

**The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of Free and Accepted Masons
of Alaska**

Proceedings

**Seventeenth
Annual Communication
April 2-3, 1998**





STANLEY R. FOULKE
GRAND MASTER
1997

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PRAYER OF THE GRAND CHAPLAIN

Heavenly Father as we gather here this morning we ask your blessings upon us and to be with us in all that we do and all that we say.

We pray that our hearts will be tuned with Thee and that as you give us your wisdom and your strength, and your love, that we might share it with one another in all we do as we open this Grand Lodge once again.

We ask your blessings upon this meeting now in Thy holy name, Amen

ROLL CALL

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grand Master	MW Stanley R. Foulke
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deputy Grand Master	RW Gene R. Freeman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senior Grand Warden	RW Raymond L. Beaver
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Junior Grand Warden	RW Don G. Chaffin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grand Treasurer	RW Steve Lee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grand Secretary	RW Richard D. Bender
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grand Chaplain	W Eugene M. Mockerman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grand Lecturer	MW Lloyd W. Triggs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grand Orator	W Novis L. Eady
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grand Historian	W Joe H. Ashby
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grand Marshal	W Charles O. Ashcraft
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senior Grand Deacon	W Douglas W. Ooms
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Junior Grand Deacon	W Glen E. Josey
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grand Standard Bearer	W Charles C. Dennis
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grand Sword Bearer	W William C. Quirion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grand Bible Bearer	W Robert E. MacArthur
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senior Grand Steward	W Charles E. Corbin (acting)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Junior Grand Steward	W Harold G. "Bud" Moore
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grand Organist	W Dwight E. Morris
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grand Tyler	W Raymond A. Gallant

CONSTITUENT LODGES

(Would the most Senior Representative please respond?)

- White Pass Lodge No. 1
- Anvil Lodge No. 2
- Tanana Lodge No. 3
- Valdez Lodge No. 4
- Mt. McKinley Lodge No. 5
- Seward Lodge No. 6
- Matanuska Lodge No. 7
- Mt. Susitna Lodge No. 8
- Kodiak Lodge No. 9
- Glacier Lodge No. 10
- Kenai Lodge No. 11
- Fairbanks Lodge No. 12
- Eagle River Lodge No. 13
- Aurora Lodge No. 15
- North Pole Lodge No. 16
- Anchorage Lodge No. 17
- Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18
- Tongass Lodge No. 19
- Iditarod Lodge No. 20

MW Grand Master, all Grand Lodge Officers, with the exception of the Grand Standard Bearer and Grand Sword Bearer, and all Lodges are represented and we, therefore, have a Constitutional quorum to open Grand Lodge.

RW Richard D. Bender
Grand Secretary

SOLEMN CEREMONIES

The public opening of the Seventeenth Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska was opened at 8:00 AM on April 2, 1998, by Most Worshipful, Lloyd W. Triggs Immediate Past Grand Master. The program for the public ceremonies included:

Entrance of Grand Lodge Officers
Presentation of Flags by Al Aska Shrine Patrol
Flag Tribute by the Heroes of '76, National Sojourners
Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthems (U.S., Canadian, and Alaska Flag Song)
sung by Cabin Fever Barbershop Quartet

Introduction of Youth Groups & Remarks:
International Order of Job's Daughters
Elizabeth Pinion, Miss Alaska Job's Daughters, Bethel No. 1,
Anchorage, Alaska
Alaska DeMolay Congress
Jeremiah Kay, State Master Councilor
International Order of Rainbow for Girls
Katie Bender, Grand Drill Leader representing Tanya
Tromble, Grand Worthy Advisor Grand Assembly of
Alaska

Introduction of Concordant Bodies
National Sojourners
Brigadier General Benjamin T. Sutherlin, National President
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Alaska
James W. Morton, Grand Illustrious Master
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alaska
William H. Lefferson, Grand High Priest
DeMolay International Supreme Council
Gerald R. Fairley, Executive Officer for Alaska
Grand Court of Alaska, Order of Amaranth
Margaret M. Bunch, Grand Associate Matron, representing
Mary Earp, Grand Royal Matron, Grand Court of Alaska,
Order of Amaranth
Al Aska Shrine Temple
Clarence E. Keto, Potentate

Remarks by Brig. Gen. Benjamin Sutherlin
Remarks by W Leonard E. Luchau
Remarks by Margaret Bunch
Remarks by W James W. Morton
Remarks by W Jerry Fairley
Remarks by Brother Clarence Keto

Representatives of Concordant Bodies present included:

Al Aska Shrine Temple

Clarence E. Keto, Potentate

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction

Mitchell R. Miller, Sovereign Grand Inspector General

Grand Court of Alaska, Amaranth

Margaret M. Bunch, Grand Associate Matron, representing
Mary Earp, Grand Royal Matron

DeMolay International Supreme Council

Gerald R. Fairley, Executive Officer for Alaska

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alaska

William H. Lefferson, Grand High Priest

General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Alaska

James W. Morton, Grand Illustrious Master

International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

Ila Hammond, Supreme Inspector Alaska

Masonic Service Association

Richard E. Fletcher, Executive Secretary

Masonic Service Bureau of Seattle

Leonard E. Luchau, Executive Secretary

National Masonic Foundation

William E. Stovall

National Sojourners

Benjamin T. Sutherlin, Brig. Gen. (Ret.), National President

Order of Eastern Star

Mary L. Wallace, Deputy to the Most Worthy Grand Matron in
Northern Alaska

Distinguished Guests present included:

British Columbia, A.F. & A.M.

RW Donald P. Frizzell, Past District Deputy

RW Thomas O. Mickey, Past District Deputy

California, F. & A.M.

RW Alvin J. Weis, Deputy Grand Master, representing
MW Tony P. Wordlow, Grand Master

MW William E. Stovall, Past Grand Master

Idaho, A.F. & A.M.

MW James V. Voyles, Grand Master

Montana, A.F. & A.M.

MW Francis D. Hess, Past Grand Master

Nebraska, A.F. & A.M.

MW Byron C. Jenkins, Past Grand Master

Nevada, F. & A.M.

W James S. Kraemer, Grand Standard Bearer, representing
MW Arthur K. Cronin, Grand Master

New Jersey, F. & A.M.

MW Edward R. Woods, Past Grand Master

Oregon, A.F. & A.M.

MW Max L. Schumacher, Grand Master
RW Aaron W. Harvey, Senior Grand Warden
RW John D. Livie, Junior Grand Warden
W John B. Moore, Grand Orator
W John A. Friedrichsen, Grand Historian
W Ivan J. Smith, Grand Pursuivant
MW Vern S. Wertz, Past Grand Master

Pennsylvania, F. & A.M.

RW Edward O. Weisser, Past Grand Master, representing
MW James L. Ernett, Grand Master

Vermont, F. & A.M.

MW Richard E. Fletcher, Past Grand Master

Washington, F. & A.M.

MW Thomas C. Ehlers, Grand Master

The formal opening of the Seventeenth Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska was opened at 9:00 AM on April 2, 1998, by Most Worshipful Stanley R. Foulke, Grand Master of Masons in Alaska in Ample form.

The first through fourth sessions of Grand Lodge were called to order by the following brethren respectively:

First Session

W Jimmie R. McGoldrick (13)

Second Session

W Rocky V. Schank (15)

Third Session

W Terrance B. Quarton (7, 17, 20)

Fourth Session

W Charles E. Wellong (8, 11)

MESSAGE OF THE M.W. GRAND MASTER

To the Members of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska.

It is a great pleasure to welcome each of you to the Seventeenth Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge. I hope you will find this session enjoyable and informative. To our distinguished guests from other jurisdictions, I bid you a hearty welcome. We hope you enjoy your stay with us and that your visit to Alaska is a memorable one. If I can be of any assistance while you're here, please let me know.

NECROLOGY

The Supreme Architect of the Universe has again called several of our brethren to the Celestial Lodge above this past year. Among them was our beloved brother Most Worshipful H. B. "Jack" Bentley who served this Grand Lodge as Grand Master in 1984. Our love and prayers go out to the families of these brethren. We will miss them.

STATE OF THE CRAFT

The state of our Lodges varies significantly. There are those that have very active programs, are conferring degrees, and are active in the community. These Lodges are doing good ritual work and are thriving and growing. Unfortunately, there are also those Lodges that are struggling and depend on brethren from other Lodges to fill the chairs in order to open their stated meetings. All Lodges are financially solvent, although there are a few that are just barely able to meet their monthly obligations.

I believe there are many factors that enable a Lodge to be successful. First and foremost is enthusiastic and dedicated leadership. Planning programs that will benefit the Lodge and getting members involved in the implementation of these programs is key. From the feedback that we have received, the Wardens Charge has helped those that have attended by giving them valuable information and confidence as they progressed to the East. The Friend to Friend program and Friendship Nights can be valuable tools to increase membership. The Sponsorship program can help retain new members. Participation in community events and public school programs can help give visibility to the Lodge in the community. Fellowship nights, widow's night, and Past Masters night, all help to bring out members to the Lodge. These are some of the items that compose the agenda of a successful Lodge. These and other subjects were discussed by Grand Lodge Officers during our Lodge visitations this past year.

The Grand Lodge of Alaska and all constituent Lodges are now listed on the internet. This has resulted in at least one new member and many inquiries about our Lodges.

The Finance Committee of the Grand Lodge of Alaska has developed a written policy for the investment of our Grand Lodge funds. This document provides investment guidelines

concerning risk management and diversity of investments. Financial goals are preservation of capital and long term growth.

Our Grand Lodge funds continue to grow at a slow but steady rate due to the conservative nature of our investment policy. This past year we received a long term capital gain which was divided between all funds and rolled back into the principal as an inflation-proofing safeguard.

The Grand Lodge elected officers continue to do long-range planning. This process has enabled us to complete programs started several years ago and to continue with several ongoing programs.

VISITATIONS

It was my distinct pleasure to visit each Lodge in this Jurisdiction. The fellowship and hospitality were truly exceptional during all my visitations and I wish to thank all of those who endeavored to make my visits so memorable. During my visits I have encouraged the Master of the Lodge to qualify for the Grand Master's Award for Excellence and to adopt the Friend to Friend and Sponsorship Programs.

It was an honor and pleasure for me to represent our Grand Lodge during the annual communication of six other Grand Lodges and to visit five Lodges in other jurisdictions. In July 1997, I participated in three parades: Wasilla on July 4, Eagle River Bear Paw on July 12, and Soldotna on July 26. On February 14, 1998 I participated in the Fur Rondy Parade. In addition I have attended several Grand Lodge committee meetings, the Wardens Charge, various Lodge stated and special communications, numerous meetings of the Scottish Rite, York Rite, Al Alaska Shrine, Shrine Oriental Band, National Sojourners, Heroes of '76, High Twelve, Alaska Masonic Museum & Library Foundation, and several Installation of Officers of Lodges and other Masonic Organizations.

SPECIAL EVENTS

During our 1997 Grand Lodge sessions, we granted fraternal recognition to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alaska. Shortly thereafter, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alaska granted fraternal recognition to the Grand Lodge of Alaska. To commemorate this auspicious occasion, a mutual agreement granting limited recognition for visitation purposes was signed by Most Worshipful Michael R. Boone, Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons in Alaska, and myself at a dinner in Fairbanks on May 10, 1997 and in Anchorage on May 31, 1997.

Immediately following the Soldotna Days parade on July 26, 1997, it was my distinct pleasure to present a certificate, commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of their charter, to Kenai Lodge Number 11. After the ceremony, all enjoyed a barbecue picnic and good fellowship.

On August 10, 1997, approximately 400 members and ladies of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, led by the Right Worshipful Grand Master, Edward O. Weisser, arrived in Anchorage after a cruise of the inside passage of Alaska. They graciously hosted a dinner for Grand Lodge of Alaska members and ladies at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage. The fellowship was wonderful and a fine time was had by all.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Long-range planning is essential for the success of any organization. Due to the long-range planning conducted by your Grand Lodge elected line officers over the past several years, several long term projects have come to fruition and others are progressing. I recommend that the Long-Range Planning Committee be added to the Alaska Masonic Code as a Standing Committee.

2. As a result of the continuing attacks on Freemasonry by various religious groups, the Masonic Service Center was formed as a branch of the Masonic Service Association to provide accurate information about Freemasonry to the general public and to our members. In 1993 the Center published the Statement on Freemasonry and Religion and encouraged each Grand Lodge to adopt this statement so that Grand Lodges in the United States and Canada would have one position on Freemasonry and Religion to present to the public. I recommend that the Statement on Freemasonry and Religion be adopted by this Grand Lodge.

3. While encouraging the use of the Friend to Friend Program this past year, the question arose whether or not this could be considered solicitation. The prohibition against solicitation is not addressed in the Alaska Masonic Code. In the Alaska Monitor, the Entered Apprentice Preliminary asks the candidate, "Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that, unbiased by the improper solicitation of friends...and so on. The question of solicitation is not an Ancient Landmark, so that leaves tradition. When the word solicitation is applied to the Masonic fraternity, there is no agreed upon definition. It has been the custom in this Jurisdiction not to solicit, but it has been generally acceptable to ask the question, "Have you ever considered becoming a Mason?" The distribution of Masonic literature, tapes, videos, and pamphlets is encouraged. Since this can be confusing to some, I recommend that this Grand Lodge adopt the policy that a neutrally-worded approach may be made to a man deemed to be a suitable candidate for Freemasonry. After the procedure for becoming a member is explained, one reminder is permitted. He must then be allowed to make his own decision.

DECISIONS

It was brought to my attention that Very Worshipful Loyd Williamson, who I selected to serve as District Deputy Grand Master in District No. 3, was a resident of Eagle River, and that Eagle River Lodge was now part of the new District No. 5, and that the code requires that the District Deputy must live in his district. It was my decision that since District No. 3 is composed of the Anchorage Lodges, and that Eagle River is a part of the

Municipality of Anchorage, that his appointment was legal and in accordance with the Alaska Masonic Code.

A letter was sent to the Grand Lodge office questioning the membership status of brother Dennis Bump. During the 1997 Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge it was voted by a majority of the brethren present that he be suspended from membership for the length of his disbarment from the Alaska Bar. During the time in question, he was suspended from the Bar, pending final disposition of his case. It was my decision that since he was suspended from practicing law in Alaska, that this was tantamount to disbarment and that his membership in Fairbanks Lodge No. 12 be suspended. I believe this action was in keeping with the intent of the decision of Grand Lodge.

In June 1997, I received a letter advising me that during a meeting of Kenai Lodge No. 11 on June 12, 1997, the merits of a petitioner were discussed in open Lodge prior to the ballot, which is a violation of Section 19.07 of the Alaska Masonic Code. I spoke to several brethren and confirmed that this did in fact occur. On July 10, 1997, I visited Kenai Lodge, issued a reprimand, and admonished the Lodge not to condone this behavior in the future.

It was brought to my attention that there was a question as to the validity of a ballot cast during a Masonic trial held by Anchorage Lodge No. 17 on November 12, 1997, in that, the balloting procedure was not made clear to all present prior to balloting. After review of the information available, I declared the ballot void and directed the Lodge to re-ballot. The re-ballot was accomplished and the matter settled.

I was notified that the Junior Warden elect of Eagle River Lodge No. 13 could not be present for installation at the scheduled date. I advised the Lodge that they could not proceed with the installation since it would have violated the Alaska Masonic Code. After some discussion, I allowed the Lodge to call a special communication to install the Junior Warden prior to the scheduled installation, which was not a violation of the Alaska Masonic Code. It was my pleasure to install him into office. The regular installation was then held as previously scheduled.

I was notified by the District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 3 two days prior to the scheduled installation of officers for Mt. Susitna Lodge No. 8, that the Senior Warden elect would not be present. So as not to violate Section 16.19 of the Alaska Masonic Code, I directed the Lodge to reschedule the installation when all elected officers could be present. The installation was held later and all elected officers installed.

Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18 held its annual election of officers and elected a brother to the position of Senior Warden who was out of state until April 1998 and could not be present for installation. In accordance with Section 16.07 of the Alaska Masonic Code, I granted dispensation to hold another election as soon as possible. An election was subsequently held and all elected officers later installed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank the brethren of the Grand Lodge of Alaska for allowing me to serve as your Grand Master. Because of your support and friendship, this past year has been a wonderful time in my life, one which I will always remember with great joy. I believe that it is the desire of every Grand Master to make some contribution to the Craft. This is how and why our Grand Lodge has grown and progressed, not from any one great accomplishment, but because of many small successes. I hope that I have added to that effort in some small way and that your confidence in me was worthily bestowed.

My thanks to the Credentials Committee and Sessions and Arrangements for their work during this Annual Communication and to all the Officers, District Deputies, and committeemen for serving this Grand Lodge during the past year. I commend our Grand Treasurer, Right Worshipful Steve Lee and Chairman of the Finance Committee, Brother Mike Johnson, for their dedicated effort to improve the financial situation of the Grand Lodge of Alaska. And of course to our Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful Rick Bender, the one who holds it all together, my grateful appreciation.

I wish to thank Most Worshipful Fred Angleton and Les Little for assisting and encouraging me throughout my Masonic career and Most Worshipful Howard Hobbs and Henry Dunbar for always being available to provide assistance and insight. Thanks to Most Worshipful John Grainger for all his hard work to reestablish AMRA as a viable organization. For his continuing effort to establish and maintain a presence on the internet, my thanks to Right Worshipful Don Chaffin.

A special thanks to Most Worshipful Lloyd Triggs, who has been my traveling companion, friend, and mentor during the past four years. The many hours of traveling and numerous nights we spent discussing Masonry until one and two o'clock in the morning, have been one of the most enjoyable parts of my Masonic education. Thanks "Pops."

Finally to my wife Sheri, who has been totally supportive of my endeavors over the past six years and understanding of my many trips and all the time spent away from home, I wish to express my deepest love and appreciation.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Stanley R. Foulke
Grand Master

APPENDIX

This Appendix lists the official acts of the Grand Master during the period of April 4, 1997 through April 3, 1998:

Proclamations

March 23, 1998 Proclaimed the month of April as Public Schools Month

Special Actions

April 4, 1997 Ruled that although VW Loyd Williamson lives in Eagle River, his appointment as District Deputy for District No. 3 was legal since Eagle River was part of the Municipality of Anchorage.

May 1, 1997 Ruled that W Dennis Bump's suspension from the Alaska Bar, pending final disposition of his case, was tantamount to disbarment and therefore his membership in Fairbanks Lodge No. 12 was suspended as per the decision of Grand Lodge at the Sixteenth Annual Communication.

July 10, 1997 Issued a reprimand to Kenai Lodge No. 11 for allowing discussion on the merits of a petitioner in open Lodge prior to balloting November 17, 1997.
Installed the Junior Warden-elect of Eagle River Lodge No. 13 prior to the regular Installation since the Junior Warden-elect would be out of town for the regular Installation.

November 18, 1997 Declared the ballot on a Masonic Trial in Anchorage Lodge No. 17 on November 12, 1997 void due to failure to clearly explain the balloting procedure. Directed the Lodge to re-ballot on the verdict.

November 26, 1997 Directed Mt. Susitna Lodge to postpone their Installation of Officers since the Senior Warden-elect could not be present at the Installation.

Dispensations Granted

April 8, 1997 Permission for Kenai Lodge 11 to appear in public clothed as Masons for your Public Schools presentation on April 17, 1997.

May 7, 1997 Permission for Valdez Lodge No. 4 to reinstate a brother dropped NPD in error with no loss in time.

July 1, 1997 Permission for Fairbanks Lodge No. 12 and visitors to march in the Fairbanks Golden Days Parade and appear in public clothed as Masons.

July 7, 1997 Permission for Tanana Lodge No. 3 to hold an outdoor Master Mason Degree on July 12, 1997 at the farm of W Keith Herve.

July 8, 1997 Permission for Eagle River Lodge No. 13 to appear in public clothed as Masons to march in the July 12, 1997 Bear Paw Festival Parade.

July 22, 1997 Permission for Matanuska Lodge No. 7 to hold an outdoor Master Mason Degree on July 26, 1997 at the farm of W Emmett Roetman.

September 2, 1997 Permission for Seward Lodge No. 6 to change the date of their September Stated Communication to coincide with the Grand Master's Official Visit.

- November 18, 1997 Permission for Eagle River Lodge No. 13 to open Lodge at the Masonic Temple in Anchorage on November 22, 1997 for the purpose of installing their 1997 Officers.
- November 26, 1997 Permission for North Pole Lodge No. 16 to open Lodge on November 29, 1997 at the Masonic Temple in Fairbanks for the purpose of installing their 1998 Officers.
- December 3, 1997 Permission for Iditarod Lodge No. 20 to open Lodge at the Mid-Valley Senior Center on December 6, 1997 for the purpose of installing their 1997 Officers.
- December 10, 1997 Permission for Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18 to hold a Special Election on December 12, 1997 to elect a new Senior Warden. The previously elected Senior Warden was out of state until April 1998.
- March 19, 1998 Permission for Iditarod Lodge to open Lodge at the Masonic Temple in Palmer on March 24, 1998 for the purpose of performing a Master Mason Degree.

OFFICIAL VISITATIONS AND OTHER MEETINGS

1997

April

- | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 4 | Scottish Rite - Fairbanks |
| 7 | Eagle River Lodge No. 13 |
| 8 | Matanuska Lodge No. 7 |
| 9 | Anchorage Lodge No. 17 |
| 10 | Glacier Lodge No. 10 |
| 11 | Anchorage Scottish Rite |
| 14 | Al Aska Shrine |
| 15 | Mt. Susitna No. 8 |
| 16 | Aurora Lodge No. 15 |
| 17 | Mt. McKinley Lodge No. 5 |
| 18-19 | York Rite Festival - Anchorage |
| 25-26 | Anchorage Scottish Rite Reunion |
| 27 | Shrine Oriental Band Meeting |
| 29 | National Sojourners - Anchorage |

May

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 7 | Valdez Lodge No. 4 |
| 9 | Anchorage Scottish Rite |
| 10 | Prince Hall Recognition Ceremony, Fairbanks |
| 12 | North Pole Lodge No. 16 |
| 14 | Tanana Lodge No. 3 |
| 15 | Fairbanks Lodge No. 12 |
| 17-18 | International Days - Fairbanks |
| 19 | Whitehorse Lodge No. 46, Whitehorse, YT |
| 20 | White Pass Lodge No. 1 |
| 27 | National Sojourners - Anchorage |
| 31 | Prince Hall Recognition Ceremony, Anchorage |

June		
4-6	Grand Lodge of Oregon - Springfield	
7	Pearl Lodge No. 66, Turner, OR	
11-13	Grand Lodge of Washington - Bellevue	
18-20	Grand Lodge of British Columbia	
24	National Sojourners - Anchorage	
July		
4	4th of July Parade - Wasilla	
10	Kenai Lodge No. 11	
12	Bear Paw Parade - Eagle River	
26	Soldotna Days Parade - Soldotna	
	Kenai Lodge No. 11 - 25th Year Anniversary Charter	
29	National Sojourners – Anchorage	
August		
10	Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, hosted dinner-Anchorage	
26	National Sojourners - Anchorage	
September		
4	Anvil Lodge No. 2	
8	Al Aska Shrine	
9	Seward Lodge No. 6	
10	Sterling Masonic Club	
11	Kenai Lodge No. 11	
12	Anchorage Scottish Rite	
15	Kodiak Lodge No. 9	
18	Iditarod Lodge No. 20	
19-21	Warden's Charge - Anchorage	
24	Gate of the Temple Lodge No. 42 - Springfield, MO	
28-30	Grand Lodge of Missouri	
October		
3-4	York Rite Festival - Anchorage	
9	Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18	
10	Tongass Lodge No. 19	
12-15	Grand Lodge of California - San Francisco	
25	Scottish Rite/Shrine One-day Class - Anchorage	
28	National Sojourners - Anchorage	
November		
6	Lafayette Lodge No. 241, Seattle, WA	
9-11	Grand Lodge of Nevada - Las Vegas	
14	Anchorage Scottish Rite	
15	DDGM District No. 3 Meeting - Anchorage	

17	Eagle River Lodge No. 13, Installed Junior Warden
21	Anchorage York Rite College
22	Eagle River Lodge No. 13, Installation of Officers
December	
5-6	Alaska Scottish Rite Honors - Ketchikan
8	Al Aska Shrine
10	Alaska Masonic Museum & Library Foundation Meeting
12	Anchorage Scottish Rite
13	Matanuska Lodge No. 7, Mt. Susitna Lodge No. 8, and Aurora Lodge No. 15 Installation of Officers
14	Shrine Oriental Band Meeting
19	Anchorage York Rite
20	Anchorage Scottish Rite, Installation of Officers
21	Anchorage York Rite Christmas Toast
1998	
January	
7	Anchorage Lodge No. 17, Installation of Officers
9	Anchorage Scottish Rite
10	OES No. 8, Installation of Officers
16	Anchorage York Rite, Installation of Officers
17	DDGM District No. 5 Meeting - Wasilla
18	Shrine Oriental Band Meeting
24	Al Aska Shrine Installation of Officers
	Potentate's Ball - Anchorage
27	National Sojourners - Anchorage
February	
8	Shrine Oriental Band Meeting
13	Anchorage Scottish Rite
14	Fur Rondy Parade - Shrine Oriental Band
20	Merchantville Lodge No. 119 - Merchantville, NJ
21-24	Grand Masters Conference - Philadelphia, PA
27	Anchorage Scottish Rite
March	
6-7	Grand York Rite Sessions - Soldotna
9	Al Aska Shrine
11	Alaska Masonic Museum & Library Foundation Meeting
13	Anchorage Scottish Rite
20	DeMolay State Conclave
20	Anchorage York Rite
24	Bethel No. 1, Job's Daughters
27	Anchorage Scottish Rite

Communications Attended by Others as Representatives of the Grand Master

June 5-7, 1997	Grand Lodge of Alberta, by VW William H. Lefferson
August 24, 1997	Rededication of the Arch at Valley Forge, PA. by RW Gene R. Freeman
October 9-11, 1997	Grand Lodge of Illinois, by VW Mitchell R. Miller
November 9-11, 1997	Grand Lodge of Alabama, by W Novis L. Eady
February 8-10, 1998	Grand Lodge of Utah, by RW Gene R. Freeman
March 26-28, 1998	Grand Lodge of Minnesota, by MW Lloyd W. Triggs by RW Gene R. Freeman

In addition to the above, I attended numerous Shrine and High Twelve luncheons, and several special and stated communications of Eagle River Lodge and Anchorage area Lodges.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GRAND SECRETARY

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska

The following report is submitted pursuant to Section 3.05 of the Alaska Masonic Code.

I will begin this Report the same way I have started for a number of years. My sincere thanks goes to the Secretaries of the Constituent Lodges for their dedication and devotion to their Lodge. They are each doing an excellent job for their Lodges and in the paperwork they send to me. I think I had the least problems with the Monthly Reports that I have had in many years.

I was very pleased with the timely manner in which the year end paperwork was submitted. With the exception of one Lodge, all paperwork was submitted before the specified deadlines. As required in Section 15.08 of the Alaska Masonic Code, I must report that Seward Lodge No. 6 did not file their paperwork by the February 1st deadline and that Lodge was charged the allowed late penalty. Seward Lodge No. 6's Reports were filed on March 4th.

Although the Grand Master's Message Book is not available for distribution until after this Report, you will find the "old style" Status of Lodges back in the book. As long as we do not charter any new Lodges, the form will fit on one page. The entire report is printed on letter sized paper and then reduced to fit the format of the booklet. If we charter any new Lodges, I will have to redesign the entire form. From the point of membership growth, I hope I have to come up with a new form. In regards to the Status of Lodges Report, I have made one correction of membership from last year's membership versus the beginning total this year. The total increased by one member due to a discrepancy in the members who dimitted from Adak and those who consolidated with Iditarod Lodge. We had the largest loss in membership last year that we have had for many years. This was caused by a number of factors. In the last ten years, we have chartered four new Lodges and taken in two Lodges from the Grand Lodge of Washington. This has kept us on the "plus" side of the column. However, this last year we had sixty-six deaths and sixty-four members dropped NPD. The high number of NPD's was caused by one Lodge that had been carrying a number of brothers for a number of years. Kodiak Lodge No. 9 dropped twenty-five brothers NPD this last year. We are now having to face the same membership problems that other Jurisdictions have been fighting for years. Only two Lodges had a net gain in membership this last year. Five Lodges did no Degree Work at all for last year. As indicated in the Grand Master's Message, we really need to look at positive ways to encourage new members to join our Fraternity.

I continue to repeat myself, but the Warden's Charge Weekend still remains one of the most positive programs we are offering this Jurisdiction. We should be extremely grateful to MW Les Little for starting this program and also to MW Vern Wertz and MW Marty Martinez for being so willing to help us get this program off to a very successful

start. RW Don Chaffin and the current Warden's Charge Committee are also owed a great amount of thanks for the outstanding job in the presentation and ongoing preparation of this important training session.

The Financial Section is self-explanatory. Although it is not reflected in the Financial Reports two additional Lodges have transferred their Life Membership Fund to the Grand Lodge of Alaska. Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18 and Eagle River Lodge No. 13 are the two newest Lodges to join the Grand Lodge Permanent Fund. As will be explained in the Financial Committee's Report, our investments are being modified to give us an even better return on our Funds but at the same time assuring the least amount of risk to the portfolio.

I could not complete this Report without offering my thanks to the rest of the Grand Lodge Elected Officers. It has been a pleasure to work with each of you this past year. I can only echo the sentiments of the Grand Master in his appreciation for the excellent job that RW Brother Steve Lee is doing as Grand Treasurer. I also offer my thanks to my wife, Linda, and my daughter, Katie, for all the support and understanding they give me in this job. Brothers, this concludes my Annual Report. Thank you, once again, for the privilege you have given me to serve you and Masonry in Alaska.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Richard D. Bender
Grand Secretary

MW Grand Master, I move for the adoption of this report

Report was adopted..

STATUS OF LODGES

	Lodge No,	Elected Only	Initiated	On File EOY	Passed	On File EOY	Raised	On file EOY	Members 1-1-97	MM Proficiency	Affiliates	Dual Members	Reinstated	Consolidate	Other	Total Gain	Deaths	Dimits	NPD	Suspensions	Expulsions	Other	Total Loss	Net Gain / (Loss)	Members 12-31-97
White Pass	1		1	4	1	1		1	92			1				1		1					1	0	92
Anvil	2			5				2	45							0	1						1	(1)	
Tanana	3	1	7	17	5	3	6	9	329	5		1	1			7	19	1	8				28	(2)	308
Valdez	4	1	3	8	2	5	1	2	69				2			2	1	2					3	(1)	68
Mt. McKinley	5	1		3					46							0	1						1	(1)	45
Seward	6			1					47			3				3	5		2				7	(4)	43
Matanuska	7	1		18		1		9	129							0	5	4					9	(9)	120
Mt. Susitna	8		2	11	2	1	2	11	174	2		1				3	8		12				20	(1)	157
Kodiak	9		1	4	1	1	2	1	100	2						2	1		25				26	(24)	
Glacier	10		13	17	9	5	6	5	245	6		4				10	5		1				6	4	249
Kenai	11		3	12	2		2	1	118	2			1			3		2					1	1	119
Fairbanks	12	1	4	4	4	2	3	5	96	3			1			4			6	1			7	(3)	93
Eagle River	13	1		13		3		3	79	2		1				3	1	1	2				4	(1)	78
Aurora	15		3	4	3	4	2	4	51	2		3				5	2	3					5	0	51
North Pole	16		5	5		1		4	39.	2		2				4	1	1	2				4	0	39
Anchorage	17		1	10	1	2		4	308	1			3			4	10	2	3				15	(1)	297
Mr. Verstovia	18	1	2	1	2	2	4	1	69	1	1		1			3	4	2					6	(3)	66
Tongass	19	1				3	2		31	2		1				3			3				3	0	31
Iditarod	20		1	3	1	2	1	2	128		1		1			2	2	4					6	(4)	124
Totals		7	48	140	33	36	31	64	2195	30	2	17	10	0	0	59	66	23	64	1	0	0	1540	(9)	2100

REPORT OF THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

1st Report

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Grand Master, I mentioned this to you earlier, but for the Brethren, this report is broken up into three parts. The first two parts will require no action or no vote by the Grand Lodge. The third part will.

To the Moat Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska

The first report of the Fraternal Relations Committee is a brief summary of actions reported by the Commission of Information for Recognition, Conference of the Grand Masters of North America at their annual meeting held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on February 24th, 1998.

First topic was **Bulgaria.**

On September 29th, 1997, the Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. M. of Bulgaria was instituted by the United Grand Lodges of Germany. The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. M. of Bulgaria meets the standards of the Commission and is entitled to recognition.

Burkina Faso.

On September 17th, 1997 the Grand Lodge du Burkina Faso was consecrated by the Grand Lodge of Senegal with the assistance of Grande Lodge Nationale of France. Burkina Faso is a west African country, formerly known as Upper Volta, located north of the Ivory Coast and Ghana. It is a French speaking country having formerly been a French colony. The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Burkina Faso is regular and is entitled to recognition.

Portugal

According to the information the Commission had received, the regular Grand Lodge of Portugal continues its regularity with Most Worshipful Louis Nieden (?) de Cravalo (?) as Grand Master. To conform to the civil law in Portugal the Grand Lodge modified its name in 1997 to Grande Loja Legal de Portugal GLRP/Grand Lodge Regular de Portugal. The Commission is aware of and cautions the members of this Conference about an organization who calls itself simply Grand Lodge Regular de Portugal. The Commission considers this last organization irregular and not entitled to recognition.

Spain

Delegations from the Grand Lodge of Spain and the Federal Grand Lodge of Spain were heard by the Commission. After deliberations the Commission is of the opinion that the

Federal Grand Lodge of Spain does not meet the standards of recognition established for guidance by the Conference as they do not share territorial jurisdiction by mutual consent and or treaty.

The Grand of Alaska has not received any requests for recognition from any of the above mentioned Grand Lodges. Therefore, no action is required at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry T. "Hank" Dunbar

MW Grand Master, I move that this report be received for the record.

MW Grand Master: Your report will be received.

2nd Report

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska

The 2nd report of the Fraternal Relations Committee.

This one concerns the Grand Lodge of South India.

On Thursday February 19th, 1998 Right Worshipful Richard D. Bender and I met Most Worshipful M. R. Bincataramin(?), Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South India. Our Grand Master, Most worshipful Brother Stanley Foulke was out of state on that particular date. Most Worshipful Brother Bincataramin(?) was bringing fraternal relations from India and inquiring about the possibility of fraternal recognition by the Grand Lodge of Alaska .

After a lengthy discussion an examination of several documents it was determined that this matter of recognition should first be investigated by the Commission on Information for Recognition, Conference of the Grand Masters of North America.

A brief background is as follows. The earliest lodge in India was authorized in 1728 by the Grand Lodge of England. Subsequent Lodges were formed throughout India by the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland. In November 1961 the Grand Lodge of India was formed with the concurrence of the three mother Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland with the understanding that Brethren could hold dual membership in the Grand Lodge of India and their parent grand lodges.

All went well and Masonry thrived for about thirty years. In July 1992, the Grand Lodge of India unilaterally resolved to change its constitution effectively prohibiting its

members from holding dual membership with their parent grand lodges. This action, naturally created an atmosphere of dissension and disharmony among the Masons of India. The Grand Lodge of India was de-recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland.

The Grand Lodge of India then took the United Grand Lodge of England to court, a step unprecedented in history of Freemasonry worldwide. Now, new regional grand lodges are being formed in India. The first was the Grand Lodge of Upper India at Chandigarh in 1995. Then the Grand Lodge of South India at Coimbatore in May of 1997, they were constituted.

The Grand Lodge of South India encompasses the territory of South India, namely the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and the Union Territory of Puducherry. Brethren belonging to the Grand Lodges of India, England, Scotland, and Ireland are among the founders of this new grand Lodge of South India.

The Grand Lodge of South India now has eight lodges under its banner and plans to consecrate several more this year. The Grand Lodge of South India has been growing stronger and stronger and its aim is to further propagate the regular Masonry in South India.

This Committee recommends that Grand Lodge of Alaska take no action concerning the Grand Lodge of South India at this time, pending a formal request for recognition and action by the Grand Master's Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry T. "Hank" Dunbar

MW Grand Master, I move that this report be received for the record.

MW Grand Master: Your report will be received.

3rd Report

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska

This one concerns the new Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Early in 1997 twenty-seven lodges of the United Grand Lodge of England comprising the District Grand Lodge of Newfoundland voted to form an independent Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador. This action was presented to the United Grand Lodge of

England which agreed that a delegation led by the Most Worshipful Provential Grand Master, Lord Farnham would go to Newfoundland and establish the new grand lodge.

A delegation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland led by the Grand Master Mason Lord Burton also agreed to be present. The Grand Lodge of Scotland has a District Grand Lodge of Newfoundland with sixteen lodges and both the Grand Lodge of Scotland and its district grand lodge agreed to the formation of the new grand lodge. Although, only three lodges of the Scottish constitution joined the new grand lodge.

Consequently on November 1st, 1997 the new Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador was consecrated by Lord Farnham and the English delegation in St. Johns, Newfoundland. In the presence of Lord Burton of Scottish Masons and representatives of eighteen grand lodges of Canada and the United States. Among the representatives were eight grand masters, one member of this commission, Right Worshipful Brother Ross Van Nesspire(?), Deputy Grand Master of New Jersey.

The United Grand Lodge of England recognized the new grand lodge at its quarterly communication on September 10th, 1997 in advance of and in condition of its consecration on November 1st, 1997. In view of its sponsorship, there can be no question of the regularity of this new grand lodge. It meets all the standards of the Commission and is entitled to recognition.

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador is Most Worshipful Brother Herman W. Starks. The Grand Secretary is Right Worshipful Brother George Cull. As of this date now formal request for recognition has been received by this grand lodge. However, it is anticipated that this new Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador will be seeking recognition from all of the other North American grand lodges.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry T. "Hank" Dunbar

MW Grand Master, I move that this report be received for the record.

MW Grand Master: Your report will be received.

MW Grand Master, I move that tentative recognition be extended to the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador pending receipt of a formal request for such recognition.

Grand Master: It has been moved and seconded and motion carried.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The following is the number of votes available by lodge, as provided in the third and final report of the Committee on Credentials.

	Total Number of Ballots
Grand Lodge	20
White Pass Lodge No. 1	4
Anvil Lodge No. 2	4
Tanana Lodge No. 3	8
Valdez Lodge No. 4	4
Mt. McKinley Lodge No. 5	4
Seward Lodge No. 6	4
Matanuska Lodge No. 7	6
Mt. Susitna Lodge No. 8	6
Kodiak Lodge No. 9	5
Glacier Lodge No. 10	14
Kenai Lodge No. 11	8
Fairbanks Lodge No. 12	9
Eagle River Lodge No. 13	8
Aurora Lodge No. 15	3
North Pole Lodge No. 16	3
Anchorage Lodge No. 17	8
Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18	4
Tongass Lodge No. 19	3
Iditarod Lodge No. 20	5
Voided Ballots	-
Total	130

Respectfully submitted,

Aves Thompson (10, 13, 15) Chairman
Ted M. Cadman (10)
Marvin R. Harned (4)
John P. Johnson (3)
Howard R. McElrath (4)

MW Grand Master, I ask that this report be received.

MW Grand Master: It is received.

APPOINTMENT OF REGULAR COMMITTEES

Standing Committees

Jurisprudence

- MW Leslie R. Little (10, 15) Chairman
- MW Fred V. Angleton (2, 11)
- MW Frank W. Erie (3, 12)
- W Frank G. Weiss, III (13)
- W J. Marc Williams (15, 20)

Grievance & Appeals

- MW Howard N. Hobbs (10, 13, 15, 20) Chairman
- W N. Ian Campbell (1)
- W Cecil C. Johnson (2)

Finance

- Bro. S. Michael Johnston (15) Chairman
- RW Steve Lee (15)
- W James D. Grubbs (13, 20)
- W James W. Morton (17)
- Bro. Harry A. Odden (15)

Fraternal Relations

- MW Henry T. Dunbar (10, 17, 20) Chairman

Masonic Research & Education

- W Rex C. Hasty (3) Chairman
- W David T. Alderson (19)
- VW Dennis Z. Morgan (8)
- W Archie F. Lowe (1, 18)
- W Jens W. Noet (2)

Credentials

- W Aves D. Thompson (10, 13, 15) Chairman
- W Ted M. Cadman (10)
- VW Marvin R. Harned (4)
- W John P. Johnson (3)
- W Howard R. McElrath (4)

Masonic Public Relations

- MW Charles I. Gregg (10)
- W David A. Hunt (17, 20)
- W G. Rex Plunkett (7)

DeMolay

- W Gerald R. Fairley (10, 20) Chairman
- W Frank H. Bird (7, 20)
- Bro. Vernon C. Hughes (3)

Bylaws

- W Marvin B. Fitzpatrick (10) Chairman
- W Jeffrey D. Larsen (16)
- W Harry J. Koenen (7, 20)

Public Schools

- W Russell A. Burnett (11, 9)
- W George W. Earp (3, 16)
- W Roy D. Hartz (13, 20)

Long-Range Planning

- MW Lloyd W. Triggs (3, 16) Chairman
- MW Stanley R. Foulke (2)
- RW Gene R. Freeman (3, 12, 16)
- RW Raymond L. Beaver (3, 10, 15)
- RW Don G. Chaffin (3, 12, 16)
- RW Steve Lee (15)
- RW Richard D. Bender (10)
- VW Monte R. Ervin (3, 12)
- VW Arthur A. Rindahl (6, 8, 11)
- VW Loyd G. Williamson (10, 15, 20)
- VW L. Tom Smotherman (18)
- VW V. Clifford Darnell (8, 13, 20)
- W Gregory D. Wyman (12)

Sub Committees

Charters & Dispensations

- VW Milton M. Routzahn (9) Chairman
- W John R. Buehrle, Jr. (5)
- VW Alfred B. Cratty (9)

Sessions & Arrangements

- Bro. D. Scott Thompson (10, 15, 17) Chairman
- Bro. Jackie D. Carl (10)
- W William B. Clucas (3, 12, 16)
- W James M. LeFlore (16)
- Bro. Harry A. Odden (15)
- W Russell W. Sanders (7, 20)
- Bro. Johnnie L. Wallace (12, 17)

Drug and Alcohol Abuse

RW Raymond L. Beaver (3, 10, 15) Chairman
Bro. Jack B. Coghil (3)

Publications

W Gerald R. Fairley (10, 20) Chairman
W Glen E. Josey (8, 17)
W Charles E. Rhea III (10)
Bro. D. Scott Thompson (10, 15, 17)

Warden's Charge

RW Don G. Chaffin (3, 12, 16) Chairman
W Stephen L. Cox (3, 12)
W Fred H. Newton (11)
W Marty W. Parsons (1, 19)
RW Gene R. Freeman (3, 12, 16)

Russian Relations

MW John Grainger (1, 19) Chairman
VW Mitchell R. Miller (3, 12)

Special Fraternal Relations

W Darrell C. McSpadden (3, 12, 16)
RW Don G. Chaffin (3, 12, 16)
W William A. Hendricks (12)

Segregations and Reference

MW Gunnar Flygenring (10) Chairman
RW Thomas O. Mickey (1, 3)

Deputies of the Grand Master

District 1 VW Monte R. Ervin (3, 12)
District 2 VW Arthur A. Rindahl (6, 8, 11)
District 3 VW Loyd G. Williamson (10, 15, 20)
District 4 VW L. Tom Smotherman (18, 19)
District 5 VW V. Clifford Darnell (8, 13, 20)

REPORTS OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was discussed.

MOTIONS

Grand Master-elect, Gene R. Freeman made motion to have the next Grand Lodge in Fairbanks April 8 & 9, 1999, seconded and passed. According to the Grand Secretary the Grand Lodge will meet in the second week of April 1999 because Maundy Thursday is in the first week of April.

Grand Master-elect made motion to have an open installation here, seconded and carried.

RESOLUTIONS

Carryover Resolution 97-4

To Amend Section 14.01 Constitution of the Alaska Masonic Code

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To delete from the Alaska Masonic Code that portion pertaining to the Washington Lodges still in this Jurisdiction.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, when formed in 1981, the Grand Lodge of Alaska acquired Supreme Masonic Jurisdiction within Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, the new Grand Lodge of Alaska provided in its Code that Lodges in Alaska which refused to join this Grand Lodge at that time could remain under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Washington and join us later; and,

WHEREAS, after sixteen (16) years, three (3) lodges still continue to "hold out" and are still under the Washington authority and seem determined to remain that way; and,

WHEREAS, ample time has passed for these three "hold-out Lodges to at least signify their intent to join this Grand Lodge; and,

WHEREAS, the traditional American Doctrine Of Exclusive Territorial Jurisdiction should apply in this Jurisdiction of Alaska the same as it does in the other U.S. Grand Jurisdictions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 14.01 of the Alaska Masonic Code which reads:

Section 14.01 Constitution

AUTHORITY FOR LODGES. Each lodge in this Jurisdiction is held by virtue of a Charter from this Grand Lodge, or under a Dispensation issued by proper authority, provided, however, that a Lodge existing in Alaska under the authority and Jurisdiction of the M.W. Grand Lodge of F.& A.M. of Washington prior to February 7, 1981 may continue to exist and operate under that authority with no prejudice against such Lodge's petitioning later of its own free will and accord to transfer to the authority of the Grand Lodge of Alaska so long as the Grand Lodge of Washington has no objection to such continued existence and later transfer.

be amended to read:

Section 14.01 Constitution

AUTHORITY FOR LODGES. Each Lodge in this Jurisdiction is held by virtue of a Charter from this Grand Lodge, or under a Dispensation issued by proper authority under the **Grand Lodge of Alaska**. (Note: Balance of Section 14.01 is deleted.)

Respectfully submitted,

Gene R. Freeman, PM (3, 12)

Report of Jurisprudence Committee: This Resolution is in proper form for consideration by Grand Lodge. The Committee does not express an opinion as to whether this resolution should or should not be adopted.

As a Carryover Resolution to amend the Constitution, it will require a two-thirds majority vote for adoption.

Note: This Carryover Resolution failed to receive the required two-thirds majority vote to pass (54 for and 45 against) and was rejected.

Resolution 98-1

To Amend Sections or Repeal several Sections in Chapters 18 and 19 of the Alaska Masonic Code

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To create a Statewide jurisdiction for petitioners.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, a Statewide jurisdiction would be less restrictive than Lodge jurisdictions on petitioners who move from one area within Alaska to another while accumulating residence time; and,

WHEREAS, a Statewide jurisdiction is desirable to attract petitioners who may wish to petition a Lodge other than the one near where they may live; and,

WHEREAS, the formation of a new District has changed some Lodges to make some Jurisdictional areas unrealistic for petitioners; and,

WHEREAS, most petitioners want to join a Lodge where their friends are members, regardless of any jurisdictional ruling;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the first sentence of Section 18.01 of the Alaska Masonic Code which now reads:

Section 18.01 Bylaw

PREREQUISITE TO INITIATION, CONDITIONS AND PROCEEDINGS UNDER. A Lodge may not initiate a person except upon his petition and may not knowingly receive a petition from, or initiate a candidate who is less than twenty-one years old, or who has not been an actual resident within the jurisdiction of the Lodge at least six months preceding the date of such petition.

be amended and a succeeding sentence be added to read:

Section 18.01 Bylaw

PREREQUISITE TO INITIATION, CONDITIONS AND PROCEEDINGS UNDER. A Lodge may not initiate a person except upon his petition and may not knowingly receive a petition from, or initiate a candidate who is less than twenty-one years old, or who has not been an actual resident within **this Grand Jurisdiction** at least six months preceding the date of such petition. **A qualified petitioner residing anywhere within this Grand Jurisdiction may petition any Lodge within this Jurisdiction.**

And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the first sentence of Section 18.05 of the Alaska Masonic Code which now reads:

Section 18.05 Bylaw

MEANING OF RESIDENCE. Masonic residence means the permanent or continuous abiding place and home of the petitioner for the six months next preceding the date of presentation of his petition to the Lodge.

be amended to read:

Section 18.05 Bylaw

MEANING OF RESIDENCE. Masonic residence means the permanent or continuous abiding place and home of the petitioner for the six months next preceding the date of his petition to a Lodge.

And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 18.06 of the Alaska Masonic Code which now reads:

Section 18.06 Bylaw

LODGE MAY REQUIRE LONGER RESIDENCE. A Lodge may by its Bylaws require more than six months of residence within its jurisdiction.

be amended to read:

Section 18.06 Bylaw

LODGE MAY REQUIRE LONGER RESIDENCE. A Lodge may by its Bylaws require more than six months of residence within this Grand Jurisdiction.

And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 18.07(2) of the Alaska Masonic Code which now reads:

Section 18.07 Bylaw

ARMED SERVICES.

2. A man in the Armed Services of the United States, who, while in such service, has maintained his continuous residence within this Jurisdiction for three months preceding the date of presentation of his petition, may petition a Lodge for the degrees of Masonry.

be amended to read:

Section 18.07 Bylaw

ARMED SERVICES.

2. A man in the Armed Services of the United States, who, while in such service, has maintained his continuous residence within this Grand Jurisdiction for three months preceding the date of presentation of his petition, may petition any Lodge for the degrees of Masonry.

And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the second sentence of Section 18.08 of the Alaska Masonic Code which now reads:

Section 18.08 Bylaw

SEAFARING, NAVAL, AND MILITARY MEN. The requirement of one year's residence within this Jurisdiction does not apply to a person who is, and for three months preceding the date of petition has been, in the United States naval or military service, but the petition must be to a Lodge having jurisdiction over the place at which it is stationed.

be amended to read:

Section 18.08 Bylaw

SEAFARING, NAVAL, AND MILITARY MEN. A person who is, and for three months preceding the date of petition has been, in the United States naval or military service, may petition any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction.

And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Sections 18.10 and 18.11 of the Alaska Masonic Code both of which apply solely to procedures for waivers of Lodge jurisdictions over petitions, **be repealed.**

And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 18.13 of the Alaska Masonic Code, which now reads:

Section 18.13 Bylaw

WAIVERS, PROCEDURE. A Lodge receiving an application for a waiver to allow a resident to petition another Lodge of this Jurisdiction or a Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction shall process the application for waiver exactly as a petition for the degrees, as in Section 19.01 except that such application must be passed through the respective Grand Secretaries.

be amended to read:

Section 18.13 Bylaw

WAIVERS, PROCEDURE. A Lodge receiving an application for a waiver to allow a resident to petition **(middle part of this sentence is deleted)** a Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction shall process the application through the respective Grand Secretaries.

and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Sections 18.15, 18.16, 19.04, 19.05 and 19.14 of the Alaska Masonic Code, each of which apply solely to the measurement or workings of Lodge Jurisdictions, or to jurisdictional waivers, or to residential changes between Lodge jurisdictions, be repealed.

Respectfully submitted,

V. Clifford Darnell, PM (8, 13, 20)

John H. Grainger, PM (1, 19)

Richard D. Bender, PM (10)

Report of Jurisprudence Committee: This Resolution is in proper form for consideration by Grand Lodge. The Committee does not express an opinion as to whether this resolution should or should not be adopted.

As it proposes to amend a Bylaw, it will require a three-fourths majority vote for adoption.

Note: this Resolution failed to receive the required majority vote and was rejected.

Resolution 98-2

To Amend Sections 17.17, 17.18, and 17.19 Bylaw of the Alaska Masonic Code

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To be more consistent and considerate in our Membership Recognition.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the majority of Master Masons may be a member long enough to have recognition as a member for twenty-five years; and,

WHEREAS, very few Master Masons achieve recognition as a fifty-year member; and,

WHEREAS, many Master Masons are members for forty years or more, but never as a fifty year Master Mason; and,

WHEREAS, this Resolution would give recognition to all Master Masons with over forty years as members and for each five year increment thereafter; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 17.17 of the Alaska Masonic Code which now reads:

Section 17.17 Bylaw

TWENTY-FIVE YEAR MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION. A Master Mason belonging in this Grand Jurisdiction who has maintained membership in some Symbolic Lodge for at least twenty-five years under the provisions of Section 17.18 may be presented by his Lodge with a certificate and button of uniform design as prescribed the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary.

be amended to read:

Section 17.17 Bylaw

TWENTY-FIVE YEAR MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION. A Master Mason belonging in this Grand Jurisdiction who has maintained membership in some Symbolic Lodge for at least twenty-five years under the provisions of Section 17.18 may be presented by his Lodge with a **suitable card, or lapel emblem** of uniform design as prescribed by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary.

And, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 17.18 which now reads:

Section 17.18 Bylaw

FIFTY YEAR MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION.

1. A Mason belonging to this Grand Jurisdiction who has maintained membership in some Symbolic Lodge for at least fifty years from the date of enrollment as a Master Mason may be presented with a suitable card and lapel emblem of uniform design as approved by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary.

2. Eligibility of fifty-year members must be verified by Grand Lodge office records. Time in excess of six months between dimit and affiliation, time lost as a result of action by a Trial Committee, and time dropped for N.P.D. are deducted in calculating membership time.

3. Loss of time is not chargeable against a Brother who was a signer on a Petition for Dispensation to form a new Lodge and whose membership record indicates there was a loss of time between the date of his dimit and the date the Dispensation was granted for the new Lodge. Should the Dispensation to form a new Lodge be subsequently disapproved, there is no loss of time charged to the signer if, within one year from the date the Dispensation was denied, the signer of the Petition affiliates with a regular Lodge of this Jurisdiction.

4. The card and lapel emblem are supplied to the Lodges of this Jurisdiction at cost. The presentation may be made at the will and pleasure of the Lodge on the date of eligibility or any time thereafter.

be amended to read:

Section 17.18 Bylaw

FORTY YEAR MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION.

1. A **Master** Mason belonging to this Grand Jurisdiction who has maintained membership in some Symbolic Lodge for at least **forty** years from the date of enrollment as a Master Mason may be presented **by his Lodge** with a suitable card, **or certificate** and lapel emblem of uniform design as prescribed by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary.

2. Eligibility of **forty**-year members must be verified by Grand Lodge office records. Time in excess of six months between dimit and affiliation, time lost as a result of action by a Trial Committee, and time dropped for N.P.D. are deducted in calculating membership time.

3. (No changes to this paragraph)

4. The **suitable** card, **or certificate** and lapel emblem are supplied to the Lodges of this Jurisdiction at cost. The presentation may be made at the will and pleasure of the Lodge on the date of eligibility or any time thereafter.

And, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 17.19 which now reads:

Section 17.19 Bylaw

SIXTY- OR SEVENTY-FIVE YEAR MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION.

A Master Mason belonging to this Grand Jurisdiction who has maintained membership in some symbolic Lodge for at least sixty or seventy-five years may

be presented by his Lodge with a certificate and button of uniform design as prescribed by the Grand Master and Grand Secretary.

be amended to read:

Section 17.19 Bylaw

OVER FORTY YEAR MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION. A Master Mason belonging to this Grand Jurisdiction who has maintained membership in some symbolic Lodge for at least **forty-five** years, **and each five year increment after forty-five years** may be presented by his Lodge with a **card, or** certificate and **lapel emblem** of uniform design prescribed by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary. **The provisions of Section 17.18 will be observed for all Membership Recognition.**

Respectfully submitted,

V. Clifford Darnell, PM (8, 13, 20)

Report of Jurisprudence Committee: This Resolution is in proper form for consideration by Grand Lodge. The Committee does not express an opinion as to whether this resolution should or should not be adopted.

As it proposes to amend a Bylaw, it will require a three-fourths majority vote for adoption.

Note: this Resolution failed to receive the required majority vote and was rejected.

Resolution 98-3

To Amend Sections 14.03 and 14.04 Bylaw of the Alaska Masonic Code

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To permit Lodge business and balloting to be transacted when open on any degree.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, newly initiated Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Masons have energy and enthusiasm toward Masonry and are assets to a Lodge; and,

WHEREAS, it generally takes several months before newly initiated Masons are passed to the Sublime degree of a Master Mason and their enthusiasm wanes as they languish in obscurity; and,

WHEREAS, with the present arrangements there is little time for Lodge members and the new members to get acquainted; and,

WHEREAS, it is very desirable to have new members attend Lodge meetings and to get involved in the workings and programs of the Lodge; and,

WHEREAS, this would encourage more participation in Masonry and Lodge activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 14.03 of the Alaska Masonic Code which now reads:

Section 14.03 Bylaw

BUSINESS ON THIRD DEGREE AT STATED COMMUNICATION.

Business is transacted and balloting is done only when a Lodge is open on the Third Degree at a Stated Communication. Proceedings while open on the First and Second Degrees may only be such as appertain to the work and lectures of those degrees, or the taking of testimony upon charges preferred against and Entered Apprentice or a Fellowcraft.

be amended to read:

Section 14.03 Bylaw

LODGE BUSINESS. Lodge business may only be transacted and balloting may only be done at a Stated Communication. The Worshipful Master may open the Lodge and transact the business of the Lodge on any Degree. Master Masons who are members in good standing of that Lodge are the only members present who may vote on lodge business.

And, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 14.04 which now reads:

Section 14.04 Bylaw

VOTING BY ALL MEMBERS. All members present must ballot on the following questions:

1. A petition for the degrees or for affiliation;
2. The acceptance or rejection of charges for a Masonic trial; and
3. The expulsion or suspension of a member.

A member, by unanimous consent, may be excused from balloting on No. 1. A vote of all members present is not required on other business matters.

be amended to read:

Section 14.04 Bylaw

VOTING BY ALL MEMBERS. All Master Masons present who are members in good standing of the Lodge must ballot on the following questions:

1. A petition for the degrees or for affiliation;
2. The acceptance or rejection of charges for a Masonic trial; and
3. The expulsion or suspension of a member.

A member, by unanimous consent, may be excused from balloting on No. 1. A vote of all members present is not required on other business matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter T. Williams PM (7)
Henry R. Ferguson PM (7)
Russell W. Sanders PM (7, 20)
Stanley Woodin PM (3, 7, 8, 20)
Charles C. Corbin WM (7, 20)
Roger Hansen SW (7, 20)
Terrence B. Quarton SW (7, 17, 20)

Report of Jurisprudence Committee: This Resolution is in proper form for consideration by Grand Lodge. The Committee does not express an opinion as to whether this resolution should or should not be adopted.

As it proposes to amend a Bylaw, it will require a three-fourths majority vote for adoption

Note: this Resolution failed to receive the required three quarter majority vote (for - 51 votes, against-47) but did receive a majority vote and is a carryover.

Resolution 98-4

To Amend Chapter 20 - Conferring of Degrees, by adding Section 20.12 Bylaw to the Alaska Masonic Code

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE : To allow the Grand Master to hold a One-Day Ritual Class.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the rush, rush pace of today's society is very demanding on our time; and,

WHEREAS, most of our Lodge have experienced a dramatic decline in their membership of the past two decades; and,

WHEREAS, many of our candidates have been unable to complete their degrees in a timely manner; and,

WHEREAS, many Grand Lodges throughout the United States have started having One-Day Ritual Classes to help build their membership; and,

WHEREAS, many professional people, business leaders, political leaders, etc., do not have time in their busy work schedules to learn our Posting Lecture;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 20.12 Bylaw, be added to the Alaska Masonic Code as follows:

Section 20.12 Bylaw

One-Day Ritual Class. The Grand Master may, at his option, authorize a One-Day Ritual class(es), using the following guidelines:

1. All candidates for the class must have petitioned and been elected by a Lodge in this Jurisdiction as outlined in Chapter 19 of the Alaska Masonic Code;

2. One Blue Lodge will be selected, by the Grand Master, to act as Host Lodge for the One-Day Class. Candidates from Lodges other than the Host Lodge will be handled as courtesy candidates;

3. All three degrees (E.A., F.C. & M.M.) will be presented in full form during the One-Day Class;

4. Proficiency at the end of the One-Day Class will consist of the step, due guard, sign, grip and word of each Degree. However, any person receiving their degrees at a One-Day Class, who later wishes to go through the chairs in his Lodge, will demonstrate proficiency in the Posting Lecture or Alternative Proficiency Manual prior to advancing to Junior Warden or beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry T. Dunbar PM (10, 17, 20)

David C. Pratt PM (10)

Charles E. Corbin WM (7, 20)

Gerald R. Fairley PM (10, 20)

James W. Morton PM (17)

Raldo C. Estridge WM (17)

Steve Lee PM (15)

Note: This Resolution was ruled not in proper form by the Committee on Jurisprudence.

Resolution 98-5

To Amend Section 14.03 Bylaw of the Alaska Masonic Code

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To require Stated Communications on the Entered Apprentice Degree.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the ritualistic opening for the Entered Apprentice Degree is the only degree which includes the duties of the Treasurer and Secretary, two officers who are necessary to the transaction of business; and,

WHEREAS, historically, the business of a Masonic Lodge was conducted on the Entered Apprentice Degree; and,

WHEREAS, there is nothing in a Stated Communication, when held on the Entered Apprentice Degree, that an Entered Apprentice should not hear or see; and,

WHEREAS, the present practice of holding Stated Communications on the Master Mason Degree contributes to the perception of the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft that they are “second class members” and excluded from participation in Lodge activities and it may contribute to the unacceptable numbers of Masons who fail to advance,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 14.03 of the Alaska Masonic Code which now reads:

Section 14.03 Bylaw

BUSINESS ON THIRD DEGREE AT STATED COMMUNICATION.
Business is transacted and balloting is done only when a Lodge is open on the Third Degree at a Stated Communication. Proceedings while open on the First and Second Degrees may only be such as appertain to the work and lectures of those degrees, or the taking of testimony upon charges preferred against and Entered Apprentice or a Fellowcraft.

be amended to read:

Section 14.03 Bylaw

LODGE BUSINESS. All business, except the examination of candidates and the conferring of the Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees, shall be done in the Lodge of Entered Apprentice Mason. Only Master Masons, who are members of the Lodge having signed the bylaws and are current in their dues, shall be eligible to vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Billy W. Harris PM (11)
Will R. Josey PM (17)

Note: This Resolution was withdrawn by the sponsors in support of Resolution 98-3.

Resolution 98-6

To Amend Sections 16.19, 16.21 and 16.22 Bylaw of the Alaska Masonic Code

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To allow a Lodge to hold their annual Installation of Officers when a Warden-elect is absent.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the annual Installation of Officers may not be held if one of the elected Wardens is not present; and,

WHEREAS, circumstances may arise or emergencies may occur that prevent a Warden-elect from being present at the scheduled installation; and,

WHEREAS, much planning and preparation is required prior to an installation, making it a hardship on a Lodge to reschedule on short notice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 16.19 of the Alaska Masonic Code which now reads:

Section 16.19 Bylaw

RESIGNATIONS. Neither the Master nor Wardens can resign. Each installed officers holds his office until his successor is installed unless his office becomes vacant as provided in Section 16.21.

be amended to read:

Section 16.19 Bylaw

RESIGNATIONS. **The Master may not resign and, once installed, holds his office until his successor is installed** unless his office becomes vacant as provided in Section 16.21.

And, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 16.21 which now reads:

Section 16.21 Bylaw

VACANCIES. A vacancy in office in a Lodge can occur:

1. By death;
2. By resignation of an officer other than Master or Warden;
3. By election and installation of the holder of an office, other than that of Master or Warden, to fill another office in the Lodge; or
4. By expulsion, by suspension for a time extending beyond the next annual election, or by removal from office.

be amended to read:

Section 17.18 Bylaw

VACANCIES. A vacancy in office in a Lodge can occur:

1. By death;
2. By resignation of an officer other than Master; (deleting reference to Wardens)
3. By election and installation of the holder of an office, other than that of Master; (deleting reference to Wardens) or
4. By expulsion, by suspension for a time extending beyond the next annual election, or by removal from office.

And, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 16.22 which now reads:

Section 16.22 Bylaw

HOW FILLED. A vacancy in an elective office, except that of Master or Warden, may be filled by ballot at any Stated Communication, after due notice to the members. A vacancy in an appointive office may be filled at any time. In case the office of Master or Warden becomes vacant, an election is held only by virtue of a dispensation from the Grand Master, which must be applied for by two-thirds of the members present and certified by the Secretary, and the officer is duly installed.

be amended to read:

Section 16.22 Bylaw

HOW FILLED. A vacancy in an elective office, except that of Master, (deleting reference to Wardens) may be filled by ballot at any Stated Communication, after due notice to the members. A vacancy in an appointive office may be filled at any time. In case the office of Master (deleting reference to Wardens) becomes vacant, an election is held only by virtue of a dispensation from the Grand Master, which must be applied for by two-thirds of the members present and certified by the Secretary, and the officer is duly installed.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley R. Foulke, PM (2)

Report of Jurisprudence Committee: This Resolution is in proper form for consideration by Grand Lodge. The Committee does not express an opinion as to whether this resolution should or should not be adopted.

As it proposes to amend a Bylaw, it will require a three-fourths majority vote for adoption

Note: this Resolution received the required three-quarter majority vote and was adopted.

Resolution 98-7

To Amend Sections 18.01 and 18.02 Bylaw of the Alaska Masonic Code

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To permit petitioning and acceptance of young men for the Degrees of Masonry who are eighteen (18) years of age.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, at age 18, all Americans are entitled to vote in elections for our nation's public officials; and,

WHEREAS, several other Masonic jurisdictions permit young men of good character to petition for, and to receive, the Degrees of Masonry; and,

WHEREAS, female appendant organizations permit membership at the age of 18 years; and,

WHEREAS, all surveys indicate that, at present, most DeMolay members leave that fraternal association at age 18, and only years later do many reconnect with the Masonic Fraternity; and Masonry could utilize this time of transition between 18 and 21 to further cement the bonds of Masonic Brotherhood by establishing a more immediate entry into the Fraternity, thereby strengthening the whole society;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 18.01 of the Alaska Masonic Code which now reads:

Section 18.01 Bylaw

PREREQUISITE TO INITIATION, CONDITIONS AND PROCEEDINGS UNDER. A Lodge may not initiate a person except upon his petition and may not knowingly receive a petition from, or initiate a candidate who is less than twenty-one years old, or who has not been an actual resident within the jurisdiction of the Lodge at least six month preceding the date of such petition.....

be amended to read:

Section 18.01 Bylaw

PREREQUISITE TO INITIATION, CONDITIONS AND PROCEEDINGS UNDER. A Lodge may not initiate a person except upon his petition and may not knowingly receive a petition from, or initiate a candidate who is less than **eighteen years** old, or who has not been an actual resident within the jurisdiction of the Lodge at least six month preceding the date of such petition.....

(Note: Balance of Section 18.01 remains as is.)

And, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 18.02 which now reads:

Section 18.02 Bylaw

QUALIFICATIONS. A petitioner is eligible for the degrees of Masonry if he:

1. Is at least 21 years of age;

be amended to read:

Section 18.02 Bylaw

QUALIFICATIONS. A petitioner is eligible for the degrees of Masonry if he:

1. Is at least **18** years of age;

(Note: Balance of Section 18.02 remains as is.)

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald R. Fairley, PM (10, 20)

Report of Jurisprudence Committee: This Resolution is in proper form for consideration by Grand Lodge. The Committee does not express an opinion as to whether this resolution should or should not be adopted.

As it proposes to amend a Bylaw, it will require a three-fourths majority vote for adoption.

Note: this Resolution received the required three-quarter majority vote and passed.

Emergent Resolution 98-1

To Amend Section 5.1 and add Section 5.13 to the Alaska Masonic Code

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To add the Long-Range Planning Committee as a Standing Committee

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, long-range planning is vital to the success of any organization, and,

WHEREAS, long-range planning provides continuity of programs for the Grand Lodge elected line officers, and

WHEREAS, long-range planning has been successfully used by the Grand Lodge elected line officers for the past three years;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 5.1 Bylaw be amended to add paragraph 11. as follows:

Section 5.01 Bylaw

STANDING COMMITTEES.

11. A committee of seven on Long-Range Planning.

and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 5.13 Bylaw be added as follows:

Section 5.13 Bylaw

LONG-RANGE PLANNING. The Committee on Long-Range Planning shall conduct long-range planning for the purpose of improving Masonry in Alaska. This process includes, but is not limited to, setting goals and developing and implementing programs designed to encourage membership growth, financial security, enhanced administrative capability, successful Lodge management, positive public image, and overall support to the Lodges and members of the craft. The committee shall be composed of the Elected Grand Lodge Officers and the immediate Past Grand Master. The Grand Master may appoint others as he deems necessary in an advisory capacity.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley R. Foulke, PM (2)

Emergent Resolution 98-1 Amended

Section 5.10 adding item 11 remained the same

Section 5.13 as amended on floor by Jurisprudence

Section 5.13 Bylaw

LONG-RANGE PLANNING. The Committee on Long-Range Planning shall conduct long-range planning for the purpose of improving Masonry in Alaska. This process includes, but is not limited to, setting goals and developing and implementing programs designed to encourage membership growth, financial security, enhanced administrative capability, successful Lodge management, positive public image, and overall support to the Lodges and members of the craft. The committee shall be appointed annually by the

Grand Master and report as specified in Section 5.02 of the Alaska Masonic Code

Report of Jurisprudence Committee: This Resolution is in proper form for consideration by Grand Lodge. The Committee does not express an opinion as to whether this resolution should or should not be adopted.

As it proposes to amend a Bylaw, it will require a three-fourths majority vote for adoption.

Note: Emergent Resolution 98-1 as Amended passed almost unanimously.

Emergent Resolution 98-2

To adopt general policy

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To adopt a statement on Freemasonry and Religion

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, continuous assaults are being made on Freemasonry by various religious and anti-Masonic groups, and

WHEREAS, it is important that Freemasonry has one position on religion and Freemasonry to present to the public and news media, and

WHEREAS, the Masonic Information Center was formed as a branch of the Masonic Service Association to provide accurate information about Freemasonry to the public and news media, and

WHEREAS, in December 1993, the Masonic Information Center developed a comprehensive written Statement on Freemasonry and Religion;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Grand Lodge adopt the Statement on Freemasonry and Religion as prepared by the Masonic Information Center in December 1993.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley R. Foulke, PM (2)

FREEMASONRY AND RELIGION

Basic Principles. Freemasonry is not a religion, nor is it a substitute for religion. It requires of its members belief in God as part of the obligation of every responsible adult, but advocates no sectarian faith or practice. Masonic ceremonies include prayers, both traditional and extempore, to reaffirm each individual's dependence on God and to seek divine guidance. Freemasonry is open to men of any faith, but religion may not be discussed at Masonic meetings.

The Supreme Being. Masons believe that there is one God and that people employ many different ways to seek and to express what they know of, God. Masonry primarily uses that appellation, "Grand architect of the Universe," and other non-sectarian titles, to address Deity. In this way, persons of different faiths may join together in prayer, concentrating on God, rather than differences among themselves, Masonry believes in religious freedom and that the relationship between the individual and God is personal, private, and sacred.

Volume of the Sacred Law. An open volume of the Sacred Law, "the rule and guide of life," is an essential part of every Masonic meeting. The Volume of the Sacred Law to a Christian is the Bible; to Freemasons of other faiths, it is the book held holy by them.

The Oath of Freemasonry. The obligations taken by Freemasons are sworn on the Volume of the Sacred Law. They are undertakings to follow the principles of Freemasonry and to keep confidential a Freemason's means of recognition. The much discussed "penalties," judicial remnants from an earlier era, are symbolic, not literal. They refer only to the pain an honest man should feel at the thought of violating his word.

Freemasonry Compared with Religion. Freemasonry lacks the basic elements of religion.

- (a) It has no dogma or theology, no wish or means to enforce religious orthodoxy.
- (b) It offers no sacraments.
- (c) It does not claim to lead to salvation by works, by secret knowledge, or by any other means. The secrets of Freemasonry are concerned with modes of recognition, not with the means of salvation.

Freemasonry supports Religion. Free masonry is far from indifferent toward religion. Without interfering in religious practice, it expects each member to follow his own faith and to place his Duty to God above all other duties. Its moral teachings are acceptable to all regions.

Prepared by the Masonic Information Center
(12/93)

Note: Report of Jurisprudence Committee recommends that this Emergent Resolution be withdrawn as unnecessary upon approval of this report. Report was approved,

Emergent Resolution 98-3

To adopt general policy

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To adopt a policy on proper solicitation

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the Alaska Masonic Code does not prohibit solicitation, and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska monitor only refers to improper solicitation, and,

WHEREAS, we routinely provide Masonic information, such as tapes, videos, pamphlets, and other literature to perspective candidates, and

WHEREAS, it has been the unwritten policy that it is permitted to ask a man, in a neutral manner, if he has ever considered becoming a Mason;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Grand Lodge adopt the following policy concerning solicitation:

A neutrally-worded approach may be made to a man who is considered to be a suitable candidate for Freemasonry. After the procedure for obtaining membership in a Masonic Lodge is explained, he may be reminded once after the initial approach was made. He must then be left to make his own decision.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley R. Foulke, PM (2)

Note: Report of Jurisprudence: This resolution should be withdrawn as it does not provide any further support or neutral wording as a guide for a Mason to follow.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Jurisprudence

1st Report

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska.

We the Committee on Jurisprudence to whom was referred Carryover Resolution 97-4 have considered the same and recommend as follows.

This Resolution is a carryover from the Sixteenth Annual Communication

This Committee does not express an opinion as to whether this resolution should or should not be adopted. As it proposes to amend the Constitution it will require a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie R. Little (10, 15) Chairman
Fred V. Angleton (2, 11)
Frank Eerie (3, 12)
Frank Weiss (13)
J. Marc Williams (15, 20)

MW Grand Master, I ask that this report be accepted.

MW Grand Master: MW Sir, your report will be received.

MW Grand Master, I move the adoption of this resolution.

MW Grand Master: It's been moved and seconded that Carryover Resolution 97-4 be adopted.

Note: This Carryover Resolution failed to receive the required two-thirds majority vote to pass (54 for and 45 against) and was rejected.

2nd Report

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska.

We the Committee on Jurisprudence to whom was referred Resolution 98-1 have considered the same and report as follows.

This Resolution is in proper form to be considered by the Grand Lodge.

This Committee does not express an opinion as to whether it should or should not be adopted. As it proposes to amend one or more Bylaws it will require a three-quarter majority vote to be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie R. Little (10, 15) Chairman

Fred V. Angleton (2, 11)

Frank Eerie (3, 12)

Frank Weiss (13)

J. Marc Williams (15, 20)

MW Grand Master, I ask that this report be accepted.

MW Grand Master: MW Sir, your report will be received.

MW Grand Master, I move the adoption of this resolution.

MW Grand Master: It's been regularly moved and seconded that Resolution 98-1 be adopted.

Note: this Resolution failed to receive the required majority vote and was rejected.

3rd Report

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska.

We the Committee on Jurisprudence to whom was referred Resolution 98-2 have considered the same and recommend as follows.

This Resolution is in proper form to be considered by Grand Lodge.

This Committee does not express an opinion as to whether it should or should not be adopted. As it proposes to amend one or more Bylaws it require a three-quarter majority vote to be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie R. Little (10, 15) Chairman
Fred V. Angleton (2, 11)
Frank Eerie (3, 12)
Frank Weiss (13)
J. Marc Williams (15, 20)

MW Grand Master, I ask that this report be received.

MW Grand Master: MW Sir, your report will be received.

MW Grand Master, I move the adoption of this resolution.

MW Grand Master: It's been moved and seconded that Resolution 98-2 be adopted.

Note: this Resolution failed to receive the required majority vote and was rejected.

4th Report

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska.

We the Committee on Jurisprudence to whom was referred Resolution 98-3 have considered the same and report as follows.

This Resolution is in proper form to be considered by the Grand Lodge.

This Committee does not express an opinion as to whether it should or should not be adopted. As it proposes to amend one or more Bylaws it will require a three-quarter majority vote to be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie R. Little (10, 15) Chairman
Fred V. Angleton (2, 11)
Frank Eerie (3, 12)
Frank Weiss (13)
J. Marc Williams (15, 20)

MW Grand Master, I ask that this report be accepted.

MW Grand Master: MW Sir, your report will be received.

MW Grand Master, I move the adoption of this resolution.

MW Grand Master: It's been regularly moved and seconded that Resolution 98-3 be adopted.

Note: this Resolution failed to receive the required three quarter majority vote (for - 51 votes, against-47) but did receive a majority vote and is a carryover.

5th Report

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska.

We the Committee on Jurisprudence to whom was referred Resolution 98-6 have considered the same and recommend as follows.

This Resolution is in proper form to be considered by Grand Lodge.

This Committee does not express an opinion as to whether it should or should not be adopted. As it proposes to amend one or more of the Bylaws it require a three-quarter majority vote to be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie R. Little (10, 15) Chairman

Fred V. Angleton (2, 11)

Frank Eerie (3, 12)

Frank Weiss (13)

J. Marc Williams (15, 20)

MW Grand Master, I ask that this report be accepted.

MW Grand Master: MW Sir, your report will be received.

MW Grand Master, I move the adoption of this resolution.

MW Grand Master: It's been moved and seconded that Resolution 98-6 be adopted.

Note: this Resolution received the required three-quarter majority vote and was adopted.

6th Report

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska.

We the Committee on Jurisprudence to whom was referred Resolution 98-7 have considered the same and report as follows.

This Resolution is in proper form to be considered by Grand Lodge.

This Committee does not express an opinion as to whether it should or should not be adopted. As it proposes to amend one or more Bylaws it require a three-quarter majority vote to be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie R. Little (10, 15) Chairman

Fred V. Angleton (2, 11)

Frank Eerie (3, 12)

Frank Weiss (13)

J. Marc Williams (15, 20)

MW Grand Master, I ask that this report be received.

MW Grand Master: MW Sir, your report will be received.

MW Grand Master, I move the adoption of this resolution.

MW Grand Master: It's been moved and seconded that Resolution 98-7 be adopted.

Note: this Resolution received the required three-quarter majority vote and was adopted.

7th Report

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska.

We the Committee on Jurisprudence to whom was referred the Grand Master's Message by the Committee on Segregations and Reference have considered the same and recommend as follows.

The portions titled Necrology, State of the Craft, Visitations, Special Events, Decisions, excepting paragraph 2, and Acknowledgements be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie R. Little (10, 15) Chairman
Fred V. Angleton (2, 11)
Frank Eerie (3, 12)
Frank Weiss (13)
J. Marc Williams (15, 20)

MW Grand Master, I ask that this report be accepted .

MW Grand Master: MW Sir, your report will be accepted.

MW Grand Master, I move the adoption of this report.

MW Grand Master: It's been moved and seconded that we adopt the 7th Report of the Jurisprudence Committee. Motion carried.

8th Report

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska

We the Committee on Jurisprudence to whom the Grand Master's Message, by the Committee on Segregations and Reference, have considered the same and recommend as follows:

The portion titled Recommendations, paragraph 1, be approved. To facilitate the implementation of this, the Grand Master has submitted Emergent Resolution 98-1.

Now my Brethren, in some serious negotiation with our Grand Master, we have modified the Resolution that the Grand Master has printed in your booklet, so if you open to page 42 Brethren, Emergent Resolution 98-1, go down to the portion where it says Section 5.13, Bylaw, and go all the way down to the next to the last sentence that begins "The Committee shall be..." and beyond that strike all those words and insert the following "appointed annually by the Grand Master and report as specified in Section 5.02 of the Alaska Masonic Code

This Resolution is in proper form to be considered by Grand Lodge. As it proposes to amend one or more Bylaws, it will require a three-quarter majority to be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie R. Little (10, 15) Chairman
Fred V. Angleton (2, 11)
Frank Eerie (3, 12)
Frank Weiss (13)
J. Marc Williams (15, 20)

MW Grand Master, I ask that this report be received

MW Grand Master: MW Sir, your report will be received and I do accept the amendment.

MW Grand Master, I move the adoption of this report and the accompanying Resolution.

MW Grand Master: It's been moved and seconded that we adopt Emergent Resolution 98-1 as amended, and almost unanimously passed

9th Report

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska

We the Committee on Jurisprudence to whom was referred the Grand Master's Message by the Committee on Segregations and Reference have considered the same and recommend as follows.

The portions titled Recommendations, paragraph 2, be approved including the supporting document, Freemasonry and Religion as prepared by the Masonic Information Center dated 12/93. We would recommend this document be amended to the next regular printing of the Alaska Monitor. We further recommend that Emergent Resolution be withdrawn as unnecessary upon approval of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie R. Little (10, 15) Chairman
Fred V. Angleton (2, 11)
Frank Eerie (3, 12)
Frank Weiss III (13)
J. Marc Williams (15, 20)

MW Grand Master, I ask that this report be accepted.

MW Grand Master: MW Sir, your report will be received.

MW Grand Master, I move the adoption of this report.

MW Grand Master: It's been regularly moved and seconded that this Report of the Jurisprudence Committee be adopted. Motion carried.

10th Report

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska.

We the Committee on Jurisprudence to whom was referred the Grand Master's Message by the Committee on Segregations and Reference have considered the same and recommend as follows.

The portion titled Recommendations, paragraph 3, be approved although it does not offer a positive change or wording to support the recommendation, it does affirm the practice of not directly soliciting membership in our Fraternity. The Friend to Friend Program has been adopted and used by many grand jurisdictions in the United States and none have had it considered improper solicitation. The Emergent Resolution No. 3 supporting this recommendation should be withdrawn as it does not provide any further support or neutral wording as a guide for a Mason to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie R. Little (10, 15) Chairman
Fred V. Angleton (2, 11)
Frank W. Eerie (3, 12)
Frank G Weiss III (13)
J. Marc Williams (15, 20)

MW Grand Master, I ask that this report be accepted.

MW Grand Master: MW Sir, your report will be received.

MW Grand Master, I move the adoption of this report.

MW Grand Master: It's been regularly moved and seconded that this Report of the Jurisprudence Committee be adopted. Motion carried. Emergent Resolution No. 3 was withdrawn

11th Report

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska.

We the Committee on Jurisprudence to whom was referred Resolution 98-4 have considered the same and report as follows.

This Resolution is not in proper form to be considered by Grand Lodge.

It proposes changes or additions to the Alaska Masonic Code which would create conflicts within existing sections of the Code. Without attempting to make changes in the affected Sections, this proposed new section cannot be considered by Grand Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie R. Little (10, 15) Chairman

Fred V. Angleton (2, 11)

Frank Eerie (3, 12)

Frank Weiss (13)

J. Marc Williams (15, 20)

MW Grand Master, I ask that this report be received.

MW Grand Master: MW Sir, your report will be received.

12th Report

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Prior to making this report, Most Worshipful Sir, in reading your decision, paragraph 2 in Decisions, we're not discussing, did not discuss, and don't feel there should be a discussion on the merits of the case.

Prior to making a report, I made contact with legal counsel here in Anchorage to get the definitions that we were addressing in your decision. The definition, and by the way, if you want to look on page four, paragraph 2 of the "Blue Book", the definition from legal counsel, this morning on **Disbarment** means disbarment. He cannot nor would not, any individual ever again practice law in Alaska. **Suspension** is for a time from one day to five years. During that period of suspension, to become an active Bar member again would be to take a test on ethics, pass the test, and be admitted back into the Bar.

So prior to reading our 12th report, I thought I ought to give you that information.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska.

We the Committee on Jurisprudence to whom was referred the Grand Master's Decision, make the following recommendation on paragraph number 2:

Regarding the suspension of membership, the 16th Grand Lodge session voted to suspend Dennis Bump upon disbarment from the Alaska State Bar Association, as of 4/1/98 Dennis Bump has not been disbarred from the Alaska Bar Association

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie R. Little (10, 15) Chairman
Fred V. Angleton (2, 11)
Frank W. Eerie (3, 12)
Frank G Weiss III (13)
J. Marc Williams (15, 20)

MW Grand Master, I ask that this report be accepted.

MW Grand Master: MW Sir, your report will be received.

MW Grand Master, I move the adoption of this report.

MW Grand Master: It's been regularly moved and seconded that this Report of the Jurisprudence Committee be adopted.

Clarification by Jurisprudence, that if this report is adopted, Grand Lodge has overruled the Grand Master's decision.

Grand Lodge failed to adopt therefore, Bump's suspension stands for the term of his suspension from the Alaska Bar association

Grand Master: (break in tape)...will request the wording of that, for the record, that wording of that resolution and Darrell, you were the proposer of that resolution, would you accept, and maybe it's a little late now and out of order, Jurisprudence can rule on it, but if we change the wording of your resolution to disbarment and or suspension until such time as his right to practice law is reinstated.

Most Worshipful Sir, (Darrell) I would be happy to do that and in fact I did do it at the time I made the motion but I must have turned aside when I said it because it didn't get recorded. Yes, I realize at the time, I was making a slight semantic error and some people like every edge they can.

Most Worshipful Grand Master (Fred Angleton) I do want to correct on one thing. This is not a resolution it was just a report.

Grievance and Appeals

According to Grand Master, there has been no activity in 1997 and Grand Master will receive a negative report from Grievance and Appeals.

Finance

Report of the Grand Treasurer

No report from the Grand Treasurer was received at the time of publication

Report of the Finance Committee

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

The Committee on Finance for the Grand Lodge of Alaska has met during the lunch hour and we have considered in addition to our other meetings during the year. Finance Committee sees no adverse ramifications to the proposed 1998 Budget with the Grand Master's Recommendations.

You have in your call(?) an annual report, you have the budget before you and there is only two major areas that are of any degree of variance between prior years and this years proposal and that is to enlarge the Grand Lodge office and to increase the Grand Secretary's salary.

During the course of the year we developed and met with counselors and advisors and developed an investment policy statement for the Grand Lodge of Alaska and that has been approved by the Grand Master prior to this meeting and we've implemented a program that is going to do significantly better than cash savings and certificates of deposits as investments for the Grand Lodge. Everything that you're invested in is investment quality U.S. Government Securities for your surplus funds and they are returning a relative good rate of return. We had some capital gains last year which are staying in the fund, approximately 8.9% on the total funds and they are staying in to inflation-proof your funds and they are not eligible for withdrawal on the Life Membership Fund. We also paid 6.5% to the lodges on their Life Membership funds in addition to the inflation proofing of the individual funds.

I recommend we approve the proposed budget, Grand Master.

Grand Master: Your report will be accepted and it's been moved that we adopt the 1998 Budget as proposed. We have a second and passed

Report of the Audit Committee

No report of an Audit Committee was received at the time of publication

BALANCE SHEET DECEMBER 31,1997

ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash in General Fund		
Checking - First National Bank	\$ 5,931	
Savings - First National Bank	\$ 1,029	
Money Market - Dean Witter	\$ 2,489	
Total General Fund Cash		\$ 9,449
Cash in Permanent Fund		
Savings – First Nation Bank	\$ 1,321	
Total Permanent Fund Cash		\$ 1,321
Accounts Receivable – Constituent Lodges	\$ 1,151	
Inventories – Masonic Supplies	\$ 12,662	
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 1,250	
Total Current Assets		\$ 15,063
Investments:		
Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc., Access Account	\$150,000	
Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc., U.S. Growth Access	\$150,000	
Individual Investments	\$133,896	
National Bank of Alaska - 166 Shares	\$ 1,330	
Treasury Bond – General Fund	\$ 20,000	
Total Investments		\$435,226
Fixed Assets - Net of Depreciation		\$ 8,357
TOTAL ASSETS		\$469,416
 LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Life Membership Interest Payable	\$ 2,451	
Total Current Liabilities		\$ 2,451
Members' Equity:		
General Fund Balance	\$154,955	
Permanent Fund Balance	\$208,037	
Life Membership Fund	\$ 43,976	
Dedicated Travel Fund	\$ 20,029	
Proceedings Transcription, Printing & Binding	\$ 35,000	
Arts Scholarship Fund	\$ 2,319	
Martinez Education Fund	\$ 351	
Charity Fund	\$ 2,2298	

Total Members' Equity	\$466,965
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY	\$69,416

STATEMENT OF INCOME CALENDAR YEAR 1997

INCOME:

Grand Lodge Per Capita	\$31,651
Fees for Masonic Conferrals	\$ 570
Fees for Affiliations	\$ 900
Fees for Petitions for Degrees	\$ 2,660
George Washington Memorial *	\$ 260
Late Fee Assessment	\$ 440
Fee for Grand Master's Dispensations	\$ 100
Sale of Masonic Materials -Net	\$ 363
Interest and Dividend Income	\$27,604
Long Term Capital Gain	\$35,447

TOTAL INCOME

\$99,996

GENERAL FUND

EXPENSES:

Arrangements Committee - Annual Comm.	\$ 2,646
Charity	\$ 206
Committee on Fraternal Relations	\$ 30
Depreciation Expense	\$ 1,850
Expenditure of Prepaid Expenses from Prior Years	# 2,546
George Washington Memorial Association *	\$ 260
Grand Lodge Regalia & Paraphernalia	\$ 1,047
Grand Master's & Grand Secretary's Conf.	\$ 412
Grand Master's Award Program	\$ 1,253
Grand Master's Expense Allowance	\$ 1,000
Grand Master's Travel Allowance	\$ 1,000
Grand Secretary's Expense Allowance	\$ 3,380
Grand Secretary's Travel Allowance	\$ 590
Insurance	\$ 5,830
Life Membership Dividend	\$ 555
Masonic Research & Education Committee	\$ 300
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 184
Office Rent	\$ 5,912
Office Salaries	\$ 9,000
Office Supplies and Expenses	\$ 822
Past Grand Master's Regalia	\$ 789
Payroll Taxes	\$ 1,081
Postage	\$ 866
Printing Expense	\$ 1,729
Reception for Visitors	\$ 1,050
Research & Education Committee	\$ 104
Telephone Expense	\$ 855
Warden's Charge	\$ 916
Grand Lodge Officer's Travel	

Grand Master	\$ 3,164
Deputy Grand Master	\$ 1,266
Senior Grand Warden	\$ 633
Junior Grand Warden	\$ 633
Grand Secretary	\$ 633
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$52,542
 NET INCOME (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	 <u>\$47,454</u>

*These are offsetting items that are financed through assessments to the individual Lodges.

**OPERATING BUDGET – GENERAL FUND CALENDAR YEAR
1997**

	ACTUAL BUDGET 1997	ACTUAL EXPENSES 1997	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
EXPENSES:			
Grand Master's Expense Allowance	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -0-
Grand Master's Travel Allowance	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -0-
Grand Lodge Bulletin	\$ 2,148	\$ 2,148	\$ -0-
Masonic Research & Education Committee	\$ 250	\$ 104	\$(146)
	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,646	\$(354)
Printing and Binding - Proceedings	\$ 2,500	\$ -0-	\$(2,500)
Insurance	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,830	\$(170)
Reception for Visitors	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,050	\$ 50
Past Grand Master's Regalia	\$ 800	\$ 789	\$(11)
Charity	\$ 100	\$ 206	\$(106)
Grand Lodge Regalia – District 5	\$ -0-	\$ 533	\$ 533
Grand Lodge Paraphernalia - Flags	\$ -0-	\$ 514	\$ 514
Grand Lodge Membership Dividend	\$ -0-	\$ 555	\$ 555
 SUB TOTAL I	 \$ 17,798	 \$ 6,375	 \$(1,423)
 Grand Master's Award Program	 \$ 1,200	 \$ 1,253	 \$ 53
Grand Secretary's Expense Allowance	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,380	\$(20)
Grand Secretary's Travel Allowance	\$ 600	\$ 590	\$(10)
Grand Lodge Expenses:			\$ -0-
Office Salaries	\$ 9,000	\$ 0,000	\$ -0-
Payroll Taxes	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,081	\$(419)
Office Rent	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,912	\$(112)
Office Supplies and Expenses	\$ 900	\$ 1,030	\$ 130
Taxes	\$ 15	\$ -0-	\$ (15)
Postage	\$ 900	\$ 866	\$(34)
Transcription of Proceedings	\$ 1,000	\$ -0-	\$(1,000)
Warden's Charge	\$ 1,000	\$ 916	\$(84)
Telephone	\$ 750	\$ 855	\$ 105
Printing Expense (Masonic Forms)	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,729	\$(271)
Dues Expense:			
Committee on Fraternal Relations	\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 15
Masonic Service Association	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ -0-
George Washington Memorial Assoc.	\$ 230	\$ 260	\$ 30
Grand Master's & Grand Secretary's Conf.	\$ 225	\$ 412	\$ 187
Depreciation Expense	\$ 1,850	\$ 1,850	\$ -0-
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 200	\$ 184	\$(16)
Expenditure of Prepaid Expenses	<u>\$ -0-</u>	<u>\$ 2,546</u>	\$ 2,546

SUB TOTAL II	\$ 30,885	\$ 31,986	\$ 1,101
Grand Lodge Officer's Travel			
Grand Master	\$ 3,164	\$ 3,164	\$ -0-
Deputy Grand Master	\$ 1,266	\$ 1,266	\$ -0-
Senior Grand Warden	\$ 633	\$ 633	\$ -0-
Junior Grand Warden	\$ 633	\$ 633	\$ -0-
Grand Secretary	\$ <u>633</u>	\$ <u>633</u>	\$ -0-
SUB TOTAL III	\$ 6,329	\$ 6,329	\$ -0-
GRAND TOTALS	\$ 55,012	\$54,690	(\$ 322)

* These are offsetting items that are financed through assessments to the individual Lodges.

**OPERATING BUDGET – GENERAL FUND CALENDAR YEAR
1998**

	ACTUAL BUDGET 1997	PROPOSED BUDGET	INCREASE DECREASE
EXPENSES:			
Grand Master's Expense Allowance	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -0-
Grand Master's Travel Allowance	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -0-
Grand Lodge Bulletin *	\$ 2,148	\$ 3507	\$ 1,359
Masonic Research & Education Committee	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -0-
Arrangements Committee - Annual Comm.	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -0-
Printing and Binding - Proceedings	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -0-
Insurance	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ -0-
Reception for Visitors	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -0-
Past Grand Master's Regalia	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ -0-
Charity	<u>\$ 100</u>	<u>\$ 100</u>	\$ -0-
 SUB TOTAL I	 \$ 17,798	 \$ 19,157	 \$ 1,359
 Grand Master's Award Program	 \$ 1,200	 \$ 1,200	 \$ -0-
Grand Secretary's Expense Allowance	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,400	\$ -0-
Grand Secretary's Travel Allowance	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ -0-
Grand Lodge Expenses:			
Office Salaries	\$ 9,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,000
Payroll Taxes	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -0-
Office Rent	\$ 5,800	\$ 8,600	\$ 2,800
Office Supplies and Expenses	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ -0-
Taxes	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ -0-
Postage	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ -0-
Transcription of Proceedings	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -0-
Warden's Charge	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -0-
Telephone	\$ 750	\$ 1,300	\$ 550
Printing Expense (Masonic Forms)	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -0-
Dues Expense:			
Committee on Fraternal Relations	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ -0-
Masonic Service Association	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ -0-
George Washington Memorial Assoc. *	\$ 230	\$ 1,217	\$ 987
Grand Master's & Grand Secretary's Conf.	\$ 225	\$ 400	\$ 175
Depreciation Expense	\$ 1,850	\$ 1,850	\$ -0-
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ -0-
Life Membership Fund Dividend	\$ -0-	\$ 2,594	\$ 2,594
Other Funds Dividend	<u>\$ -0-</u>	<u>\$ 1,242</u>	\$ 1,242
 SUB TOTAL II	 \$ 30,885	 \$ 40,233	 9,348

Grand Lodge Officer's Travel			
Grand Master	\$ 3,164	\$ 2,989	\$(175)
Deputy Grand Master	\$ 1,266	\$ 1,196	\$(70)
Senior Grand Warden	\$ 633	\$ 598	\$(35)
Junior Grand Warden	\$ 633	\$ 598	\$(35)
Grand Secretary	<u>\$ 633</u>	<u>\$ 598</u>	\$(35)
 SUB TOTAL III	 \$ 6,329	 \$ 5,978	 \$ 351
 GRAND TOTALS	 \$ 55,012	 \$65,368	 \$10,356

* These are offsetting items that are financed through assessments to the individual Lodges.

Masonic Research and Education

No report from the Masonic Research and Education Committee was received at the time of publication.

Masonic Public Relations

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Distinguished Guests, and Brethren

During a recently completed Grand Lodge Masonic year, your Committee on Public Relations made a diligent effort to remind the Brethren that successful public relations are a responsibility of anyone who would portray himself as a Mason. In the spring of 1997, a letter was sent to each lodge which outlined the number of ways by which Masons and their lodges might better represent the Fraternity, hoping of course that it might give them an idea or two on things that they might do to better represent themselves and their lodges in the community.

Among other things were such simple items as cleaning up their lodge properties, painting, fixing broken items about the lodge, exterior and interior, mowing the grass, plowing the snow and etc. Things that would tell the community we are proud of them and we would hope that they are proud of us.

Also recommended was "Adopt a Highway Program," which a couple of Masonic organizations in the area have gotten into. I'm really proud when I drive down to Kenai Road there, they rode on the way down and I see the one there that says "Sterling Masonic Club." They do a beautiful job of cleaning up that highway and it looks great, it also looks good when you get into the airport and you see the signs there telling when lodges meet. But, most of all each member was reminded to practice basic precepts of Masonry and thus by his own example let others know we are valued members of society in our communities.

Most Worshipful Grand Master, I would again remind all those present that our actions say more about the Fraternity than any book we might write. And, to the uninitiated, anyone Mason by his actions is the Fraternity and that is what it is all about.

Fraternally submitted by your Committee on Public Relations,

Charles I. Gregg (10) Chairman
Rex Plunkett (7)
David A. Hunt (17)

MW Grand Master, I ask that this report be accepted.

MW Grand Master: It will be accepted.

DeMolay

To Grand Master Foulke, Distinguished Guests, and Brethren,

This report of the Grand Lodge Committee on DeMolay is presented with great enthusiasm and hope; enthusiasm over the progress over the Order of DeMolay during the last three years and hope that this progress shall continue.

A look at DeMolay just three years ago would have shown that the Order was almost dead. There were four Chapters, one of which was in forfeit status and the remaining three were struggling to meet. Of the three so-called “active” Chapters, none had more than three participating Members, their meetings were held infrequently (without the benefit of DeMolay ritual) and activities outside the Chapter room were almost non-existent. The State Association had a bank balance of only one-hundred forty-nine dollars and six cents on which to run a state-wide program.

This situation began to turn around two years ago when, for the first time in ten years the State hosted a State Conclave. This convention, held over three days, was attended by nineteen young men who indulged in competitions, business sessions, and a rock dance. A newsletter was published and sent to all Members, Advisors and Masonic Lodges, and to several other interested individuals and organizations. New Advisors were recruited and participation in Chapter activities increased as did the number of initiates.

Work with the Chapters continued throughout 1997 (and is still an on-going effort). Again membership increased and participation in large numbers of activities dramatically moved upward. Alaska participated in both the 1997 International Supreme Council and International Congress with four DeMolays in attendance. Work in this Jurisdiction was recognized at the International level by being the recipient in 1997 of the very coveted “Golden Eagle” trophy presented by DeMolay’s Grand Master. Alaska was also represented at the Pac-West Ritual Competition held in Reno, NV, where John A. LeFlore, our Past State Master Councilor, performed in a highly commendable manner. Also in 1997, two Members (who are now the State Master Councilor and State Junior Councilor) attended a week long Leadership Conference. Each of trips were made with the idea of improving leadership skills of DeMolay Members.

Alaska’s *Conclave '98* concluded just 1 ½ weeks ago with 29 young men attending. This was an increase in over 50% from the preceding year. As before, there were many activities for Members and Advisors, alike. It is a pleasure to have Jeremiah Kay from Fairbanks as the new State Master Councilor. He is the very capable young man who addressed you Thursday morning, and we have great expectations of greater activity in the coming year. The Conclave this year also featured the presentation of the

Representative DeMolay award on three of the Members. The award is the highest that can be solicited and earned by the individual DeMolay, and should be the goal of all Members. That effort was highlighted last October by the presentation of the Degree of Chevalier on John A. LeFlore of Fairbanks. (The Chevalier is the highest honor which can be conferred by DeMolay International for an individual's superior service to the Order.)

During this last year, particular recognition must be paid to the loyal and dedicated advisors without whom the DeMolay program would be impossible. Certainly it is not practical to list them all here, but Stan Woodin and Russell Sanders (both of Matanuska No. 7 and Iditarod No. 20) deserve special commendation for their activities with Mat-Su Chapter. Their work was largely responsible for that Chapter leaving *Conclave '98* with the "*Chapter of the Year*" trophy. Also, to be commended for their work with Arctic Chapter in Fairbanks are Butch Hughes, Jim Kay, and Don Winters. We all owe a big "Thanks" to all our dedicated Advisors who spend long hours and use their own funds to promote the Order.

During this coming year, the DeMolay administration staff will continue its emphasis upon the development of both DeMolay Chapters and Members. One area of emphasis will be to continue the attempt to restart the old DeMolay Chapter in Ketchikan and the recently forfeited Chapter in Kenai. To accomplish this, however, it will require the assistance of interested individuals in both of these communities. Even though DeMolay is an organization of young men and run by them, dedicated Advisors are an absolute necessity for a successful Chapter. In addition to this effort, the DeMolay staff will attempt to strengthen the Advisory Councils of the existing Chapters. Several of our key Advisors have been working for a long time with little assistance, and need some relief from attempting to do everything themselves. To accomplish these goals, it is recommended that the Grand Lodge Committee on DeMolay work closely with the DeMolay administration and that they visit as many lodges as possible to speak on the DeMolay program. In turn, the DeMolay Executive Officer has pledged to be available for speaking engagements at lodges or other organizational functions.

Why do adults spend their money and all-to precious time working with young men? Well first, it's a lot of fun. You not only get to relive some of the things you did in your own youth, but just trying to keep up with DeMolay members is a sure way of keeping yourself young. More important, however, is the opportunity to take a raw untried youth and help him develop into a mature, self-confident leader. An adult, to whom we can be proud to say "I knew him when he was an active DeMolay."

Last weekend I witnessed the State Senior Councilor, Jason Smith, and two other Mat-Su DeMolays jump through the ice into the freezing water of Wasilla Lake as part of an I-Did-A-Dip fund raiser. And, again this year, three DeMolays will be attending DeMolay's International Congress in Kansas City. Other activities are planned as well. It looks as though DeMolay activities are continuing to be an important part of the member's lives.

By continuing to promote Masonic ideals in a manner appropriate for young men, we are building the future. **DeMolays are the future**, not only of Masonry but of our country and therefore of all the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald R. Fairley Chairman
Frank H. Bird
Vernon C. Hughes

MW Grand Master, I ask that this report be accepted.

MW Grand Master: It will be accepted.

Public Schools

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Most Worshipful Grand Master. Russ Burnett, Kenai 11, Chairman Public Schools Committee. You directed me to find out all the lodges in this state what their school awards programs were all about. I wrote a letter to every Secretary of all the lodges in the state and I got seven no answers, six no programs. I got six scholarship awards or award programs and I have got one with an awards program and a scholarship.

Now in order for the next committee or committees after, they don't have to write this each time to the Secretaries and get nasty remarks back that how many times that this got to be done.

I like my report be accepted

MW Grand Master: Your report is received.

I move that this report be put in the record so that the future Grand Masters can see what it is all about.

MW Grand Master: by me receiving the report, it is in the record.

Bylaws

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, Brethren one and all, very small amount of changes to our Bylaws this year. There were two bylaw changes for the year 1997-1998 acted upon by the Committee.

They are Aurora Lodge No. 15, Anchorage, Alaska, Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18, Sitka, Alaska to change their bylaws for their meeting times and dates so they will not conflict with the Grand Lodge session or holidays. These bylaws were approved by the membership of the respective lodges .

The Bylaws Committee approved each proposed bylaw.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin B. Fitzpatrick (10) Chairman

Jeffrey D. Larsen (16)

Harry J. Koenen ((7, 20)

MW Grand Master, I move that this report be received.

MW Grand Master: It will be received.

MW Grand Master, I further move that this report be adopted.

MW Grand Master: It has been regularly moved, seconded that the Report of the Bylaws Committee be adopted. **Your Report is adopted.**

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Report of Grand Chaplain (Necrology)

We remember these brethren who have laid down their working tools, as reported by the Constituent Lodges in their monthly reports for 1997

*When the door of life closes, another door opens;
but often we look so long at the closed door
that we do not see the one that has been opened.*

*May his life beyond that door
Be even more fruitful and rewarding
Than the life he led while on this side.*

Anvil Lodge No. 2

Lester Edward Elkins, PM, Dual Mem.

December 17, 1996

Tanana Lodge No. 3

Garold Arthur Cunning

Unknown

Bobby Lane Dossett

Unknown

Stanley Gilovich

Unknown

Earl Henry Knight

Unknown

Joe Allen Nesbitt

Unknown

Patrick Robert O'Brien

Unknown

Henry Joseph Ricard

Unknown

Kenneth Alexander Murray

January 26, 1997

Robert Jackson Moore

March 5, 1997

William Alexander Pope

March 23, 1997

Edwin Floyd Stevens

March 28, 1997

Richard Burrell Webb

April 8, 1997

Daniel Nick Gaudine

April 15, 1997

Ernest Everett Presley

May 12, 1997

John Leroy Blockhaus

June 9, 1997

Michael Somers

August 3, 1997

Jack L. Huffsmith

October 1, 1997

Ralph Harold Allen

October 4, 1997

William Pete Mills

November 26, 1997

Valdez Lodge No. 4

Alfred S. Derkeverkian

September 23, 1997

Mt. McKinley Lodge No. 5

Mark Whetsel Chisum

December 25, 1997

Seward Lodge No. 6	
Max Applegate	Unknown
Thomas Glen Edwards	Unknown
Richard O. Sellers	Unknown
Christian E. Trondsen	Unknown
John Calvin Bolen	March 4, 1997
Matanuska Lodge No. 7	
Albert Rowland Soliss, PM	September 6, 1996
Robert La Mont Bronson	February 6, 1997
Steven O'Neal Pope, Dual Mem.	June 15, 1997
James Carlton Sanders, Dual Mem	June 28, 1997
Rodney Leslie Johnson, PM, Dual Mem	December 13, 1997
Mt. Susitna Lodge No. 8	
John Gobel	Unknown
Sanford Hauser	Unknown
William Carl King	Unknown
Frank George Porter	Unknown
Wilbur Ralph Munson	February 7, 1997
John Earl Reynolds, PM, Dual Mem	May 31, 1997
Rodney Albert Dickinson	October 9, 1997
Russell Clinton Milligan, PM, Dual Mem	October 25, 1997
Kodiak Lodge No. 9	
Jacob John Laktonen, PM	April 6, 1996
Glacier Lodge No. 10	
John Earl Reynolds, PM, Dual Mem	May 31, 1997
Alvin Gene Allen, Dual Mem	July 11, 1997
Maurice Lewis Leahy, Dual Mem	July 16, 1997
Hubert Boyd Bentley, PM	August 11, 1997
Russell Clinton Milligan, PM, Dual Mem	October 25, 1997
Eagle River Lodge No. 13	
John Jacob Gunson, Dual Mem	October 2, 1997
Aurora Lodge No. 15	
Stanley Odis Smith, Dual Mem	January 23, 1997
Richard Bernard Green	June 23, 1997
North Pole Lodge No. 16	
Enoch Wayne Daniels	July 28, 1997
Anchorage Lodge No. 17	
Robert B. Atwood	January 10, 1997

Harold Walter Culver	January 19, 1997
Judson Miles Fowler	January 19, 1997
William Richard Erickson	February 1, 1997
Owen John Jones	February 5, 1997
Karl Melvin Onkka	March 16, 1997
Kenneth N. McCaskey	August 8, 1997
John Paul Webb	August 19, 1997
Robert John McGrane	August 25, 1997
Benjamin Wayne MacArmstrong, PM	December 13, 1997

Tongass Lodge No. 19

Darhl Ross Edwards	July 13, 1996
Robert Hoyt Scribner, PM, DM	July 30, 1997
George Washington Bellamy	September 28, 1997
Vernon Lee Eliason	November 23, 1997

Iditarod Lodge No. 20

Steven O'Neal Pope, Dual Mem	June 15, 1997
James Carlton Sanders, Dual Mem	June 28, 1997

Our condolences go to the family and friends of each of these Brethren

They may be gone from us, but they are not forgotten.

Memorial Service by Grand Chaplain

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alaska, and all present. I don't know how you feel, I've kind of bore down on this all last year in visitations to several lodges of how important it is to really know what is inside of that book there on the altar. And, I was amazed, Richard, at the number of Brothers who have passed away and we don't even know when it happened. It's not really our fault, it's just one of those things that make you realize that we are only a shadow here upon this earth and God intended for us to get ready for the day we leave here.

All of that is written in this book and as I listen to those sixty-five names, that's half of this congregation today. If they're all gathered up at one time, it would match the words that Jesus gave us a long time ago when He said they shall be gathered like clouds in the sky, just like a cloud lifting up over

the hill here where the tram disappears into the sky. And, that's what happened to our Brothers too.

In part of the foundation of getting ready for all of this to happen to each one of us, and next year it will be some of us will be gone. We need to know what that book says if we truly believe in this Grand Architect of the Universe, and if we listen to the news reports and we watch the Mars Pathfinder mission to Mars and to other civilizations and the planets out in the universe and the universes that we are so very insignificant here upon this Earth that they don't even know when we pass away.

And, he says that this life is just a vapor, nothing to be concerned about except seventy years of trials and tribulations upon this Earth to prepare us for the future that is to be a life eternal in the heavens and a house not made with hands. He promises each one of us will have a mansion, what kind of mansion I don't know whether it is one of those in Girdwood or whether it is one on the shores of California falling into the ocean, doesn't make any difference, God's there and it is going to be great whatever it might be.

And, I know the best thing that you and I can do as Masons is to believe this word of God we have on this altar that says he that believeth in me shall *never* perish but shall have ever lasting life.

I would like to have us pray if we will.

Heavenly Father, thank you so very much for the promise that you have given us even though we are of a sinful nature and that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through our faith in the provisions that you have made for us in this Holy Book that we call our own.

We ask that each one of us would take a little bit of time out of this busy life to read the words that you have given to us that live eternal.

We pray that those mansions in the sky maybe welcoming everybody coming home.

We ask your blessings upon the loved ones that have been left behind and the memories that folks have. All of the Brothers have been friends and loved ones of somebody even if we don't know when they left this Earth.

We pray that you will watch over us as we think of each day we might live to give glory to your Holy name, because we only have one day at a time.

Father, just the other night you remember the call on the trooper's radio to a home out in the Wasilla area where a lady was found dead in her bed, missing four days, forty-five years old and nobody knew her name.

We ask Heavenly Father that we remember that you said not even a sparrows falls to the ground that you don't know about it. We know that you know us by our name and that you are calling us home.

Help us to have the wisdom to prepare for it, to prepare our loved ones to be ready for the time we leave this Earth too as these departed Brothers have done, because we ask it in Thy Holy Name with love in our hearts. Amen

W Eugene M. Mockerman
Grand Chaplain

Report of Grand Lecturer

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brethren all, except you Joe. You know that I am in direct communication with my daughter, so you want to be careful flying into Sitka from now on.

Well, this is the report of the Grand Lecturer, and how much time do I got?

I heard a story and it's an old story about our Grand Master. You know that Most Worshipful Les Little married him and Sheri who's up in Nome. Stan said to Les that he was going to get married. Les said that this is what you want to do. You want to make sure that Sheri has your breakfast ready when you get up and get you all ready to go to work, clothes are all laid out and ironed, and she packs you lunch, and makes sure that it is just exactly what you want to eat and don't take any substitutes. Then he said when you come home at night, make sure she is standing there right by the door all prettied up perfume and dinner is all ready and then when you get through with dinner you sit down on the couch with slippers and the paper and all these things. Stan said ok and time went on a little bit after they were married a couple months later and he said, Stan did you do what I told you? Stan said yes. Well, how did things work out? Well, Stan said I didn't see her for about three days and this left eye started to open a little bit.

My report as Grand Lecturer, I was told that after a year as Grand Master, the phone would stop ringing and I would have nothing to do. I believe this to be a falsehood, if your interests are in Freemasonry, in the Fraternity, are truly for the good of the Craft, and there is no time to rest. There's always work to do.

This year has been another year of enjoyment. At the beginning of the year I was able to travel with the Grand Master on his visits. At his request, I presented to you the subject to the courtesy of the flag, which I hope you enjoyed. As the year progressed, I was not able to continue traveling as much as I would like. However, the lodges that I did visit appear to be doing good work. If there was a problem, as a rule, it was something that had been overlooked in the rules and regulations of the lodge.

I would therefore like to encourage each of you again to take a few minutes, now and then, to look through the Code, the Lodge Officer's Handbook, and the Monitor ceremonies. Remember Brethren we are admonished in our first degree to improve ourselves in Masonry.

Some years ago Most Worshipful Frank Erie had his survey presented to the Craft to help determine what was the greatest concern and what was considered to be the area whereby we might be better enabled to improve our membership. I would like to bring to mind two of those topics that I find most neglected and I think one of our representatives here, distinguished guest, this afternoon pointed on some of the things I have said right here and he kind of took my thunder away never-the-less.

Number one would be the investigating committee, or as I like to refer to it as the visitation committee. This being one of the first contacts with a new member, we should dress appropriately, be able to answer any and all questions put to us. The purpose of this visit is to put the prospective member at ease and to inform him and his wife what they can expect from the Fraternity. Explain the time involved and a little of the history of Freemasonry so as to instill in him the pride we should all have in this oldest fraternal organization in the world. Be especially friendly and courteous. Keep the subject close to Masonry as possible. If possible, encourage one of your ladies to go along on the visit to put the prospect's wife at ease.

The second item of interest was coaching. Coaching should be the candidate's first education in Freemasonry. The coach should be well skilled in the history of the Fraternity. They should be able to pronounce some of those difficult words and names properly. The education of the candidate should go much further than just being able to read the cipher. If we, if as we say we have no secrets then he should be told about Masons in government and other aspects of public life being very cautious in stating facts and not opinions. We as Masons should have sufficient knowledge about the Craft and if not a study of some of the literature available may help to improve our own education as well.

A few words on our Alaska Masonry, as far as I can tell our lodges are doing good work. I think our Warden's Charge had done more in educating our new officers each year and encouraging them to follow our rules and regulations and not to deviate from the ancient usages. My Brethren, look around you, as you can see many of us are getting to that age of retirement from the Fraternity. We have in our own way made every attempt to keep the Fraternity as it was when we joined. Sometimes we have met with your resistance. The time is soon coming when you, younger members, are going to be in the same position. We have instilled enough pride in you to maintain those principles.

My Brethren, I am an advocate of change, but only in the practices that may improve our membership. I believe the basics of what makes our Fraternity what it is centers around the ritual and to keep the ancient usages as they were and still are. We must do our best to encourage younger members to keep up the practice of doing the best possible work.

My duty as Grand Lecturer is to be ready to help each of you in doing good ritual work. Please feel free to contact me at anytime you would like me to visit your lodge. I don't know everything, but I have the written work to help both of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Lloyd Triggs,
Grand Lecturer

Grand Master, I ask that this report be received.

Grand Master: Your report will be received except for your opening remarks.

Report of Grand Orator

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Grand Master, Worshipful Brethren, and Grand Officers, Brethren one and all. One of the requirements to become a Mason was to have a good moral character. What does that mean? Ask a dozen men and you will get a dozen or more different answers. But, all of them will tell you they're so tired of hearing about all the moral things happening in the world. TV, radio, and newspaper headlines are all about the immoral acts of President and others of official capacities.

Webster's dictionary has almost as many meanings of the words moral or morality. First one, morals as pertaining to or concerned with right conduct or its principles conforming to these principles rather than law or custom is a moral obligation. Two, being capable of recognizing and conforming to such principles is a moral being. Three, morals refer to generally accepted customs of conduct, rank and society. And four, morality is a conformity to the rules of conduct moral, quality, or character. In the Holy Bible, the rule and guide of our faith, God handed down to Moses on Mount Sinai, the Ten Commandments that should be used to build a good moral character and a good moral life.

As Freemasons, how can we change this world? That's a big job for a single person or an organization. So, we have to change our lives to be an example to the people we come in contact with every day. What do we need to do this? A quote from the Book of Law, Educational Bureau, Grand General Chapter Royal Arch Masonry International, "We need men who are examples of the highest moral standards; men who are dedicated not just to the ordinary good but to excellence; men who believe in youth and believe that the youth of today and the men of tomorrow will formulate their last house (words not understandable) based on the standards of Freemasons by which they try to live today. We need men who believe in promoting ideals leading to a better society. We need men who are optimists and face the future with heads held high. We need men with ideas, men who are willing to work and try them. We need men with imagination and vision and we need men with experience."

Yes we need men, to participate in this great Fraternity without turning their backs on the modern world or hiding their faces and minds from the modern world. But, like the turtle or roadrunner are willing to stick their necks out and run to meet the challenge. We need men who believe that Freemasonry is a force for the great good in the world despite the evidence of decay and immorality.

Thank you Grand Master.

Respectfully submitted,

Novis L. Eady (5, 11)
Grand Orator

Grand Master, I ask that this be accepted.

Grand Master: Your report will be accepted.

Grand Master, I ask that it be adopted.

Grand Master, Thank you Brother Orator.

Report of Grand Historian

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

The Grand Historian's Report at the Seventeenth Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska at the Alaska Prince Hotel, Girdwood, Alaska .

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Stanley R. Foulke, Grand Lodge of Alaska Officers, visitors, dignitaries, Brethren all.

I wish to express my gratitude for the honor of serving another year as Grand Historian for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alaska. Progress has been slow but advancement is being made in procuring and updating the computer with scanner modems through which due to the generosity and foresight of our building corporation officers of the Sitka Lodge and the good fortune of having a new worshipful master that is taking two new members and they all are computer friendly.

Another piece of good news is that the acquisition of the Grand Lodge's Research Committee of a secure and heated exclusive depository for records, archives, and memorabilia of the Grand Lodge. I know that this has been a long top priority of Most Worshipful John Ingram and he is to be congratulated along with others for this Committee's important achievement.

A year ago I made note that I'd discovered the Masons were responsible for the demise of Soapy Smith, the notorious crook who ruled Skagway during the gold rush with guile and terror. During this past year I have made a much more pleasant discovery in, and I was asked to serve on a committee that was forming to preserve St. Peters hundred year old church, Episcopal Church, that graces the waterfront crescent walk between downtown Sitka and Sheldon Jackson's mission. I've know vaguely some time that one of the earlier Alaskan Episcopal bishops had been a Mason, but so had one of the early Methodist bishops which made me more proud because being I am a Methodist.

However, in following the church and parsonage sea house as they call it, I discovered their many reminders of the good bishop's Masonry such as his York Rite regalia, and a large framed proclamation of appreciation and respect for all that he had done for his home lodge in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and is dated 1890. In searching further, I

discovered that this outstanding man and Mason had served his church and Masonry in Alaska for forty-seven years during which time transportation and communication were a moon away from our present day. I say he served Masonry because among the antidotes that live on, such as a copy of the early minutes of Valdez Lodge which our good brother, Ray Tidwell dredged up and sent to me some years back, and I quote "Some of our first business by the Brothers of newly constituted Valdez Lodge Number 168 F. & A.M. on November 17, 1908 was to adopt a resolution that this lodge is indebted to Brother Peter Trimble Rowe, Episcopal Bishop of Alaska for his efforts in assisting to organize this Lodge." There's more and I feel that if ever the Grand Lodge is to establish a Masonic Hall of Fame, which I think there should be, I would certainly nominate Brother Rowe as one of the first inductees.

Most Worshipful Grand Master I respectfully request that this report be accepted into the record.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Joe H. Ashby,
Grand Historian

Most Worshipful Grand Master: Your report will be accepted.

Alaska Masonic Research Association

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Alaska Masonic Research Association was founded to organize as the groundwork for the formation of the Grand Lodge. It is now designated to raise funds for the benefit of the financial stability of the Grand Lodge. Sales of the Grand Lodge medallion have been assumed by the AMRA. At the present time this is not a money maker. It is a program that should be continued, however, and a service we can perform for the Grand Lodge.

Last year AMRA wrote a check for \$2,000 for the 1997 coins. Sales for all coins on hand amounted to \$2,332.50. Coin holders were offered for sale at the AMRA table. One set has a background of the map of Alaska. The other set has a background of the Alaska flag. They are available at a close-out price, I believe we will even reduce them from that, on this printing it was \$25.00, both of them.

Gold Pan Program

Sales from the Gold Pan increased during the past year. Fourteen of the current nineteen Lodges have purchased a Gold Pan. AMRA officials felt that they should not ask others to pledge for a gold pan if they were not willing to do so themselves. A total of fifteen gold pans were sold in 1997. Gold Pans sell for \$1,000.00 each. They maybe purchased for a hundred dollars down and payments of a hundred dollars a year. Inscriptions on the

gold pan may vary. A sample of four different inscriptions are available with pledge cards at the AMRA table.

The Ten-Ten and/or Pioneer Club Program is bringing in more members each year. We have 121 members in the Ten-Ten Club. That's \$10.00 down and \$10.00 a year for ten years to get your membership paid for. The Pioneer Program with a donation of \$100.00 has 276 members. Money received from the Ten-Ten and Pioneer Club and the Gold Pan Program are dedicated funds. This income is turned over each year to the Grand Lodge for the Permanent Fund. It cannot be used for other purposes. During the year the money is deposited in an interest bearing account.

At last Executive Board Meeting of AMRA, it was voted to extend membership to all Grand Lodge Masons, without dues. And, in the past we had been charging \$5.00 a year for membership. We opted to change it where there are no dues and everyone in the State of Alaska that is in one of our Masonic Lodges is a member of AMRA, at no dues. Membership is crucial to our success. AMRA meetings will be open to all Brothers.

At this time, officials of AMRA would like to acknowledge the eighty-eight founders/members of AMRA who so generously supported the Alaska Grand Lodge with a contribution of \$250.00. It was their vision that contributions that created AMRA. It was also brought to our attention at our last meeting that a number of new members donated a hundred dollars for a life membership in AMRA. Their support and dedication is also acknowledged with our sincere appreciation.

Respectfully submitted,

Novis L. Eady (6, 11)

MW Grand Master, I move that this report be received.

MW Grand Master: Your report will be received.

Alaska Library and Museum Foundation

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska

The Alaska Masonic Library and Museum Foundation met quarterly this past year. Various items of business were discussed at these several meetings. Notable among these were as follows. The Foundation decided to join with the Grand Lodge of Washington in a calendar fund raiser project. 1998 calendars were mailed to all members of this Jurisdiction. Today, gross receipts of \$3,845 have been received. Thanks to Most Worshipful Wendal Kuecker for his assistance in this project.

A beautiful handmade clock was donated to the Foundation by Worshipful Brother Russell Burnett. The clock was raffled off at the Warden's Charge last September. It was won by Brother Harry Cassen. Net profit from the raffle was \$1,703 dollars. Many thanks to Worshipful Brother Burnett and all those of you who bought tickets on this project. One cash donation was received by the Foundation.

In response to a request by the Foundation for a storage space so that we could start receiving items of Masonic memorabilia and items of historical value for the museum, Anchorage Lodge No. 17 has donated an office in the Woolworth Building to be used for storage. This office is next door to the Anchorage Scottish Rite office. Brother Doug Teninty has been appointed as Librarian and Museum Curator. He will be in charge of cataloging and storing any items donated to the Foundation. Many thanks to Anchorage Lodge No. 17 for this very significant donation.

A memorial coin set from the International Fraternal Peace Society valued at more than \$1,500 was donated to the Foundation by John Ford Puckett of St. Petersburg, Florida. Thank you very much from Mr. Puckett.

Cash on hand at the close of 1997 was in excess of \$21,000 (I didn't have the exact figure on that). This does not include some undeveloped real estate down on the Kenai Peninsula.

The Board Members of the Alaska Masonic Library and Museum Foundation are looking forward to another good year and would like to thank you for your past support.

Fraternally submitted,

Henry Dunbar, President

MW Grand Master, I move that this report be received for the record.

MW Grand Master: Most Worshipful sir, your report will be received.

Charters and Dispensations

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Distinguished Guests, and Brethren all, I am Milton M. Routzahn Chairman, Kodiak Lodge No. 9 .

The significance of this report will be so portentous as to hardly recommend a motion to adopt it. To this Committee was referred nothing that would prevail under Charters and Dispensations. Therefore I recommend that this Committee Report be received

Grand Master: It will be received.

Milton M. Routzahn (9) Chairman
John R. Buehrle, Jr. (5)
Alfred B. Cratty (9)

Warden's Charge

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, Distinguished Guests, Brethren All. This is the report of the Warden's Charge Committee.

Members of the Warden's Charge would like to thank Grand Master for serving on this Committee. The Sixth Annual Warden's Charge named the Marty Martinez Memorial Class in honor of Most Worshipful Brother Marty Martinez was held at the Westmark International Inn in Anchorage on September 19th, 20th, and 21st, 1997. There were twenty-two Master Masons and twelve ladies in attendance. The ladies program was led by Roxie Little. We're deeply indebted to Roxie for educating our ladies about Masonry and instructing them in ways they can assist their husbands to attain a successful year in the East.

The Lodges throughout this jurisdiction have witnessed many improvements as a result of the officers attending the Warden's Charge. This Grand Lodge will be forever grateful to Most Worshipful Brothers Verne Wertz, Marty Martinez, and Les Little who had the vision of establishing our Warden's Charge and who worked so diligently in helping to get our program started. We also extend our thanks to the Grand Lodge of California for pioneering this program and allowing us to plagiarize some of their material.

The next session will be held at the West Coast International Inn in Anchorage during September 18th, 19th, and 20th, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Chaffin (3, 12, 16) Chairman
Stephen L. Cox (3, 12)
Fred H. Newton (11)
Marty W. Parsons (1, 19)
Gene R. Freeman (3, 12, 16)

MW Grand Master, I move that this report be received for the record.

MW Grand Master: Your report is received.

Russian Relations

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Neither of the two members of the Committee are present but Grand Master talked with Most Worshipful Brother John Grainger and our efforts to explore ways of bringing Masonry to Eastern Russia. We are continuing with that.

Submitted by Most Worshipful Grand Master Foulke

Publications

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Grand Master Foulke, Distinguished Guests, and Brethren, I'm Gerald Fairley, the Chairman of the Publications Committee. Past Master of 10, member of 20.

This is the 1998 Report on Publications of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska,

As has been the case for the past three years, this annual report is very brief. The reason for this is that all members of lodges under the Grand Lodge of Alaska as well as various other individuals and organizations receive a full report of the Committee's activities four times a year. The Committee's full report is submitted in the form of quarterly publications of the *Light from the Great Land*. The most recent issue of this Grand Lodge publication was mailed approximately four weeks ago and should have reached it's destination before Grand Lodge convened. As usual we have tried to include timely notices of future events, articles on Masonry and related topics, and a little humor to increase the publication's readability. Member's letters and articles are always given top priority. The only really difficult part of producing a newsletter of this type is trying to get the individual Masons to write articles

As has been offered in the past, the editor will write articles based upon the members interest. If members do not prepare something in a ready-to-print format all articles, letters, and comments are very welcomed regardless of their source.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on this Committee.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Gerald R. Fairley (10, 20) Chairman
Daniel Jackson (10)
Glenn E. Josey (8, 17)
Charles H. Rhea, III (10)
D. Scott Thompson (10, 15, 17)

Thank you Grand Master.

Grand Master, I request this report be received

Grand Master: It will be received

Report of Segregations and Reference Committee

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of Alaska:

We, the Committee on Reference and Segregation, to whom was referred the Grand Master's Message have studied the same and find as follows:

- A. That the Grand Master's Recommendations and/or Emergent Resolutions 98-1, 98-2 and 98-3 (respectively) on the identical matters be referred to the Jurisprudence Committee. Also, that they be referred to the Finance Committee for determination of the financial impact, if any, of implementing the said recommendations, i.e. cost of printing, revisions, etc.
- B. That the section entitled "Decisions" as well as "Special Actions" elsewhere in the Message, be referred, in its entirety, to the Jurisprudence Committee for study and determination of the propriety of each individual decision.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee on Reference and Segregation
Gunnar Flygenring, PM, Chairman. (10)
Thomas O. Mickey, PM (1)

It has been suggested that this report be accepted.

Grand Master: It has been accepted and was adopted.

Report of Deputies of the Grand Master

District 1

No report from the District Deputy was received at the time of publication.

District 2

No report from the District Deputy was received at the time of publication.

District 3

No report from the District Deputy was received at the time of publication.

District 4

No report from the District Deputy was received at the time of publication.

District 5

No report from the District Deputy was received at the time of publication

Awards

James A. Williams Award

The recipient of the James A. Williams Award for honoring the Alaska Lodge with the largest number of Master Masons raised was presented to Tanana Lodge No.3. There was a two-way tie with Glacier Lodge No.10 for the year 1997.

Buckley C. Hazen Award

The recipient of the Buckley C. Hazen Award for the largest percentage membership growth was presented to Glacier Lodge No. 10 for the year 1997.

Grand Master's Award for Excellence

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska:

The Grand Master's Award for Excellence was earned by the following Masters in 1997:

Tanana Lodge No. 3
Matanuska Lodge No. 7
Glacier Lodge No. 10
Kenai Lodge No. 11
Fairbanks Lodge No.12
Eagle River Lodge No. 13
Aurora Lodge No. 15
North Pole Lodge No. 16

Ronnie E. Epperson
Richard R. Olson
Hazen R. Ricker
Robert W. Wiseman
Billy R. Platz
Thomas V. Houser
Rocky V. Schank
Robert E. Minor

Anchorage Lodge No. 17
Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18
Iditarod Lodge No. 20

Thomas L. Schram
Ken R. Creamer
Charles E. Corbin

Mason of the Year

VW Fred L. McGuire Mason of the Year for the year 1997

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Contributions to the Grand Lodge

Contribution From:	To:	For:	Amount	Total
AMRA	Grand Lodge	Permanent Fund	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Tanana Lodge No. 3	Grand Lodge	Permanent Fund	\$419.00	\$419.00
Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18	Grand Lodge	Travel Fund	\$500.00	\$500.00
PM Degree Association	Grand Lodge	Perform Arts Schl	\$250.00	\$250.00
Ed Weisser	Grand Lodge	Perform Arts Schl	\$50.00	\$50.00
Total:				<u>\$8,219.00</u>

Presentations

Presentation by VW Loyd G. Williamson, Grand Representative to Louisiana, of a Gavel made of pecan wood to the Grand Master from Westlake Lodge No. 439 in Westlake, Louisiana which he visited while in Louisiana. There's a new gavel in case you wear that one out on Jurisprudence

Presentation of Grand Lodge Medallion from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania by RW Edward O. Weisser, Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania.

Presentation of contribution to Grand Lodge Performing Arts Scholarship by RW Edward O. Weisser, Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania.

Presentation of Grand Lodge of Washington's Bill P. Horn Outstanding Mason Award, a national award for sustained and exemplary service to Freemasonry to MW John C. Ingram by MW Tom Ehlers, Grand Master of Washington.

Presentation by MW William Stovall to Grand Master and Grand Master-elect with a little red school house that says, "Support Public Schools." This is what we give the teachers on the graduation and they covet it like a piece of gold.

Presentation by MW Max L. Schumacher to Grand Master Foulke a Masonic Oregon Trail knife commissioned by MW Lyle Logan a few years ago to commemorate the 150th year of the Oregon Trail

Speeches by Distinguished Guests

Elizabeth Pinion, Job's Daughters

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Good morning Distinguished East, Master Masons, and Guests, it is a pleasure and an honor to represent Job's Daughters at your opening ceremonies. It is also a wonderful opportunity to express the Job's Daughters thanks to the Alaska Masons for their continued support.

Job's Daughters is an organization for young women from 11 to 20 who are related to Master Masons. Our ritual is based on the book of Job in the Old Testament, Chapter 42, verse 15, "In all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job and their father gave them an inheritance among their brethren."

Jobies help with many philanthropic causes but our main charity is HIKE, Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment. If you haven't attended a Jobie meeting, we would welcome you to come and see what we are all about. Members of Jobs benefit by developing self-confidence, self esteem, and leadership skills. Since I entered Jobies in June of 1993, I have met many interesting and caring people and have many friends which I met through Job's Daughters.

In August, twelve Jobies from Anchorage will go to Vancouver for our Supreme Session. I am proud to be representing Alaska in the Miss International Jobs Daughter Pageant. I will be competing with about 40 other girls for this title.

As you continue with your meetings here I wish you success in accomplishing your goals and hope you have a wonderful session. May your leaders be inspired and your members enthusiastic so that Masonry may continue to grow and prosper in Alaska. Thank you.

Katie Bender, International Order of Rainbow for Girls

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Good morning Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, Distinguished East, Guests, and Friends, I bring you greetings from Grand Worthy Advisor Tanya Tromble. Tanya was unable to make this Grand Session because she is visiting the Grand Assembly of California. This year our grand service project was to benefit the community. Each Assembly in the state was to perform some community service of their choice on Martin Luther King Day. One of Tanya's goals this year has been to improve communications throughout the state. She knows that everything can go just a little bit smoother if people communicate with each other.

Everyone is looking forward to Grand Assembly this summer. My Nugget Assembly No. 13 will be the host Assembly and we would like to invite you all to join us on July 9th in Anchorage at Wendler Junior High. On behalf of Tanya Tromble I would like to congratulate you on your year as Grand Master and wish you a successful communication.

Jeremiah Kay, State Master Councilor, DeMolay

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished East, Friends, and Brethren.

I'd like to say that I appreciate the invitation to Grand Lodge. Most Worshipful Grand Master Stanley Foulke came up to me at our annual conclave two weeks ago, where I was installed as the State Master Councilor, and asked if I would come and address the Grand Lodge. Well, who can say no to the Grand Master? Who would want to? I mean what a great opportunity to come and talk to a whole bunch of influential people, such as yourselves, about my favorite youth organization, DeMolay.

But first let me tell you that the Order of DeMolay would not exist without the help and support of Masonry. It was a Mason who founded DeMolay. His name was Frank S. Land and he has been a role model and hero to thousands of young men like myself ever since. I and my Brother DeMolays know that it is Masons who are the ones who help out DeMolay the most. You gave us our ritual; you give us your lodge rooms to conduct our ceremonies and teach ourselves the lessons of manhood; and you gave us our adult leaders who help us understand the lessons we are taught. For that I want to personally thank you. I want you to know that we are grateful to you. We will never be able to completely show that gratitude, but we try. We try by supporting Masonic charities, and by working to support local Lodges. In fact, Masonic service is so important to us, we have set aside a merit bar that recognizes DeMolays strictly for their service to Masonry.

But as DeMolay needs you, I believe you need us too. Just as the youth of this country is the future of this country, DeMolay may well be the future of Masonry. We, as DeMolays, seek to learn the lessons of manhood and there are no better teachers of those lessons than Masons who practice them in their lodges.

DeMolay needs Masons involved with our chapters. Train the children of America while we are young. The truth is, if there ever was a "junior Masonry" DeMolay is it. We are your future and what a great future it will be.

In closing let me again thank you for all you have done for us and let me remind you, send us your sons, grandsons, and nephews who I am sure will benefit from the Order of DeMolay. I have petitions for membership available and will gladly pass them on.

I hope that our mutual cooperation continues and if there is anything that the Order of DeMolay can do for you to please call me, Jeremiah Kay, or Dad Jerry Fairley anytime.

Brigadier General Benjamin Sutherlin, National Sojourners

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Most Worshipful, I thought I had it made here, almost got away.

Most Worshipful, Distinguished Ladies, and Brother Masons, it is indeed a pleasure and a privilege for me to be here this morning at the Seventeenth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alaska and I bring you greetings from the almost nine-thousand National Sojourners worldwide.

National Sojourners Incorporated is a military Masonic Order headquartered at the Collingwood Library and Museum on Americanism overlooking the Potomac River in Virginia near George Washington's Mt. Vernon home. We support all patriotic aims and activities in Masonry and promote patriotism and Americanism throughout the nation especially among the youth.

National Sojourners believe in God as the Supreme Architect of the Universe. We remember that Brother George Washington once said, "When we assumed this soldier, we did not lay aside this citizen." Again, I would like to say what a delight it is to be here and part of this beautiful Masonic family in this beautiful location. Thank you.

Leonard Luchau, Masonic Service Bureau of Seattle

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Distinguished East, Distinguished Brethren, Ladies, and Gentlemen, I'm from the Masonic Service Bureau in Seattle, Washington. Down there, whenever I get a phone call from any of the brethren here in the lodges up here that belongs to the Masonic Service Bureau. I meet the airplane, take them to whatever they have to do or take them to their appointment at the doctors or whatever they have to do.

One brother, in particular, who was a Past Master of Matanuska Lodge, was my pleasure, privilege, and honor to take him to and from the hospital. He is now currently feeling a lot better. His name is Worshipful Brother Bird, and if you're out there Worshipful Brother Bird someplace, thank you very kindly for allowing me the opportunity to assist you.

We're down there at the Masonic Service Bureau to assist you in any way humanly possibly that we can. If we can be of any service for you, please don't hesitate to let me know. We have an 800 number which is 1-800-600 5544. We are there to serve you. It

is your Masonic Service Bureau. Please don't hesitate to let us know about that. Thank you very kindly and thank you Most Worshipful Sir.

Margaret Bunch, Order of Amaranth

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Distinguished East and visitors, I bring you greetings from the Grand Royal Matron, Mary Earp of the Grand Court of Alaska Order of the Amaranth. We hope you have a successful session this year.

Our means of philanthropy for Amaranth is Diabetes. Last year the National Organization gave \$485,000 to Diabetes research. Alaska alone gave \$13,000 of that which we raised here in Anchorage and in Fairbanks. So, we think we have done quite well in the State of Alaska for diabetes, because, I know several of us in this room, as well as several of our own families are diabetics. And, thank you Grand Master for inviting me to participate in your session this morning.

James W. Morton, Cryptic Masons of Alaska

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Distinguished East, Bothers, and Guests, I represent Cryptic Masons of the Grand Council here in Alaska. Cryptic Mason's research is into now called vascular research. It used to be called arterial sclerosis but most people couldn't spell it much less pronounce it. We contribute to it extensively to this research and we, the York Rite Masons, trace their origins to legendary and historical back to the time of King Athelstan, in the eleventh century. Blue Lodge Masonry, as we know it, is considered a part of the York Rite Masons group.

In addition to the Council of Cryptic Masons, I am going to speak about another organization which I represent as one of the two state chairman's, that's the Knight's Templar Eye Foundation. This organization is part of the York Rite and now has a Grand Commandry here in this state. But, we contribute extensively funds to treatment of children and older adults with eye problems and eye operations. Those who cannot afford it, but yet fail to meet the state Medicaid standards are those who we help.

And, also there is another group that I will talk about and that's the York Rite College North America. It embodies further teachings of York Rite Masons and is the basis for which the Athelstan Legend exists. Thank you Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Gerald Fairley, Order of DeMolay

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Grand Master, Distinguished Guests, Brothers, Ladies, I have the distinct honor of representing the Alaska Jurisdiction for the Order of DeMolay. My speech was just given by Jeremiah Kay. He wrote it. I had nothing to do with it, but he said what we all feel. You as Masons are the people who are sponsoring us and give us the ability to teach these young men and for that matter the young ladies, the principles of Masonry, the ability to develop into leadership. They are our future and we thank you very much.

Grand Master as chairman of the DeMolay Committee I assume I will get called upon to give a DeMolay Committee report and so there will be more details. But, I would just like to say that approximately three years ago DeMolay was virtually non-existent in this state. Two weeks ago we had our State Conclave. It was the second we had ten years, the other one was the year before. We increased our attendance in the manner of young men by over fifty percent. The numbers don't sound too great. It started out nineteen a year ago, twenty-nine this year, but starting out with almost nothing, that's not a bad increase as long as we are moving upward, that's the main thing we want to do. I think the young men had a great time.

We are going to be meeting the last weekend of spring break in Fairbanks next year which probably will be the location of Grand Lodge so again we will be going back to back, the DeMolay Conclave followed by the Grand Lodge Communication.

But again, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you and as Jeremiah said we have petitions. There are brochures right out here in the hallway. Take them. Give them to your sons. Give them to your grandsons, your nephews, your neighbor's kids, not necessarily anybody you find across the street because we are rather selective. But, we are looking for young men that we can help. Thank you very much.

Clarence Keto, Potentate, Al Aska Shrine

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Most Worshipful Grand Master, thank you. Distinguished Guests, Brother Masons, Brother Shriners. Anyone who is here for the first time, to hear me give an address of this type may not have met my fez. My fez is an insignia of a Noble in the Mystic Shrine. When it was given to me, I was particularly admonished never to wear it in any company or place where I would decline to introduce my wife, my mother, my sister, or my daughter. I was told never to forget that. I was further told when I place upon my head the fez of a Shriner I am symbolically tying about my waist the white lambskin apron of a Master Mason. I was told my first duty had always been, was now, and shall forever be to my "Old Mother Lodge" or I would never receive a degree this side of paradise greater than that of a Master Mason. Thank you Grand Master

MW Leslie R. Little, Response to Past Grand Masters of Alaska

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Most Worshipful Grand Master, my brethren on behalf of all your Past Grand Masters we thank you for the honors you just gave us. We're proud to serve this Grand Lodge and Freemasonry and we will continue to do so as long as we live. Thank you.

MW John H. Grainger, Response to Grand Representatives

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

I am pleased to respond to recognition of the current Grand Masters by the Grand Lodge. The Grand Representative system was originated by the Grand Lodge of New York in 1838. It was designed to foster and encourage a closer bond of union and fraternal accord between the several Grand Lodges of the world.

Grand Representatives help establish the true spirit of brotherhood. We are honored to be appointed Grand Representative by the Alaska Grand Lodge. Thank you.

VW Monte Ervin, Response to District Deputies of Alaska

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Thank you Most Worshipful Sir on behalf of myself to start with I'd like to congratulate you on the location for the Grand Lodge. This is a great hotel and great setting and I hope all you brothers out there are enjoying it.

On behalf of the District Deputies we thank you for the opportunity we had to serve you and our Grand Lodge. It's been a rewarding experience. Occasionally questions come up a little. Consternation set in but generally we work our way through it with a little bit of help from Past Grand Masters and other Brothers in the Lodge. Once again I would like to say it has been our pleasure to serve you and if any of you Brothers have the opportunity to serve as a District Deputy, I would recommend you jump at the chance. Thank you Most Worshipful Sir.

RW Alvin J. Weis, Senior Grand Warden of California

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Distinguished Brothers, Brethren all, it is indeed my pleasure to bring you greetings from our Grand Master, The Most Worshipful Anthony P. "Tony" Wordlow, and the 105,000 Masons of California. This has certainly been a day

of work, a little bit of fellowship, and some fun. I want to thank you Most Worshipful for your warm hospitality. This is a trip that Virginia and I will never forget.

This is an exciting time to be a Mason in California. We have several things happening. We continue to promote our leadership workshops and officer's training, but more significantly most of our programs are directed towards the outside world and to the community. We are embarking on a new old program of public relations. Our membership voted last October to assess themselves \$1.00 per member and as a result eleven concordant bodies have joined in our efforts and we now have \$800,000 appropriated to embark on this public relations program. Tomorrow you will hear from one of our past grand masters about the Masonic Service Assistant Training Program. It's our MSA Program designed to identify kids that are at risk. He initiated this in 1994 and it is a most successful program.

I understand that Alaska is entertaining the idea of investigating, possibly adopting it. We have trained over 800 teachers in about 700 districts in California and I guess that the significant total for the impressive number is the children that we have helped. It is reported and recorded that over 5,000 kids have benefited because of our efforts. So, it is a very worthwhile program and if there is anything that we can do to assist you in your endeavors adopting or getting a program going we would certainly like to assist.

With that Most Worshipful, thank you for your hospitality and best of luck to all of you.

MW James V. Voyles, Grand Master of Idaho

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren, we need the Grand Master from Montana here so we could be saved by the bell, I guess. It is a pleasure to be here and the hospitality and the honors that have been extended by Most Worshipful Brother Stan and Sheri and everyone here have just been fantastic. It's my first time here in the great State of Alaska and a true pleasure. I've already seen more snow than we have seen in Boise all winter, but it's great to be here.

It's also interesting to see virtually all jurisdictions are having the same issues come before it. And, we're talking about our membership problems and some of you may have heard me talk about this a little bit, but I would submit to you that our membership is not a problem, the lack of membership or the need to get members is not our problem. It's deeper than this. I have talked about something called the "Big Three" where I've really identified three, rather than problems, let's say challenges. The first being the man who has not yet come to our door to seek membership. The second is the man who has made that step, but is not yet a Master Mason, and the third is our existing member. Now each of these three areas pose individual and distinct challenges. Let me kind of glide past the first two. The first one there's a lot that we need to do to interest people in our Craft to the point that they will want to be a part of us. The second involves our quality of

investigation, our quality of communicating with the potential candidate, the quality of the degree work that we do when he does come to our door and the coaching we do and so on. There is a great deal there that we can talk about for awhile.

But, the third is our existing membership. I think that is, therein lies a great deal of our challenge. I created a monster. Our mailman hasn't removed my mailbox, I'm pleased. I sent a survey out to all 6,600 Masons in Idaho and used my home address for the return on these things and I'm very pleased. I've nearly made a thousand returns back and I am really pointing where we really got to concentrate is on our existing membership. If we could have, in Idaho at least, instead of five, or six, or seven per cent of our members excited and interest in Masonry, if we could get that up to ten or 15 per cent of our members, our membership problem would go away. That's wherein the real challenge lies and we're hearing great ideas. One of the nicest things about Grand Lodge and having other jurisdictions come and visit with some ideas to share, that's where we can get a tremendous value between our various jurisdictions.

Anyway, it is a pleasure to be here. I thank you very much. I would tell you one event that I heard that did happen. It was, I think, one of the Grand Lodge Officers went down to California to visit down there and they were coming through Long Beach and the first one, as he was coming into town, he got stopped by one of the local policeman. He got his driver's license out, held it up for the policeman. And the policeman saw that he had his Masonic card right there next to his driver's license and he shared with him that he too was a Mason and he decided to favor him a bit a let him off, but cautioned him.

He got down the road a little bit further and apparently hadn't listened really good, but he got stopped again and once again he pulled his license out and the police officer saw his Masonic card and says "I'll let you go today, but be more careful.

He got into Long Beach and he ran into Bill Stovall and Bill asked him to show his license and he pulled it out, looked at it a minute, looked at him, looked back and he said "Aw, you passed Jubala and Jubalo but my name is Jubalum and me you will not pass.

Most Worshipful Grand Master, again thank you very much. It's a pleasure.

MW Francis D. Hess, Past Grand Master of Montana

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Most Worshipful Grand Master, all my Brothers of the Grand Lodge up here, it's good to be home again for a few days. And, Most Worshipful Sir, I would like to let you know that the Grand Rep between the State of Montana and Grand Lodge of Alaska is working really good. It makes it really simple when we both belong to Kenai Lodge No. 11. But, it is good Brethren to be back to Alaska. My wife has been saying that this is the last trip and I didn't want to start World War III up here so I haven't made any comments to her,

but at the present time I am planning on coming back next year if I can. If I wouldn't show up, you know who won the battle.

In Montana, well, I guess that I am a maverick, I am not agreeing with the Grand Lodge Officers partly because they want to close our Masonic Home and I was on the board of the Masonic Home for seven years. But, what I keep hearing from the Grand Lodge Officers and a couple of the past grand masters it's costing the Masons too much money to operate the Home. Well, at one time each of us did pay five dollars per year in our per capita that went to the operation of the Masonic Home.

Well, a few years ago the Finance Committee wanted to give the Grand Secretary a little more wages so rather than raise per capita, they said they will just take two dollars of the five dollars assessment to put into the budget and the Foundation will pay that two dollars. Well, a few years later they needed three more dollars, so they took the other three and the Foundation was supposed to pay the full five dollars. Well, I don't know what happened, but I know for a fact the Chairman of the Masonic Home Board is the man that I appointed to the Grand Lodge line, so I know he is a true and honest Mason and grand lodge has not paid one dime to the Masonic Home for three years. And, I am really concerned that it's costing the Masons of Montana too much money. How can zero be too much? If we thought we had it killed last year, I hear there is another resolution come before grand lodge to close our home.

I have been debating whether I should go and speak my piece or stay home, so that I am still a member of the Grand Lodge of Montana, but I kind of think I am going to go and say my piece and have my say.

We have a new administrator at the Home and she's done wonders. She's got rid of the extra help that the former superintendent had. She's made it that the housekeeper sees something and it has to be done to help one of the residents, she can step in and do it. Don't have to have a special person to do that and the Masonic Home is really doing great, but it is still costing Masons of Montana too much and that bothers me, cause I can't figure out how zero is too much.

There is a group in eastern Montana, they don't like to travel past the central part of the state, so it's too far to go Helena, but they got a new member on the board last year who happens to be running a nursing home down in Forsythe, and Oh Boy, we're in trouble now cause that's where the biggest effort was made to close the Home. And, the Masonic Home Board thought the same thing. The fellow came to the first meeting after Grand Lodge, last June, and oh they said here is the fellow that wants to close the Home and he said "I don't want to close the Home, I think the Masonic Home is the greatest thing we have." So they have a new member on the board who is going to oppose them.

It's going to be an interesting session and if any of you want to come to Glasgow, why you can do it. But it is good to be back here again and I am sorry that I am not representing the Grand Master of Montana this year. I made a lots of hints, but he isn't

here and I am not his representative. So I am going to say it is glad to be here again and it's great to be here at your session.

There's one more thing I do want to say. Last year, I think it was Most Worshipful Gene asked me if I happened to have a picture of the four installing officers when they formed the Grand Lodge of Alaska. And, I told him that I didn't know for sure. I thought maybe I did but I couldn't remember, but I would go home and look. Well I looked and looked and looked. You can grasp already that something's I put off the last fifty-three years is getting the pictures into a photo album. But finally one day I was down in the basement cleaning out a box of stuff and low and behold at the bottom I found an envelope and in it was the picture and I did bring an enlarged picture up for Gene and I have a few smaller pictures with me but it has Byron, and Roy Foss, and Jim Williams – first Grand Master, and Chuck Moulthrop, and myself in it. I have a few copies here and if anybody wants more I can get them.

Thank you.

W James S. Kraemer Grand Standard Bearer of Nevada

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Thank you Most Worshipful Grand Master, Distinguished East, Brethren, it really is a real pleasure to bring you greetings from Most Worshipful Arthur K. Cronin Grand Master of Masons in Nevada. He is truly sorry that he's unable to attend. He did have a conflict, and that's a true story.

Every time there is an opportunity to be around Alaska Masons, there is something to learn. For example, at our last session Most Worshipful Stan, after hearing our Warden's Retreat, informed us that in Alaska Masons don't retreat, they Charge. I never learned how much. As a result, maybe you can help me learn and understand what the hidden message is when they told me about the bull and the pheasant, because I came here to learn, and it's working.

There was an old bull, are you ready for a true story?, and a little pheasant standing in the barnyard. And, the old bull said why aren't you sitting atop that beautiful tree on the other side of the fence? Why are you standing in the barnyard next to me? The pheasant replied, I'm tired, worn out, have no energy to fly to the top. But, the bull said why don't you eat some of my droppings, they are full of energy? Why don't you see if helps?

Well the first day the pheasant ate droppings and walked to the fence. The second day he ate droppings and walked to the tree. On the third day after he got through eating the droppings, he flew to the top of the tree. Well the farmer walks out, sees the pheasant, goes back into the house, returns with his shotgun, and shoots the pheasant atop the tree. Now the moral of this story is "you can B.S. your way to the top but you won't stay there long." Now if you can help me understand what that means, I'd really appreciate it.

Most Worshipful Sir, I really want to thank you for your hospitality and the great time and this is fun and what a great facility you picked. Thank you.

MW Edward R. Woods, Past Grand Master of New Jersey

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, members of the Grand Lodge of Alaska, it's nice to be here. I've been coming up to Alaska for about the last twenty-three, twenty-four years. We have two children that live in Anchorage. I have been hesitant to come in February since we live in Florida. But, I say since we have arrived we see nothing but snow.

Anyway, I bring you the greetings of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of New Jersey, Gerald H. Grosscoff. Your Deputy Grand Master will be in New Jersey, I believe at the end of this month at our 211th Annual Communication and we look forward to that.

I've communicated with Gene over the years, being the representative from New Jersey to Alaska and he being the representative of New Jersey here in Alaska. Gene has a tie to New Jersey and we won't let him forget it.

We are a very small state but we are, Masonically, aggressive and very much inclined to try to leave the trend back with this Fraternity.

Most Worshipful Grand Master, thank you very much for the hospitality that you've shown us and we've enjoyed it. Brother Sault and myself, my wife couldn't be here with us this weekend, so she sent Brother Walt Sault who is a Past Grand Chaplain of New Jersey to make sure that everything worked out for me. He's my ball and chain and if you are ever going to pick a ball and chain, make sure you have a small and light one, so that's what I have with Walter this weekend.

So thank you very much Most Worshipful Sir.

RW Edward O. Weisser, Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Grand Master, Brethren, and friends as a Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania I'd like to just bring a couple of things to your thoughts. I'm glad that you called on the Past Grand Master of New Jersey first because we have a going thing with New Jersey. If we ever really get really mad at them in Pennsylvania we are going to cut the bridges loose and let them float out to sea. So, he was glad to be ahead of us.

It's interesting to sit and listen to the communication here of your Grand Lodge. Just having finished my term, I would like to say to you that your problems here are the same as we have in Pennsylvania. Many of you probably are aware that Pennsylvania now has become the largest Masonic jurisdiction in the United States. We just passed Ohio, but that doesn't give us very much in the way of being (word not understandable) because we're still losing members Brethren.

Last year we took in 3,402 new members, we lost 4,000 by death and we lost approximately 1,600 by NPD. So you can see, even though we keep continuing to try with our "Friend to a Friend Program" we're closing the gap of the amount of people we're loosing but we haven't closed that yet, and we are trying hard.

I'd like to say that in this room many of us sit here with titles. Titles, brethren are unimportant, because without the brethren we're nothing and don't forget it. Thank you.

MW Thomas C. Ehlers, Grand Master of Washington

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Brethren, it is indeed a pleasure and a privilege for me to be here representing the Grand Lodge of Washington. You know, this weather is just like it is in Spokane and in Seattle. I expected to come up here and see no snow, clear air and I talked to the Grand Master a couple of weeks ago and he said probably won't even have to bring a light coat. He said it won't be any problem at all. Didn't tell me snow shoes.

I heard a kind of interesting thing the other day and this was in Washington where this happened. There was a couple of people talking and this one guy said that he had been at one of the ladies organizations for a meeting, I'm not telling you which one, it will get me in trouble. And, he said that this lady was walking around and she went up to this guy and she says "Are you new here?" He said, "No, I have been a member for about twenty years" and she said "I haven't seen you around here before." He said, "Well I've been gone for about fifteen years." She said, "Oh, where have you been?" He said, "Well I murdered my wife and I've been in the prison for fifteen years and I just got out and came back to a meeting." She said, "Oh you're single then?"

I wanted to bring you warm fraternal greetings from Most Worshipful Roy Foss. How many of you remember Roy? You know, this Grand Lodge up here is his first love. He was on the installing team, the Most Worshipful from Montana. I think that Roy has been back up here every year until this one when his health got bad and he's on oxygen, one-hundred per cent of the time. He drags a bottle around with him. He doesn't get out too much. I see him on a regular basis and he does some neat things. He was telling me that he belongs to, he's a life member of Kenai, but he sends money anyway, and he belongs to a Shrine Club and he sends extra money there, and he's a member of Seward Lodge and he just got his dues card back from there. Can anybody tell me what the dues are from there? (answer fifty) And, Roy sends a hundred. If you pick up that little

newspaper, *Light from the Great Land*, anyway, if you look inside that little magazine there you will see a little card there. He sponsors that every year. He sends in fifty bucks to support your newspaper. The odd thing about that is a couple of years ago at our Grand Lodge, we tried to get a dollar to support the Masonic Tribune and he voted against it. He's tight if he thinks he has to do it. But when he gives his money away he is a very generous man. He did want everyone here, that he is thinking, he felt really bad he couldn't get up here but it's hard to get him out of the house, let alone out of town. I managed to do that one day.

In talking with the Grand Master, we just completed a series of one day conferrals for the three degrees of Freemasonry in Washington. Last year at our Grand Lodge we had a ballot, it was approved on a two year trial period to be able to do all three degrees in one day. The Grand Master was empowered to open special communications of Grand Lodge to perform this function. Of course that put that big burden on me; I had a decision to make. I was enabled to do it but it didn't say I had to do it. So, I could have stalled around all year and not done anything and pressed it on to the guy following me and let him do it. That would have been a great mistake. As I lucked out I had a great Grand Lecturer and I said "Very Worshipful Bob Van Zee, I said, you know as Grand Lecturer you're responsible for the Standard Work, so as you get these one-day classes set up we will go to work on them" I gave a few general guidelines and the only requirement is that we can't deviate from the Standard Work." This caused some eyebrows

Went around the state, people voted in lodges, we don't want any part of this. Why? Well, because we don't go for that. What don't you go for? Give me your impression what you think this one day referral of the three degrees of Freemasonry is like. They said you will have one or two guys out there and everybody else will be sitting on the sideline watching. Wrong!

In Spokane was the first one we initiated, passed, and raised sixty men. Every man came through the door, was dressed in a garment, was met on the point of a sharp instrument, did the circumambulation, he kneeled and attended prayer. Each man had his own Senior Deacon, or escort if you will. Each man took his obligation on his own personal Masonic Bible. Each man had his own set of Square and Compasses. Progressing on through the degrees, we got to the third degree. It's kind of interesting. Here's a challenge. Here's something that causes interest. Here is something people are for or against, but it causes people to talk. People talk and people want to get involved and somebody makes a little success or comes up with a new idea. Somebody else wants to help.

By the time we got into our second one, each man had his own altar. We had scraps of carpet for each person to kneel on. The garments were disposable, paper coveralls that worked just great. One man made all the setting mauls. One man turned the Square and Compasses out on his lathe on wood. We bought all the Bibles, cost another extra twelve dollars or something like that. But pretty soon people have all kinds of ideas to do the Standard Work. But, when you see sixty people come in that door and sixty people accompanying them, we have a hundred and twenty Masons, because not only was the new man learning but that Senior Deacon, that guy bringing him in, that brother who

hasn't been in lodge in fifteen years, doesn't want the guy that he's bringing in to know that he doesn't know everything there is to know about our Fraternity. So he's working hard learning too.

It has caught on like wildfire. People that said I will never do it, I don't want any part of it. I took them by the hand; we got one in Yakima next week and come with me. You got to see what's going on. And, it's a great Masonic event because there is a feeling that was never experienced before in my life. Those men taking the degrees, each man repeats the degree and each man in the third degree is met by the ruffians, each man goes down and each man is raised on the five points of fellowship all at the same time. Started at 8 o'clock in the morning and we finished at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

People said "Ah, just running a degree mill." Let me tell you, we have the alternate proficiency. Between each degrees the escort had to be convinced that man knew the signs, the words, the tokens. He had to be convinced through this alternate proficiency program that the man understood what had happened to him. And, that took place both between the first and the second degrees, between the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft. Now, after the Master Mason's degree, who's responsibility is to see that person is proficient in the work? Who makes that call? Whatever lodge he petitioned. So when the man left that day, he was a Master Mason but then he had to go with his coach to his lodge and prove up and in whatever manner that lodge decides to prove up in. Because that is the way the Code reads in Washington. The Code merely says he has to demonstrate the knowledge and that ranges. That is a wide range of proficiency in our state. He has to go back there and then he becomes a member of that lodge.

People say that is just like the way we always did it. Yeah, it is! The only thing is, is it's not much time between degrees and you look around and see more Masons than you ever saw in your life. We not only had the one-hundred and twenty on the floor, we had two hundred on the sidelines. It's a great event and at the very end, the last thing we did that day, we had a roll call of the new members. And, the Grand Secretary read off the man's name and afterwards at the end of the man's name he said "Bill Jones Master Mason" and these guys stood up tall and they were proud and they were looking at each other and they're looking at us, and they are looking at their fellow members and they're standing tall and they are proud. to be a Mason just like we are all proud to be Masons my Brothers. That above all, the greatest of these, the three that stands, Faith, Hope, and Charity. The greatest of these is Charity and Charity is that love that overcomes all differences.

I think Brethren if we plan with Charity in our hearts we can overcome all differences and continue to be the proudest and finest organization that God ever placed on this earth. Thank you Grand Master and thank you my Brethren.

MW Byron Jenkins, Past Grand Master of Nebraska

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Most Worshipful Grand Master, thank you for calling on me. You didn't tell me what to talk about (GM: anything you want to Sir). That gives me a lot of room.

There's been in my years as a Mason, people ask me how I make my decisions. I said, I don't make my decisions, they just come to me. To give you an illustration back in 1942, I enlisted in the Air force. I had been working for one of the airplane manufacturers and I was a sheet metal man, so it wasn't hard at all to join the Air Force and I was sworn in Omaha and sent down to Kansas for receiving the uniforms and all the necessary equipment and on the fourth day of my enlistment I was appointed corporal of a group of twenty-seven men going to Phoenix, Arizona.

Fine, great, but why me? I'm a private. Well, it seems that's all they had to work with, so, you work with them. But anyway, while I was thinking about this solution we were bused down to the railway depot in Kansas City and I had twenty men with me and we were sent out into a big field where they wanted to identify each group and remember my Brethren my initials are B. C. J., B. C. J. While one sergeant took the podium and was calling out the leaders of these different groups and the second one he called happened to be me but I didn't realize it at the time. He said before Tryce Jenkins, B. C. J. Well, anyway we got that resolved and I wanted to get my men down into the station and get them on the train. I had my orders and they had a car for us just assigned to this group. So we got into the building and there were so many people in there you couldn't even walk and I had to get them down to the train which was getting ready to leave. So, I lined my men up behind me, gave the man behind me the rope from my duffle bag and said follow me and we went like this through the mob of people to the man that takes the tickets.

We got that done and got down to the train and on and found the bunk car and told everybody well pick out a bunk and about that time a large man, about six foot-two, a hundred and eighty pounds, he came in and he says who's in charge here? I said I am. He says you're going to have to get out of here. What do you mean I got to get out of here? He says, well I got fifteen marines that gotta have this car. I said, I don't care whether you have fifteen marines or God, my orders to get this car. He says, let's see your orders. I said I am not going to show you my orders. I said what right of you got to see my orders? He says, because I want 'em. I said you're not going to walk well enough, because you're not going to get them. Well he left and about ten minutes later he came back. He says that this car is mine and you give me your orders. I says, I'm not going to give you my orders. I don't have any orders saying that I gotta give you my orders. I said who are you anyway? He says well you don't need to know that and I said well, if I don't need to know that you don't need to know that I got orders. He said, well you're going to have to give them up and move out of here. I said well we're not moving and I turned around to my fellas with me and I said "get into your bunks and stay there."

So the man says “well, you don’t understand it, I am an FBI man.” I said ‘you are a what?’ I am an FBI man. I said, “well how that I’m to know that you’re an FBI man?” He said “well, I’ve got orders.” I says, “Let me see your orders.” I got the orders.

It gradually turned out these fifteen marines had to get on this car, there was no more space on the train. The man could have done that long before we ran through this long “rig-a-ma-role.” So, anyway we got on the train. The train left and we were good down the road nicely and we’re running late. I was due in Phoenix at twelve noon and the railway says we’re not going to get there until two-o’clock. I said well, you’re going to have to do something because we are going to be on this car for two more hours than we realize. We want to eat our evening meal. So they just shrugged their shoulders. So I went down the train looking for an officer. I found one, a major. I says, “Major we got a problem.” He says, “What kind of a problem?” I told him my men were not going to get their evening meals and he says what can I do about that. I says, “You can follow me to the dining car and tell what the story is.” He said, “I can’t do that.” I said, “For some reason you are going to have to.” Well all right. So, I won number two.

So you see it isn’t always the time you have to argue a question out before you vote on it. Sometimes you got to rely on yourself to do the right thing. Just because an FBI man said he can’t show me his orders when he wants my orders and there is no way to know who he is at all, you just got to wing it. Masonry has to do that at times.

When I finally shipped overseas, I was in a group of seven-hundred men on a thirty-thousand ton transport vessel with seven-hundred and fifty men on board. My group was ordered to take charge of security at the night time hours, black out time. My post was on the fantail and the orders were no one is to stay on the fantail at night. They had a big five-inch gun back there and that’s presumed why they didn’t want anybody out there. So I said okay, I went on duty at twelve o’clock. It was blacker than all heck and I hear a door opening behind me, Navy today it’s a port, to me it’s a door, and I turned around and walked over and I said “You can’t stay out here, you’re going to have to go back where you came from.” He says, “Well, I just want to look around.” I said, “That’s fine but you’re still going to get off here.” Well, I can’t do that. I said, “Well why not?” He says, “I’m officer of the day.” Well the officer of the day is in charge of the guards but he didn’t realize he was a young lieutenant from the Air Force, so I told him to get out. He didn’t want to go, he went and about ten minutes later, I hear the same door open. This time there were two of them and one of them was the first guy came out and the other fella he brought with him. He brought him back to me so that I would be satisfied with the guy that was there first. I said you got to get out of here. He says, “You don’t understand, we’re officers.” I says, “I can’t see you’re a officer, where is your pins? Where’s your badge?” Well, we don’t have them on. I said, “Get out of here!” Once again up against somebody that really has regulation over you but doesn’t understand his job well enough that somebody else with enough guts to take him on. It’s the way the thing goes.

One other short one and then I will quit. I was down in Missouri one time waiting for shipment overseas and they had nothing for these people to do waiting for time and

would give us lectures. In order to have a very large group of men, give them a lecture, they'd dug a bowl in the ground. It was probably two-hundred feet across and about ten feet deep at its deepest point. So we went out there to hear a lecture on the Grand rifle. Air force has never had Grand rifles but they just received the first shipment and some Master Sergeant was to give us a lecture on stripping, cleaning, and reassembling a Grand. We started to go in fine fashion. We were sharing weapons; one weapon for three men, if you think is a good way to work with a weapon.

I was trying to assist the two guys in front of me that had a weapon in stripping, cleaning, and reassembling because I had served at a time in the school for the Rangers and I had full knowledge of the Grand rifle and even shot probable scores of five-hundred yards with it. But this Master Sergeant got mad because I was trying to help the two fellas in front of me. I said, "Well, I think I know this rifle better than you do." And, boy did we get into a big argument then. Pretty soon, he says "If you think so damn smart, you get out there and give them the lecture." I says, "Fine, I'll do that." And, I went up in front of the class and what'd I do, I told them take ten, smoke if you got them.

I did that for a reason. I wanted to get myself cooled off before I started talking to the group. After we got started, at the end of ten minutes, every thing was going along fine and I looked up and here's about fifty people standing around the rim of this bowl. I wondered why they were there. Don't matter, went on with the lecture. Reached the end of the lecture and dismissed the group. I looked up and there were two-hundred officers and the high-ranking people who had been standing there listening to the lecture.

Decisions, decisions some of them you can make instantly, a few of the them you got to give a few minutes of thought to it, but those that take the hours of time, you better be better than good, because you got troubles. I didn't have troubles, I just had guts. Thank you Most Worshipful.

MW William E. Stovall, Past Grand Master of California

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Most Worshipful Sir, Distinguished East, Distinguished Members, and Past Masters, and sitting Masters and all the Brethren of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alaska. A very great pleasure again for me to be here. Have been invited even though the invitation was a little strange. I got a call a few weeks ago from Right Worshipful Ray Beaver and he said, "Bill, I saw you back in Philadelphia, he said, you still believe in free speech." I said "why certainly I would defend it with my life." He said "well we could use a free speech up here in Alaska. Would you come up and give us one."

Then, I was heading down Turnagain Arm and this fellow was out there, I thought was speeding and the State Trooper stopped him and as he approached the car, all these knives are laying on the back seat. He said "what are you doing with all those weapons on the back seat?" He said those are not weapons, I'm on my way down to Girdwood,

I'm a juggler and I juggle those knives." He said you had better be able to juggle them. I can and he's out there juggling his knives and wouldn't you know but the Grand Master of Idaho come driving by with his wife and he looks at her and says I'm glad I quit drinking. And, she says why? He says look at the test they are giving them now.

Just one more, there is a couple of Past Grand Masters that were ballooning. A lot of ballooning in California, of course, not right now on account there is a lot of swimming there. But they're ballooning down the coast and it's getting sunset and they could not figure out exactly where they were. So they said we had better find out where we are so we can find a place to spend the night. Well, how we going to do that? Well there is a jogger running along the beach. So they lowered their balloon down and said hello down there.

The jogger stopped and said hello up there. They said where are we? And he said you're in a balloon. One of the Past Grand Masters turned to the other and says that feller is a member of a Grand Lodge Jurisprudence Committee. Bill says how do you know? Because what he said was preciously accurate but totally useless. Well Johnny Cochran was an attorney.

Well, Brethren the history and heritage of Freemasons of the world are ritually laced with courage, justice, honor, and untiring crusade against the inhumanity of despotism and tyranny. In fact there is even some evidence that the precursor of our fraternal society was the poor fellow soldiers of Christ of the Temple of Solomon, known as Knights of the Temple, later of course by the most popular the Knights Templar. This Order was organized by Hugues de Payens of the lower nobility of Champagne in 1118. And, their job was to protect the Christians pilgrims while traveling in the Holy Land to patrol the roads to Jerusalem, probably the first police patrols that existed. They derived their support from King Baldwin II of Jerusalem and evidently received the highest papal recognition of independence that could be given a military order. Thus permitting them to collect tithes, collect rents, and engage in commerce.

There is also some evidence our Fraternity grew out of the builders guilds or stone masons guilds and society of builders of those great cathedrals of the 13th and 14th centuries. But from 1717 the first recorded history of the formation of a Grand Lodge of Freemasons have been associated with other kinds of builders, the builders of freedom, of democracy, of individual rights, societal responsibility. Freemasons in America were instrumental in our country's independence from British rule and greatly contributed to the building of our system of government as what we know it today. The founding of our villages in every state of all of our towns was strongly influenced by Masonic teachings and up to the present day our Fraternity has readily accepted the challenges that all civilized societies must inevitably face.

Now what challenge would you say it is that ranks at the top of society today? I would submit that is violence. A violence that is growing throughout our country which has extended its insidious tentacles into our schools and affects the very lives of our children, our grandchildren, and for some of us our great-grandchildren. A violence often

connected with substance abuse. It has transformed our streets, our sidewalks, and front yards into places of danger instead of safety.

What has been done to combat this epidemic of violence in our country? For the past twenty years our national agenda for combating this painful scourge in our communities consisted of two basic tactics, apprehension by law enforcement on one hand and education with programs like DARE, SANE, and other drug education programs. Both of these are important tactics. They both, however, ignore a large area in the middle which is totally unaddressed.

Is there a proven technique to address these large numbers of children who have neither bad enough to have been apprehended nor who haven't learned from the drug abuse education. The answer today is an unqualified yes! There is a way and the technique is called intervention. But a very special kind of intervention developed by the support of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, a leader in new programs throughout Masonry and adopted as the very basic program for the development of the Grand Lodges of North America by the National Masonic Foundation for Children which is an organ of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America.

How does this technique work and how can Masons play a role in causing it to be implemented? Well, the Masons not only can play a role in this program, but Freemasonry has already accepted this modern-day challenge to the safety of our society and its future. Seventeen of our Grand Lodge jurisdictions are currently involved in the Student Assistant Training Programs, the Masonic Model if you would. The most recent just two weeks ago when the Grand Lodge of New Jersey holding its first training session in student assistance training.

In November 29th, 1994, the Masons of California implemented this intervention program in our public schools and this program, which is recognized as the most outstanding intervention technique throughout the United States today works with each jurisdiction in this program bringing two leading instructors in intervention into their jurisdictions. Now we've found that those meeting instructors came from Pennsylvania. The very men who developed the program in Pennsylvania that grew in such popularity of significance that on this very day every school in Pennsylvania is required to have a Masonic Model student intervention training program and they've just accomplished that this year with every school having a core team.

These teachers are brought together in a classroom to learn the Masonic Model intervention techniques from these instructors. First, they're taught how to recognize those behaviors of the child that place them at risk of becoming involved in substance abuse, school dropout, gang membership, or violence to others, or to themselves, or even as a candidate for teen suicide. And when they are taught how to legally document that behavior, they are taught it in a way that insures the confidentiality and the protection of the child's privacy.

Next, they are taught the techniques of intervention. The interruption of that child's destructive behavior by using the available community resources in a way tailored to change that behavior, thus, giving that child a new life and a chance to become a productive citizen in the future.

Basic to the Masonic Model program is a concept of trained core teams which I just mentioned in each school coupled with an organized networking of all the trained teams in the area for the added support and resources that may be needed for this very tiring and trying process. Once a child is identified, a confidential history is begun documenting the basic problems and the type of intervention used. This file, which is only available to the core teams involved, follows that child through school until graduation. If at any time after a child has been helped, he or she begins to exhibit a regression back into that destructive behavior, the core team can then begin intervention again without having to begin this process all over. They can take over right where they left off. This continuity of case work is a valuable component of the Masonic Model Student Assistant Training and one that other student assistance training programs don't have.

The training of these core teams requires an intensive live-in process which, in most jurisdictions, is conducted in hotels, but there are many variations possible in its use. Now the critiques and the comments, the letters received from the educators that have been through this program are full of amazement, compliments, and sometimes somewhat of embarrassment such as I can't believe that you're providing all of this to us teachers without asking for anything; or, Masonry is without a doubt the best kept secret in the states; or this is the finest program that I have ever participated in and it gives me just the tools that I need for dealing with those problems in my classes.

Now what do we ask of the school districts that participate in these classroom trainings? We ask that the school management and administration be involved and that the districts be responsible for those attending salaries at any cost for substitute teachers that may be required.

Just this Wednesday when I was picked up at the airport by Right Worshipful Ray Beaver and his wife, we went over to your Anchorage School District and talked with the man in charge of the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program, a program which is subsidized by Federal funds and aimed at the serious problem that you have here in Alaska.

Now, it's easy to say that there's problems like this throughout the United States, but they are in someone else's state, or in someone else's backyard. But look what just happened down in Arkansas and we know very well what's happening in California and the day before I came here two young people were apprehended trying to enter one of your middle schools, they were armed with firearms and they professed that they were going to use those firearms in the school.

Night before last I watched Channel 11, Anchorage, and they announced on there that out of all the United States, Alaska has the highest percentage of drug abuse, alcohol abuse, and violence in their schools of any state in the union. That should be enough to set you

on the edge your chairs. That should be enough to make you sit up and say something's got to be done. Something has to stop this. Something has to intervene.

Now in this program the Fraternity pays for the cost of the housing, the food, and the transportation for the teachers or the administrators attending as well as the cost of the instructors and all the books and paraphernalia necessary for the program. In the two and a-half years that the program has been in California it has been so successful that we can't even believe it. We have trained over twelve-hundred public school teachers through over five-hundred schools throughout the State of California, from Eureka to San Diego and the program is spreading like wildfire. We don't have to advertise, the teachers do it through their associations and through contact with one another.

Since we started this program, and when we started, we thought we were going to have to figure out how to get the information out about it. We didn't have to worry about that at all. From the very inception of the program we were booked up for two years and as I stand here and talk to you here today we have increased from four classes a year to nine classes a year and I am informed by our Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden that we may go to eleven classes next year and we're still booked up two years ahead, solid, no space. That's how successful it is and the teachers come away saying, I never knew anything about Masonry but this is the most fantastic organization to do something like this that we could ever imagine. And, it is not unusual to have some of the teachers say my husband is going to be a Mason. And it is not unusual to some of the male teachers in attendance to say how do you get a petition to an organization like that gives and doesn't ask anything in return?

Well, we found out that this program is a very fast burnout. If you are working with kids at risk, you're under stress all the time and you really need to have some kind of a pickup, so we now have developed a refresher course, a one-day refresher course and we bring in the graduates of our program and put them through a one day "atta boy," here's some more stuff to get them going again and it's really being accepted well.

Listen Brothers, if the violence in our streets is ever to be struck down and if we're ever again feel that our children are safe in their schools and neighborhoods we must start by changing the behavior of those children who would be the instruments of violence and the destruction of our future.

The Masonic Model works. It is good. It can turn children from the path of failure and self-destruction to the path of success, high self-esteem and good citizenship for life. In Pennsylvania alone had 70,000 referrals to their core teams last year and over half of the referrals were from children themselves saying this friend of mine is heading down the wrong path, can you help them?

California, new into the process has had fifty-one hundred referrals. That is turning someone away from drug abuse, from school failure, or maybe even suicide, or violence. This program can make our communities a better place to live. And, the Masons of North America like those of our ancient heritage enthusiastically accept the challenge of

today. We've drawn our swords to fight for the future of our children and for the safety of our society. We're prepared to demonstrate that Freemasonry truly does stand for God, country, and family.

Brethren, all of you have an exciting opportunity right now to get involved with worthwhile programs and I heartedly recommend that you do so. For any additional information you may care to have on it, you may contact the National Masonic Foundation for Children or if you so please our Grand Lodge Office in California and your elected officers know quite well who to contact there. Our little coordinator there, Judy Liang, is one hard working gal in fact we probably over extended her. If we are going to go to eleven classes, we are going to have to get her an assistant. But, she will send you any materials you want, any videos you want, any information you need.

Brethren, consider this seriously, now's the time. These children are growing up and patterning themselves to either become citizens that help us to build a future or the violent criminals that we are going to have to find a place to lock away and I, as a retired police chief, know exactly what I am talking about in that regard.

Thank you very much for lending me your ear and I've enjoyed my stay here. Your hospitality has been outstanding and I had my apple for breakfast this morning. Thank you very much.

MW Richard E. Fletcher, Past Grand Master, Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association of North America

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Good afternoon Brothers, it's been snowing for three days and I think that I am back in Vermont. I don't know it, but if it always works that way here but in Vermont it takes a week to cloud up, a week to storm, a week to clear up, you get a day of sunshine then you start all over again.

I might just share with you, you have been a really good group of guys. We're not supposed to do this outside of the State of Vermont but I just might share with you Granny Erstwhile's recipe for Vermont turkey surprise. You take one turkey, put in a pan and you bake it for three days. At the end of three days you take the turkey out and you add two quarts of cooking sherry, one quart of cooking bourbon, one quart of cooking gin, one quart of cooking scotch, a pinch of salt. You put it back in the oven, you let it simmer for a second. You bring it out. You discard the turkey. You drink the gravy and it serves four.

My Brothers, let me just talk to you about some of the things that are going on at our Masonic Service Association right now. Many of you have been kind enough to mention the "Short Talk Bulletin" which we put out each month on a subject of Masonic interest. There's one in the mail that will be coming out to you on John Paul Jones. We found out

that we didn't have very much on him in the office. We got some calls and one of the interesting notes that we made on the back of the "Short Talk" is that the letter that John Paul Jones wrote to his lodge in Scotland for, what we would today call a petition, is actually on display in the museum at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. If you ever happen to be there you can see that letter. His body is there too in the chapel. It's a very interesting piece of history.

That's the "Short Talk", we also have "MSA Notes" which is a monthly newsletter that we put out. Now the "Short Talk" has a cost to it. That's \$4.00 a year for subscription. "MSA Notes", is a newsletter we put out each month and that's a number of items of Masonic interest that we try to put on it and if you like that just give me your name and address. There is not cost for that one at all.

We want to welcome you to our website, if you're into the internet. It's www.msana.com and that will get you into the website. What we're doing is linking, if your Grand Lodge has a website, we link to it so that if they see it at our website they can click right over to your website and see whatever you have. We're putting current events on. We have one on now for the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia that's going to be having this summer at the Washington Monument a restoration project ongoing and a celebration at the Washington Monument. That kind of current event is on, if you have anything like that going on, please let us know.

Our hospital visitation program and you're part of it because the Grand Lodge of Alaska is part of MSA. We have visitors in the 157 VA hospitals around the United States as well as a number of state veterans homes and a number of military hospitals and I am very proud to tell you last year, according to the figures furnished to us by the Veterans Administration, of the 57 volunteer groups they have the Masonic Service Association ranks seventh nationally with over 283,000 volunteer hours in the VA system alone. The only non-military group like the DA or the American Legion with more volunteer hours and that was, and that was less than 5,000 hours, was the American Red Cross. We're very proud of what we're doing with that program and with the changes that are being made by the VA is they are going, as you know, from a hundred per cent in patient care to eighty-five per cent outpatient. That means more people are going to be treated in clinics. Many of the patients are being taken out of the VA nursing homes and put into local homes. That process will be ongoing. But, we're very proud to be part of what's going on.

Let me touch now for just a moment through the Information Center and through some of the anti-Masonic material that's been going on around us. You know for example, in fact I had a number of you talk to me yesterday about the article in the Fairbanks paper about the situation in London which has now been picked up in this country. Let me give you just a bit of background there.

There was an investigation in London concerning the fact that it appeared as though police had misused their police authority to be involved in cover-ups in criminal activity. And, it was alleged that these were Freemasons that did it. The story that came out has

that background. There was a full, complete investigation, and if any of you saw the A & B show The Unexplained, one of the segments on it was this fellow from London who was a policeman who has since retired, who alleged about this Masonic conspiracy and cover-up. Freemasons have had to literally prove our innocence since this has been going on. Parliament investigated, found absolutely nothing to substantiate these claims and a great part of the media said that too. But, there is a faction in Parliament that isn't going to let this thing go.

My Brothers the article that came out, and what I think it's important for you to remember, we deal a great deal with the media now, more and more. I must tell you I do not believe there is any animosity toward Freemasonry by the media, the mainstream media. Basically, they don't know anything about it. But, if they can pick up a story like this with a negative aspect to it, as you know, negativism sells, positive doesn't. You know if you do wonderful things with DeMolay, that isn't going to make the front page of a paper, but if a kid does what they do down in Arkansas, that's splashed all over the headlines. That's news.

What is happening, is what the media knows nothing about Freemasonry so they are starting to call us more and more. For example, cornerstones for some reason have been drawing a great deal of attention in the media. We have been having a lot of phone calls about cornerstones. Why on earth are Freemasons involved in cornerstones? What's the history behind this? I would urge you, if you have an opportunity to work on a cornerstone, to lay a cornerstone, give it serious thought and if your lodge is contacted, for heaven sakes contact your Grand Lodge and see if something cannot be done, because it's a marvelous way of getting before the public with the interest in, I mean you can tell that the nations Capitol, the Washington Monument, Smithsonian Institute, the National Cathedral in Washington, for example, all had cornerstones laid by Freemasons. Public buildings at one time were almost all laid by Freemasons of the cornerstones. It's a marvelous piece of history that we can link to and bring ourselves before the public.

We've been interviewed recently by Serbian TV, by Russian radio, and by a newspaper in Paris. I thought the Serbian TV was rather interesting because they were actually in the office when we were talking about it and I said I only speak one language and that's English and that rather poorly. What are you going to do? Well, they said people in Europe speak English. It's a second language, a very common second language and we will do voice over. They, and the other two interviews have many, many questions but one thing about Freemasonry in this country they could not understand. Why is it so open? The group from Serbia said you wear a Masonic ring. That wouldn't happen in Europe. They talked about the buildings, having open Masonic markings on them. Well the only thing that I can tell you is that in this country Freemasonry grew up with and helped develop democracy. And if you're a free nation then you can wear openly the markings of the group you belong to. But, if you are the Czar of Russia who is a Freemason and an ex-Czar hates Freemasonry and you end up in a dungeon, you're a little careful about how you show what groups you belong to. So, don't ever, ever lose the aspect of Freemasonry, democracy, and freedom going together.

The last aspect I want to talk to you on is, why are the religious groups, the extremist groups, attacking Freemasonry? My Brothers, I can only tell you my personal belief. These are people who do not believe in toleration and the rights of others to believe freely. They absolutely hate in Freemasonry our toleration of the rights, beliefs, and opinions of others and many of them reduce the Christian faith to fear, ignorance, and superstition. Satan worship, for heaven sakes, that's superstition, but this is what the groups do to attack us. But remember the roots of these attacks are anti-Semitism. They hate Catholics. They hate, and I use the word hate, Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Christian Science, anybody who has the audacity to think and believe differently than the group of extremist Christian faith. Doesn't matter if it is Catholic or Protestant.

Be proud of the fact that Freemasonry from it's earliest beginnings has believed in the right of people to think for themselves, to elect their leaders, and to support public education. Freedom is what Freemasonry has always stood for. And, groups that don't like those kinds of freedom that want to put their own interpretation of faith or education to the forefront are always going to be an enemy in Freemasonry. There is no greater aspect of Freemasonry than the well informed Mason.

If we know enough about our Fraternity to stand and talk with people about what we are, that is the greatest contribution we can make. If we understand enough about our Fraternity so that when those who attack us we can have some comfort level in discussing it with them instead of cringing because we don't know anything about Albert Pike we need to be involved and informed and we need to have an up-beat spirit. We need to be positive about Freemasonry. We need to be positive about our involvement in Freemasonry. We do not need to defend it but we do need to explain it. We do need to know something about it, so that with pride we can say I'm a Freemason and I'm proud of it and I want you to be proud of it, and my family, and my friends. And, we need to be up-beat and positive. Positive in a way, several of you guys in here have said you're a Marine, I was Navy, oh dear how I hate to say something nice about the Marines, but I'm going to have to 'cause I need to give you the kind of thinking we need to have about our Fraternity.

It's best registered by what was once written by a man named William Manchester in a book called *Controversy*. He was a Marine. He said that Marines are cocky is no news to anyone who has observed the stiff neck rising instantly from a standing blue collar. What is not understood is that to them attitude is a weapon because he was convinced that he was still a tough old bird, General Archibald Henderson, age 74, could saunter up to a Baltimore street's cannon in 1857 and scornfully turn the muzzle aside giving the Marines behind a change to overrun the gun. Because he held Spanish marksmanship in contempt John Quick could climb a ridge at Guantanamo Bay in the Spanish American War, turn his broad back to enemy fire and wigwagged artillery signals to American gunboats. If you want to be positive, this is my favorite, Chesty Puller, because he was a swashbuckler could lead the 1st Marines through six attacking Chinese divisions after sweeping the frozen landscape with his field glasses at Chosin and announcing loudly, "Well, we've got the enemy on our right flank, on our left flank, in front of us, and behind us, they won't get away this time!" Thank you my Brothers. God bless you.

MW Max L. Schumacher, Grand Master of Oregon

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Thank you Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Master-elect Gene, my Brethren all, it's a real pleasure for me and a few of my Brothers from Oregon to be here with you. We kind of let up on you a little bit this year and didn't bring quite as many. I believe last year when Vern brought fourteen, he kind of intimidated you a little. Brother Lloyd was a little bit intimidated but I think he's gotten over that now. It's a real pleasure to see you approved that eighteen year olds-members in your lodges. We did that some ten years ago and it's been very productive for Oregon. My son joined when he was eighteen. He's now about twenty-eight years old and he's been a Dad Advisor for DeMolay in Washington for about five or six years now. So, Washington has had the benefit of our young members coming in. It gives some kind of continuity between those young people before they leave to go off to college, they have the chance to join the lodge and carry that on through their college years. Many times our young people are active in DeMolay, they leave to go into the service or into college or something like that. They kind of forget for awhile and the next thing they know they are wrapped up in a large family, a large mortgage, and other things and they don't come back to the lodge until the become forty or fifty years old, and we're missing out on a lot of those young people. I think you will see the benefits of that.

I've listened to a couple of speakers the last couple days talk about membership and the things that we are doing. In Oregon we've adopted some of the programs that Pennsylvania has been using for years and they seem to give us some help. We've started the "Friend-to-a-Friend" program last year. It's still going this year. We're going to use it for several years to come and we feel that it's been very worthwhile. We've also adapted the Masonic Model Student Assistant Program and as Brother Stovall so ably told you earlier there are a lot of benefits to come from that program, benefits to our communities, benefits to our lodges, benefits to our membership. We're having our third training session in about a week and at the last one that we had in March I had a teacher get up and tell me that, you know she said, "Before we came here, when we got ... (break in tape) ... some people said, well, it's a cult and it's a group of men that are very sexist. They don't allow any women in and they had mostly negative things to say about Masonry, but one of the teachers said "Why don't we take a chance and go?" And, they did that. They came to the training session and I was there that morning to welcome them and talk with them and stayed there for the first day and at their break times. This group that this lady was in called me over to their table and asked a lot of questions, just a whole lot of questions about Masonry and one of the things they wanted to know was, Why? Why are Masons doing this? What's their motive? What do you want from us? And, I explained to them that we have a vested interest in public schools that we want children to have a chance in this life and that we've, the states clear back to the beginning of this country and that we want it to continue on. And, I talked to them for at quite length at a couple different breaks that day.

So, when she told me about these things, she said “We’re going back to our school, we’re going back to our district and we’re going to tell our teachers and the teachers in the district that there’s nothing to worry about. The Masons really care about our young people. They care about what happens in their communities.” And, she says, as a matter of fact, he’s joining the Masonic lodge and pointed to one of the other teachers in her group. Says, he’s joining as soon as we get back.

So, it’s something that we all can be very proud of. I’m glad that Pennsylvania took this on many years ago and the Masonic Foundation has taken it on now and it’s, I believe that we as Masons can make this program and to Masonry the very same thing that hospitals are to the Shriners. I think that we can be associated with this program and training teachers to identify children at risk and help them out. The one thing that Masons have to do is get out from behind those doors and get active in their communities. Do things with the people in their communities to help out. We have to do that. There’s no question about it. Then we will have the people coming back asking us to be members of our lodges and I think that we all realize that. It’s just a matter of implementing that and this is one program that will help us do that.

Most Worshipful Grand Master, I would like to thank you, you and your wife Sheri for all the hospitality that you have extended to me. I’m sorry that my wife couldn’t be here with me this time. She felt bad about that too, but somebody has to stay home.

RW Thomas O. Mickey, Past District Deputy, British Columbia and Yukon

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Distinguished Brethren, Brethren all, I was just beginning to think maybe I got away with , no I’m not like Brother Tom Houser without my notes. Memory is getting bad.

I guess that the first thing that I would like to do is bring you greetings from the Grand Master of British Columbia, Worshipful Brother Alan Tomlin (?). Although Worshipful Brother Frizzell and myself are not officially representing him, we are from British Columbia but we are also members of this Grand Lodge. That’s why I removed the guest sticker off of my name tag.

Most Worshipful Grand Master you are to be commended on a well-run convocation. It’s been great. Your Arrangements Committee have been great. We’ve been looked after great and it’s a very excellent thing.

At this time would like, I’m sure there’s some members of this Grand Lodge are not aware of the honor that you bestowed upon Worshipful Brother Frizzell and myself at the Grand Lodge of British Columbia last year when you and “Pops” were down and we were presented with a gold pan for the work that we have done keeping White Pass No. 1

alive and it is both Whitehorse Lodge 46 and Lento that is doing that and we're certainly appreciative of that.

I've just returned from Tennessee where I took in the Grand Lodge of Tennessee and enjoyed myself immensely down there. I listened to these distinguished Brothers speaking today and telling about how Freemasonry is well and alive in their jurisdiction, especially Pennsylvania and Vermont. It's also well and alive in Tennessee, but the same problem, membership is dropping. British Columbia is no different. I think it is just about time, forget about the membership dropping. If Freemasonry is alive and well those numbers don't really mean that much. They'll come back.

The message that I have today about International Days or the announcement is a little embarrassing every time we come here and we don't know too much ourselves what's going on. But we made some decisions while we were here this time. On the 21st of May, the Grand Master of British Columbia will be visiting Whitehorse and there will be a meeting there that evening which I believe the incoming Grand Master will be attending.

The next night, in Skagway or the Grand Master of Alaska, is his official visit and I have heard rumors today that there is possibly a third degree that day in Skagway and that's probably news to you. You may shoot us down.

The next day we're to travel to Dawson City where there is a District meeting of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia of which we're hoping to set back the time so that the Alaskan Brethren at Skagway are able to get to Dawson City for that and I'm sure that we can do that. We've shortened that program because there was a third degree scheduled there for both the Whitehorse Lodge and Tanana Lodge and the Whitehorse Lodge will be putting one on but not Tanana's. That'll shorten that up.

I think that there is a little bit of something laid on for Sunday morning out at a certain gold mine but I'm not sure. As soon as we get back to Whitehorse and meet with some of the people there we will be getting in touch with, there will be an announcement in the Fez. There will be an announcement in the Tanana Valley News and we will get word to everybody of more firm dates of what is happening.

Once again Most Worshipful Grand Master, it has been a pleasure to be here and a pleasure to be back with all the Alaskan Brethren.

Brother C, Vernon Carlson, Grand Lodge of Alaska

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Distinguished Guests, Fellow Brethren Masons, I was asked to make a small presentation to you today on charitable giving. A couple of years ago Deputy Grand Master Gene Freeman asked to take out a policy of life insurance to be

owned by the Grand Lodge of Alaska. It's a simple process. I've been twenty-four years in the insurance business and am known as an authority on charitable giving. You have invested a significant amount of your life to Masonry. You believe in the organization and I know that all of you wish to see it continue. We've heard great events that have been happening in California and Oregon. We know that we can have the same grand events and processes in Alaska. All of this comes down to money. That is where the charitable giving comes in.

The raffles, the lotteries, bake sales, all of these things are very, very, very important from several standpoints. It brings in a little bit of money but keeps all the Brothers active and allows them to continue to work in Masonry. However, it's really not where the big dollars come from.

I hope it's not taken negatively but the necrology report yesterday was given sixty-six of our Brethren passed away this last year. A charitable gift is a simple process. An existing life insurance policy can be partially or wholly amended for the beneficiary to be named the Grand Lodge of Alaska or it can be totally turned over in ownership to the Grand Lodge of Alaska.

If one does not have sufficient or have insurance in place that they feel they can afford to do this with, they most certainly can take out a small policy in an area called charitable giving in which the owner of that policy is named as the Grand Lodge of Alaska. The premiums are paid by that Brother to the Grand Lodge. It is tax deductible. It is a simple process and upon the death of that Brother there are no inheritance taxes being involved. There is an immediate liquidity and all the money then belongs and can be utilized by the Grand Lodge of Alaska.

It is one way for us to remain and continue solvent with the eighteen year olds coming in and many others being on the other end of that calendar, I'm sure with our participation in a charitable giving like this, it will work and keep us going forever.

So, if you are interested in any way, please see me or present elect-Grand Master in the next few weeks to at least tell us that you are interested. I'm available anytime, anyplace to come and speak you about it. The process, again, is simple. If you can walk and get to a meeting like this you probably would be able to take out a type of policy that would allow you to give a charitable gift to the Grand Lodge.

Thank you.

ELECTION OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

Report of Credentials Committee on Balloting - 130 ballots issued - 66 to elect

The following are the results of the election of officers for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Free and accepted Masons of Alaska.

Grand Master:

Frank Erie	2 votes
Les Little	1 vote
Chuck Corbin	1 vote
Fred McGuire	1 vote
John Ingram	1 vote
Blank	1 vote
Gene R. Freeman	122 votes (Position accepted)

Deputy Grand Master:

Don Chaffin	4 votes
Joe Dees	2 votes
Bobby Alexander	1 vote
Blank	2 votes
Ray Beaver	119 votes (Position accepted)

Senior Grand Warden:

Lloyd Triggs	3 votes
Fred McGuire	1 vote
Blank	1 vote
Don Chaffin	124 votes (Position accepted)

Junior Grand Warden:

1st Ballot

Charles Corbin	57 votes
Fred McGuire	31 votes
Jim Morton	29 votes
Billy Harris	7 votes
Jerry Fairley	2 votes
Bobby Alexander	1 vote
Cliff Darnell	1 vote
Blank	1 vote

2nd Ballot

Fred McGuire	33 votes
Billy Harris	4 votes
Jim Morton	2 votes
Bobby Alexander	2 votes
Blank	1 vote
Chuck Corbin	76 votes (Position accepted)

Grand Secretary:

Fred Angleton 1 vote

Blank 1 vote

Richard D. Bender 127 votes (Position accepted)

Grand Treasurer:

Gunnar Flygenring 1 vote

Tom Black 1 vote

Steve Lee 127 votes (Position accepted by letter, see below)

Grand Master read a short letter of acceptance.

(Transcribed from tape recordings of the Grand Lodge Communications)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Brother Grand Officers, and Grand Brethren all, it is with regret that I am not here at the closing of this Grand Lodge Session. However, it is with honor that if elected to the office of Grand Treasurer I will serve the Grand Lodge as its Grand Treasurer.

Fraternally,

Phillip S. "Steve" Lee
Grand Treasurer

INSTALLATION OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

An open installation for the 1998-1999 officers for the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska was conducted in Fairbanks, Alaska on April 3, 1998

OPENING CEREMONIES

Welcome and Introduction

By MW Stanley R. Foulke, PGM

INSTALLING OFFICERS

Installing Master	MW Francis D. Hess
Installing Master	MW Leslie R. Little
Installing Marshal	MW Lloyd W. Triggs
Installing Marshal	MW Henry t. Dunbar
Installing Chaplain	MW Howard N. Hobbs
Installing Secretary	MW Stanley R. Foulke
Installing Musician	Sister Penny Murrills

ELECTED OFFICERS

Grand Master	MW Gene R. Freeman
Deputy Grand Master	RW Raymond Beaver
Senior Grand Warden	RW Don G. Chaffin
Junior Grand Warden	RW Charles Corbin
Grand Treasurer	RW Steve Lee
Grand Secretary	RW Richard D. Bender

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Grand Chaplain	W Eugene M Mockerman
Grand Lecturer	MW Lloyd W. Triggs
Grand Orator	W Robert W. Wiseman
Grand Historian	W Joe H. Ashby
Grand Marshal	W Darrell C. McSpadden

Senior Grand Deacon	W John P. Johnson
Junior Grand Deacon	W Rocky V Schank
Grand Standard Bearer	W Hazen R. Ricker
Grand Sword Bearer	W Virgil L. Chrestman
Grand Bible Bearer	W William A. Hendrick
Senior Grand Steward	W Donald E. Otis
Junior Grand Steward	W Terrance B. Quarton
Grand Organist	W Dwight E. Morris
Grand Tyler	W C. Vernon Carlson

DEPUTIES TO THE GRAND MASTER

District 1	VW Gregory E. Wyman
District 2	VW Novis L. Eady
District 3	VW Loyd G. Williamson
District 4	VW L. Tom Smotherman
District 5	VW V. Clifford Darnell