



Light from the Great Land

Grand Masters Message

As you all know by now, my theme is Ritual, Education and Communication. I chose this theme because I



believe it is part of the key to grow your Lodges and maintain membership.

This time I want to talk about Ritual. I have asked this question many times, "Do you want to be on a losing team?" No one has ever answered yes.

Now what do I mean by being on a losing team? Have you ever gone to a Lodge where the officers were reading from the

cipher? I have, and Lodge attendance was very poor. Now have you ever gone to a Lodge where every bit of the opening and closing is done from memory? What was the attendance? Were there just enough to fill the chairs or were there other brethren in attendance? Every Lodge that I have had the opportunity to attend where the opening and closing was done from memory had brethren on the side lines. I honestly believe it was because they were proud of their offices and wanted to be part of that winning team.

Ask yourself this question: How would you feel if a Grand Master from another state happened to show up at your Lodge and the officers could not open or close the Lodge without

using the cipher? What if they failed to afford him proper introductions and courtesies?

Anyone can learn the work. It might take a while but Rome wasn't built in a day. I learned the third degree lecture one sentence at a time. There's no reason you cannot do it also. I know one past District Deputy who was raised in another state. The work was different and yet the same. He has adopted Alaska work, does a great job, and does it from memory. I want to challenge each and every one of you, if you're serious about being a Mason, take a few minutes each day and read your cipher or monitor. It may take you a while but you too can learn the work by memory. When it is done from memory and you put a little feeling and enthusiasm into it you will be proud of yourself and your Lodge will also be proud of you. I honestly believe your Lodge will start to grow. It may not happen overnight but it will happen.

Since last year when Most Worshipful Jerry Pinion introduced his theme "Back To Alaska", I have noticed a huge improvement this year in all the Lodges I have visited. I have also noticed a change in the appearance of the brethren, a more confident opening and closing and 99% of them were done without ciphers.

One last point, the Grand Lodge is here to help and if I put forth something you don't agree with, please let me know. The Good Lord didn't give me all the brains and the way I see a subject may not be the same as you. If you point out your view on a subject, it could be adopted and mine cast aside. I welcome both positive and negative feedback as long as it is presented in a respectful manner.

M. : W. : James R. Herrington
Grand Master

Contents

Grand Master's Message	Page 1
Deputy Grand Master's Message	Page 3
Junior Grand Warden's Message	Page 4
District News	Pages 6-7
Grand Lecturer's Message	Pages 8-9



"When people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen."

- Ernest Hemingway



Light from the Great Land



The Quarry Project (Conference on researching and preserving Masonic history)

Initiatives like the International Conference on the History of Freemasonry, the Worldwide Exemplification of Freemasonry, and UCLA's "Freemasonry and Civil Society" demonstrate an ever growing interest from the academic community in the history and philosophy of our great fraternity. It is gratifying to witness this increased attention from the non-Masonic community, and it presents a challenge for us as Masons to provide a balanced view of the fraternity from those who have experienced Masonry from within our fair Craft.

The most significant aspect of this challenge is that few Masons hold the same level of knowledge and abilities as those in the academic community. To help rectify this discrepancy, The Masonic Society (www.themasonicsociety.com) and the Masonic Library and Museum Association (<http://www.masoniclibraries.org>) have joined forces to establish The Quarry Project.

Phase one of this endeavor will be the Conference on Masonic Research and Preservation to be held at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA on September 27-29, 2013. The conference is open to anyone interested in Masonic research and preservation, but will be specifically targeted toward two groups: members of Masonic lodges of research as well as authors, writers, and researchers (both published and aspiring), and Masonic librarians and museum curators. The conference will draw from both the Masonic and academic communities to provide detailed instruction on Masonic research and the editing of same. In addition, the

recommendations of a committee created to establish a set of voluntary standards for future Masonic research, writing, and editing will be introduced. Professional librarians, museum curators, and experts on display and preservation will address that area of interest. Multiple concurrent presentations on both fields of endeavor will be offered on all three days. Along the way, participants will be enthused and inspired by stories from successful Masonic library and museum curators and from published Masonic authors.

Program details and conference registration for this event, along with hotel reservation information, is now available at www.thequarryproject.com. Make your arrangements today to join us in Alexandria, VA.

John R. "Bo" Cline, President
The Masonic Society





Light from the Great Land

Deputy Grand Master's Message



Brethren,
I'm so happy that our summer is finally here. I was really wondering if Mr. Winter was ever going away. Time to get the ol' Harley out and have some fun.

Summer is the time for outdoor activities such as parade's and picnics. As you are all aware we have mentioned quite a lot about Planning. Even though many

lodges go dark in the Summer. We should still plan for summertime activities.

Community Masonic Awareness is a key component of a successful lodge. Participate as much as possible as Freemasons in your community's summer parades. Let your community know Freemason's are alive and well.

Your summertime picnics are a great time to have your family events. There's nothing better than grilling burgers and dogs at a park where you can have sport actives such as volleyball, softball, baseball. At these events you can have 3 or 4 generations attending. You can invite friends to join in the fraternal fun.

When planning these events, plan with other lodges in your area. If you are the only lodge in your area, develop a plan with another fraternal organization or even a church. Don't you think the more people that attend the better the party is? Be prepared to have information available in case non-Masons are attending who may have questions.

Remember there is no doubt!!!! A successful Lodge is a Lodge that has a Vision, a Mission, and a Plan. A successful Lodge is a Lodge that has all of the officers as part of the plan.

Brethren, I sure hope you have a wonderful Summer. Remember Grand Lodge is here to support you. Don't hesitate to call us for help.

Fraternally

David Worel

Deputy Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Alaska





Light from the Great Land

Junior Grand Warden's Message



Hi Brethren,
Seeing that I did not send in an article for the last Grand Lodge News letter, I want to Thank You! For electing me as your Junior Grand Warden. This is indeed a Great Honor. I will do my best to see that Grand Lodge is there to help you and your

Lodges in every way possible.

After the Grand Lodge Annual Session I was off to Kansas City for The Western Conference and Conference of Grand Masters. These meetings take place once a year. It is an opportunity to meet the Grand Lodge Officers from all the States and even some from other Countries. The information passed out there is very useful and beneficial. If you read R.:W.: Doug Teninty's last newsletter article, he gave a great synopsis of the information and classes that were presented.

In March it was off to the Grand Masters Official visitations. We visited District #5, Eagle River, District #3 Anchorage, and finally District #1 in Fairbanks.

In April The Grand Master Official visitation travels took us to Mt. Juneau Gastineaux Lodge #21 in Juneau, Mt. Verstovia Lodge #18 in Sitka, Ketchikan Lodge #19, Petersburg Lodge #23-, and finally White Pass Lodge #1 in Skagway.

I want to thank all of the above Lodges, brothers and ladies for all the great food, friendship & hospitality provided me during the visitations.

After Lodge was closed the ladies were invited in and there were entered Apprentice and Fellow craft on the sidelines as well during our visits, this was great to see.

But !!! We need to see a larger number to increase our membership, more young members as well- It is important for

the survival of our Fraternity. Grand Lodge is now investigating ways to get Free Masonry out in front of the public. I know you will read about that information in other article in The Grand Lodge News Letter. Please let us know what ideas you might have, so we may incorporate the information in the future advertisements.

Fraternally yours
R.:W.: Carl Lindstrom
Junior Grand Warden





Light from the Great Land

MSANA to Reprint Complete Short Talk Bulletins

The publication of a complete collection of Short Talk Bulletins, the most widely distributed Masonic publication in the world, has been announced by the Masonic Service Association of North America.



The first of five projected volumes, a book of more than 750 pages, will be published in the fall of 2013 in two, hard-cover editions: a leather-bound and gilt-edged "Grand Master Edition," and a linen-bound "Master Mason Edition." The editor of the volumes will be S. Brent Morris, P.M., Managing Editor of the Scottish Rite Journal and Past Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge in London.

"Short Talk Bulletins have been published monthly by MSANA for 90 years, since 1923, and are a treasure of American Masonry," said George O. Braatz, PGM, MSANA Executive Secretary. "The knowledge contained in these Bulletins provides a foundation for understanding our fraternity, including Masonic history, symbolism, philosophy, and biography. These volumes should be at the core of any Masonic library."

Volume 1 will retail for \$90 for the Master Mason Edition and \$150 for the Grand Master Edition. However, those who purchase before September 1, 2013, will get a special pre-publication price of \$55 or \$110 plus \$7 S&H for U.S. addresses. Lodges can purchase one Master Mason Edition for their libraries for \$45, plus \$7 S&H for U.S. addresses (payment must be with a lodge check).

For more information, or to order online using a credit card, go to the MSANA webpage: www.msana.com, where a sample chapter can be reviewed. If you have any questions, contact MSANA.

George O. Braatz, Executive Secretary
Masonic Service Association of North America
8120 Fenton Street, Suite 203,
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785
301-588-4010 msana@ix.netcom.com

Many writers and thinkers have tried to define Freemasonry but it really defeats definition. It is too complex, too profound in conception, to easily expressed in words. Perhaps the simplest and best definition of all is the phrase "the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God." Our Masonic forefathers had an understanding of human needs and human aspirations. They may never have dreamed of the mindless computer which governs our lives, or the fission of matter which threatens our lives, but they understood human nature and what motivates the spirit of man. Thus from a simple process of using stone and mortar for building they progressed to the most important of life's functions, the building of character. -Louis L. Williams



Light from the Great Land

District News

District #2

The Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska held his Official Visit to the three Masonic Lodges [Seward #6, Soldotna #11 and Sterling #22] on the Kenai Peninsula in Seward Lodge #6 on May 7, 2013.

The gala event began with dinner at the Apollo Restaurant, Seward, Alaska at 6:00 PM.



The Combined Masonic Lodges were opened at 8:00 PM sharp by Worshipful Master for the evening, V.:W.:B Billy Harris (Senior Warden #6) with V.:W.:B Will Josey (Worshipful Master, Sterling #22) as Senior Warden, WB John Strother (Worshipful Master,

Soldotna #11) as Junior Warden, other Officers and Brethren as listed in the Tyler's Register. Past Grand Masters in attendance were: M.:W.:B Fred V. Angleton, M.:W.:B L. V. "Joe" Dees, M.:W.:B Harry J. Koenen and M.:W.:B Johnnie Wallace. Also in attendance were R.:W.:B James D. Grubbs, Grand Treasurer and V.:W.:B James S. Zuke, DD#3.

After the Grand Lodge Officers, etc, were introduced, Most Worshipful Gand Master Herrington thanked everyone for their attendance and all the brethren for the dinner. He congratulated the Brethren of Seward Lodge #6 for all the hard work in their refurbishment of the Lodge building. The Grand Master gave a short dissertation over his theme for the year: **Ritual, Education & Communication** and encouraged the Brethren to do Alaska work. He closed the Combined Lodges in ample form.



District #2

A fellowship was held following the closure of the Combined Lodge Visitation. Numerous brothers chatted with the Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, PGM's and etc... The brethren appeared to have had a great time and enjoyed spending time with the Grand Master the other Brethren.

The gala event ended at approximately 10:20 PM because the visiting Brethren had a long drive home.

Fraternally yours,

V.:W.: Bro Bill Roberts, DD#2
Sterling Masonic Lodge #22

The data for this article was taken from the original article written by the M. C. of the Outstanding Student Award, WB Ralph Sterling, #11.



The 46th Annual Outstanding Student Awards event was held Friday, April 26 at 7:00 PM, in the Kenai Central High School Auditorium. The awards were made possible by the three Masonic Lodges: Seward #6, Kenai #11 & Sterling #22, on the Kenai Peninsula.



Light from the Great Land

District #2

The National Sojourners of Alaska, the Heroes of 76, presented a history of the U. S. flags, from 1776 flag to our current flag.

The program started with a welcome to everyone and introductions by WM John Strother, Worshipful Master, Kenai #11. The invocation was given by Bro. Marcus Ashkenasy, Junior Warden, Kenai #11.



The Master of Ceremony and Chairman of the Masonic Outstanding Student awards was WB Ralph Sterling, Kenai #11.

The awards and scholarships were presented to the students by Lt Governor Mead

Treadwell, Senator Peter Micciche and Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

There were 30 schools represented from the Kenai Peninsula School District as well as one from Nome, Alaska, for a total of 36 awards.

As the students entered the stage a representative from their school introduced them and gave a short narrative as to why this student was selected for this award.

The important goals of the event was to recognize the students' dedication to education, their positive involvement in school activities and their willingness to help other students. It is our hope these awards will be a positive reinforcement in encouraging them to become productive and responsible members in their communities.



District #2

There were six \$1000.00 scholarships awarded to: Trace Braxling, Skyview High; Hope Steffensen, Connections Home School; Michael Keener, Soldotna High; Dianna Rose Hunter, Soldotna High; Brianna Marie Honebein, Seward High; and Devynn M. Johnson, Nome-Beltz High.

Each of the students received: a United States Mint Silver Dollar [Silver Eagle], One Ounce [fine silver]; a Book published by the Scottish Rite: "Dynamic Freedoms"; a gold embossed certificate from the three Lodges; a personalized Certificate of Appreciation from Governor Sean Parnell; an individual Award Plaque and an engraved name tag for their schools' plaque.



Special thanks goes to: Debbie Tressler of the KPBSD (Kenai Peninsula Borough School District) for her assistance; Kenai Central High School Administration for the Auditorium, sound, lights, etc.; and Kay Harris, V.:W.: Billy Harris and others for the refreshments.

Stage assistants were: R.:W.:B Carl Lindstrom, Grand Junior Warden and V.:W.:B Bill Roberts, Deputy for District #2, both of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska and Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent of the Kenai Peninsula School District, as well as representatives from the three Masonic lodges on the Kenai Peninsula.

Many thanks to W.:B.: Ralph Sterling for his years of tireless work with the Outstanding Student Award program and for furnishing the data for this article.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

Submitted by
V.:W.:B Bill Roberts, DD#2



Light from the Great Land

District #5

Well, it has been a delightful summer so far and many activities we have had were well attended and loaded with fun.

First we had the Colony Days Parade in downtown Palmer on June 8th where we took 1st place in the fraternal category. This parade was very well attended with a full contingent of Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, York Rite Masons as well as Shriners were all well represented. The Mini-Patrol was right there with us. The crowd really gave us lots of recognition and cheers.

Next up is the Independence Day Parade in Wasilla, again we hope will be well attended but will be without the Shrine Mini Patrol, as they will be in Anchorage for the parade there. Following the parade we're planning a District #5 BBQ picnic.

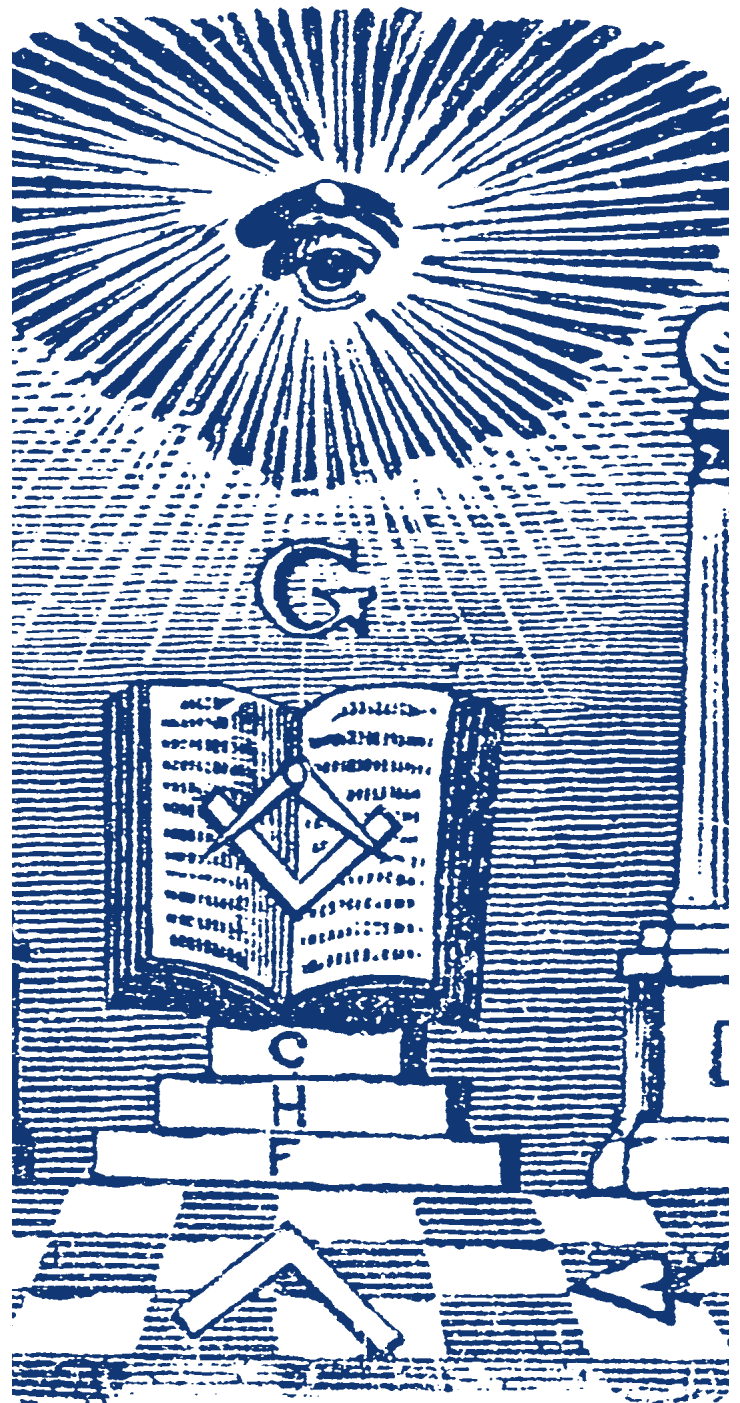
There will not be an information booth at the State Fair in Palmer this year. So that frees people up to help at the other booths.

On July 13th, we will have the float in Eagle River for the Bear Paw Parade, and again hope for good attendance, and like last year, the Mini Patrol will be with us.

I made my official visitation to all Three Lodges in May. Attendance was good and I reiterated the Grand Masters message and also spoke on the summer events upcoming.

During the last quarter, I was able to attend and assist in several Degrees in District 5. In all cases, the Candidates received an excellent product and were quite satisfied with the presentations.

Respectfully submitted,
VW Dennis N. Oakland
District Deputy for District No.5





Light from the Great Land

Grand Lecturer's Message

Originally Presented to Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux #21

MWGM James Herrington's 2013 Theme:

"Ritual, Education, Communication"

Thank you MW Jim. I would like to openly thank the Grand Master for allowing me to be of service in this manner.

Owing to the nature of my title, I thought I would provide a short lecture along with some thoughts and my experiences.

It is often said that Masonry is a Fraternity with a goal of making good men better.

Masonry is a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols.

Merriam-Webster provides the following applicable definitions:

- **Morality** is defined as conformity to the ideals of right human conduct.
- **Allegory** is a work of written, oral, or visual expression that uses symbolic figures, objects, and actions to convey truths or generalizations about human conduct or experience.
- **Symbols** are a visible sign of something invisible. We use the "working tools" of Operative Masonry, most notably the Square and Compasses, to instill the precepts of our Fraternity to our candidates.

Sounds like us, I think! I believe in our case the adoption of our principles produce visible signs as well. "People will know us by our works and conduct." So, there is a lot to learn. Becoming a Master Mason, is not unlike an electrician or carpentry apprentice striving to be a Journeyman and then a Master Craftsman. He must learn and work hard before advancing. Unlike civic organizations and most other fraternal groups, A Mason must earn the right to move from an Apprentice to a Fellow Craft to a Master.

The Mason must master each degree before being passed and raised.

Then more work is required to be eligible for high office within the Lodge.

Since it is our goal to make good men better, Degree Work is the most important thing we do in Blue Lodge Masonry and something we should strive to do as best as we can.



I believe the Grand Master agrees.

At this point I'd like to thank our Senior Warden Ken Vaughn for the hard work he has done expanding the ranks of those performing our degree work, especially in the area of our Drama and Lectures. Ken has done what I hoped when I spoke about "The Masters of the Work" as I completed my time in the East. I believe #21 does some of the best degree work in Alaska. However, I believe Brother Ken would agree, there is always room for improvement at all positions. Ken has a talent for motivating people. He was the motivation for my taking on a critical part in the Drama. In my case he motivated me by suggesting my work was a bit wanting a couple of years ago. This got under my skin and I said to myself, I'll show him! Anyway, it is important for us to strive for the best degree work we can accomplish.

When someone makes themselves available for the chairs or an appointed office, they are telling the Lodge and Worshipful Master they are willing to do the work that position requires, should the Lodge or the Master "hire them." The Lodge members do not expect perfection from their officers, no one is among us is perfect. However, it is reasonable for the lodge to expect the officer to strive for progress in his work.

Progress, not perfection, is the goal.



Light from the Great Land

Grand Lecturer's Message, *cont.*

This is similar to saying a Mason is suitably proficient in a degree. When we do we are not saying they are perfect.

However, those granting proficiency must take that responsibility seriously. Over the years I have heard various comments like...

An officer is very busy and he just doesn't have the time. If his engagement is important enough, he will find a way to do the work.

When the weather was good, I would use the opportunity to get some exercise walking to work while learning the degrees. I still do this (it's not that long a walk).



My Dad (a Past Master, SRM, & Shriner) was fond of saying, "When you need something important done, ask a busy person to do it." He said there is good reason for them being so busy.

Another comment I've heard is don't worry the candidate has never heard it before, which is true, but that does not mean we shouldn't take the work seriously. With each degree we are imparting some of the knowledge, rights, and benefits of being a Mason. So we should strive to impart them as best as we can.

I have coached men who said, "I don't remember them saying that" and sometimes it was not due to a faulty memory, it was because it was not said. Some of you may remember that. As Worshipful Master, I hated to make worthy candidates wait. Making worthy petitioners Master Masons was my priority.

Once a candidate, all dressed up and ready to go, showed up at a stated communication for his 1st Degree. We were not expecting him because of a mis communication on our part. VW Harley Clough was there for the lecture and my officers were proficient, so I said we are doing a 1st Degree tonight. I could not bear to send him away disappointed.

We once had four FCMs who were ready for their Raising and

they all wanted to be SRMs. As we did recently, we raised four MMs the Saturday morning before our Valley of Juneau Reunion.

I mention this because I've heard we don't want to rush a man through the degrees and we shouldn't. Time with one's coach and true proficiency are important or we lower our standards. However, we should be ready to work for those who are truly motivated. Some men are quicker than others. I've heard some say membership must be fun, but I argue it is fun and gratifying to know you've done a good job for the candidate, and getting an "atta boy" and a pat on the back is important.

I once was initiated into another fraternal order, but it became evident to me early on that they had not prepared for me. They were reading from books and not even doing that very well. I never went back. Candidates may not have heard it before, but they can tell when you have prepared and worked hard to make them feel special and welcomed among us.

Anything worth doing is worth doing well. Making good men, good Masons is good work worth doing well.

So, to officers and members alike, please take advantage of Brother Ken Vaughn, Worshipful Dan Logan, and others (even me) when they make themselves available for degree practice, as they frequently do. It is because of their dedication that #21's degree work is among the best.

Also, bear in mind, that any member can participate in degree work, and Brother Ken, the stage manager, would love to be two to three deep at each position. That sounds more like a football coach to me.

I'm honored to be Grand Lecturer and stand ready to help this and any other Lodge were ever possible. Please call on me. The Duty is performed Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Bro. Don Hale
Grand Lecturer