new resolutions prior to communication.

90-2 - Allows Master Mason proficiency before a committee or in open Lodge as with other degrees.

90-3 - Designates the penalties of the obligations as "symbolic".

90-4 - Changes Monitor as to style of aprons allowed in Alaska.

90-5 - Allows Past Master emblem to include the square within the compasses on a quadrant.

90-6 - Changes Code as to permissible apron style.

90-7 - Changes date of Annual Communication to April.

90-8 - To hold Annual Communication permanently in Anchorage.

90-9 - Deletes Code permission for Washington Chartered Lodges to exist in Alaska.

After the Jurisprudence Committee provides its report, these resolutions will be distributed to the Lodges for study. Members should familiarize themselves with the provisions and ramifications of these resolutions and let their Lodge delegates know how they should vote.

If out-of-state members have strong feelings about a specific resolution and wish to notify their Lodge delegates, I would be glad to furnish a copy of the resolution. I cannot honor a

From the Grand Secretary

(Continued)

request for the entire set of resolution.

The Statements of Availability were filed by V.W. John H. Grainger, Deputy of the Grand Master in District No. 4 and a member of White Pass Lodge No. 1 and by V.W.

Howard N. Hobbs, currently Chairman of the Grand Lodge Degree Team and a member of Glacier, Eagle River and Aurora Lodges.

Neil R. Bassett

Grand Secretary

From the Junior Grand Warden

It has been a long summer in which you saw little evidence of your Junior Grand Warden. I was involved seven days a week in oil spill related employment and was unable to attend many Masonic related activities. Now I and my family are in the midst of moving to the Fairbanks area for employment in that fair city. As we become settled in we will become more active once again. I have missed many of the Grand Master's visitations this past summer and for that I apologize. This practice will not continue much longer.

There are once again many important pieces of legislation to come before your Grand Lodge this coming February and we urge you most strongly

to be in your Lodge when they come up for discussion. The Officers and Past Masters of your Lodge are your representatives in Grand Lodge and it is important for them to vote upon the various resolutions according to the majority desires of the members. They cannot express your desires to Grand Lodge if you are not there during the discussions to make your wishes known. For the members who are unable to attend Lodge, write to the Master soon after the resolutions are published in the Grand Lodge Bulletin and tell him your feelings regarding the resolutions.

Les Little

Junior Grand Warden

SOME POINTS TO REMEMBER CONCERNING BEHAVIOR IN LODGE

Three G's you should bring to Lodge -

Good humor

Graciousness towards
your Brother's foibles

Genuine desire to learn
and to teach

An ABC of things to avoid -

Arguments between
Brethren during the work.

Bad Lodge manners -
banter, shouting, giving
unwanted advice.

Careless ritual work -
trying to do it "by heart"
without bothering to
memorize the ritual.
Avoid all levity in the
ritual since it is a serious
drama and was never in-
tended to be a comedy.

Three Pointers for a success- ful Lodge evening -

Punctuality

Proper dress

Pleasant atmosphere

The three R's of memorizing ritual -

Repetition

Reinforcement

Rehearsal

REPETITION - learn bit by
bit, one sentence at a time, and
repeat it until you can say it in
your sleep, hypnotized, or
watching the Super Bowl.

REINFORCEMENT - say it
aloud. Tape it and play it back
on your car radio (it is heal-
thier than listening to the
news!)

REHEARSAL - go over the
ritual in groups, perhaps two
or three officers at a time, then
one final go-through with all
the officers together. Appoint
one Brother (not necessarily
an officer) to act as the King's
Prompter and whisper the
lines to anybody who forgets
his part. All Lodges should
have a floor coach who ad-
heres strictly to the work ac-
cepted by the Alaska Grand
Lodge.

Alfred M. White, Grand Lecturer

A Mystery . . .

Brethren,

Has any one ever told you,
"You can't know what you are
talking about!" Probably so.

In 1814, the United Grand
Lodge of England realized
that they did not know what
they had been talking about,
namely, the BROACHED
THURNEL; one of the an-
cient tools of Operative
Masonry.

It was dropped from ritual be-
cause it was utterly meaning-
less to the Masons of that day.

No one knew what it was, or for
what purpose it was used.

Extensive research and
speculation have not come up
with an answer. When an
eminent Masonic scholar and
authority like George William
Speth cannot even hazard a
guess, it is useless for us to
speculate.

There is a moral to this story if
one can read between the
lines.

George Bristow

During its 1989 Annual Communication, the Grand Lodge of California made sweeping changes in its Code - among those changes, alcoholic beverages may be served in Lodge buildings at such events as weddings, receptions, etc, but may not be served at any time that Lodge is in session, or in conjunction with a Lodge meeting.

"Money used for services, no matter how urgent the need for those services, once spent, is gone. But money wisely spent for research produces benefits that work for all people for all time."
Sidney R. Baxter

Honor Roll Pins Awarded by Matanuska Lodge #7

Matanuska Lodge #7 of Palmer announced the success of its scholar award program for all high school students in the Matanuska-Susitna valley area.

Over 451 students were awarded honor roll pins for their excellent work throughout the 1988-89 school year. The honor roll award pin features the lamp of knowledge on the front, and the caption "Sponsor Masonic Lodge" on the back.

All students earning over a 3.0 average for each semester of the school year were awarded scholar pins. Students earning the pins for a second year will be awarded a quill for their pin in 1990. Six high schools are covered by this program.

Brother William Folsom, Junior Warden of Matanuska Lodge, organized the

program. Brother Rick Luthe, an administrator for the borough school district offered valuable insight into the ways to make the program work and helped organize important planning sessions.

Matanuska school district students from each of the five area high schools were asked to help in designing the awards for the program, and to prepare the poem for the actual award card. Over thirty students participated in the design phase or contributed poems for consideration.

Brother Folsom pointed out some unique features of the scholar awards program designed to streamline program administration and improve community relations:

First, the area students were involved in every step of creating the program.

Honor Roll Pins

(Continued)

Each student is given a token which underlines the dedication of community Masons to their education.

The program requires little time each year to administer, as the school district determines student qualifications for scholarship awards.

Masonry is the sponsor of the program, and is presented favorably as a leader of community organizations.

The program cost less than \$1000 to start. It will cost less than \$400 each year to continue assuming 400 to 500 students receive the award each year.

News From Kenai Lodge No. 11

Since our last article in the Grand Lodge Bulletin, Kenai Lodge has been very busy. In April we had a very successful School Awards Program with a total of twenty-three schools participating.

Kenai Lodge was honored on August 2nd by a surprise visit from C. Fred Kleinknecht 33rd degree, Sovereign Grand Commander, Supreme Council, 33rd degree, AASRFM Southern Jurisdiction; H. Douglas Lemons, 33rd degree, S.G.I.G., California; and Ernest Borgnine, 33rd degree. Others in attendance were Chester L. Proudfoot, 33rd degree, Deputy in Alaska and Charles I. Gregg, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Alaska.

Our annual golf tournament was a success again this year. It has proven to be a good way to earn money for our charity efforts and the school awards program. We have also been doing some degree work throughout the summer months. We gave Jim Anderson the first degree and raised Fred Korpinen to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.

We have been saddened by the loss of Very Worshipful Stanley Herman, Brother Zillmon Willis and Brother E.E. "Tony" McGahan. They will be sorely missed in our Lodge and community.

*Robert L. Fulton,
Kenai Lodge No. 11*

A Plan for Creating a Student Scholar Award Program

The following plan was followed by Matanuska Lodge #7 of Palmer, Alaska in creating a small awards program. The plan can be adjusted to fit almost any set of local conditions. The three primary points of the educational program are:

- Get students involved
- Set award standards and rewards
- Arrange for Long-term success

The whole plan revolves addressing these three areas. With these guidelines in mind, the following sequence of steps will actually implement a limited program:

1. Dollars must be set before the more visible parts of the plan are set into motion to insure that all goals are met.
2. Ideas for program scope and qualifications, awards, and activities are set by the lodge first, then discussed with the students and school administration. At this point, nothing except the amount of dollars available should actually be set in concrete.
3. After the scope of the program is set, flesh out the lodge's actual involvement in time, talent, and money. Especially if large amounts of time are necessary, don't obligate Masons unless the lodge is VERY sure it can sustain the same level of involvement next year and the year after.
4. Now, go and pursue designing awards and specific requirements to receive them. Matanuska Lodge found that the students and school administration helped immensely at this point.
5. Finally, implement the program.
6. Now, check for adjustments necessary to keep rolling next year.