



Light from the Great Land

Volume 3, Issue 4

December 1, 2011

Grand Master's Message



Greetings My Brothers

My year as your Grand Master is rapidly coming to a close and I have enjoyed representing our Grand Lodge and the great State of Alaska immensely. In September Debbie and I attended the Grand Lodge of California where we made new friends and re-connected with old friends. We had a marvelous time in San Francisco and can hardly wait to return in 2012.

Inside this issue:

Deputy Grand Master's Message	2
Calendar of Events (Dec–May)	3
Senior Grand Warden's Message	4
Junior Grand Warden's Message	4
District News	6
Grand Master's Visit to the Kenai Peninsula	9
The Gift of Freemasonry	11
News from the George Washington Masonic Memorial	12

Now I would like to offer an apology to the Brethren in Kodiak. I am sorry to have missed my official visit to your island paradise. Mother Nature conspired against me and delayed the plane arriving in Juneau by an hour and a half making me miss the connecting flight. RW Jerry Pinion stood in for me with the rest of the Grand Officers. We are called the Grand Lodge team and it showed many times this year but none more so than this visit. I appreciate the extra effort, greatly. That entire trip was momentous: I missed Kodiak but was honored by Scottish Rite in a ceremony to receive my 32nd degree. Then, returning home, the ferry broke down in Haines and we had to drive six hours to get to Skagway. Ah, the adventures of traveling in Alaska.

Debbie and I went to Seattle in November and I was given the honor of signing the Lafayette bible and what an honor it was! I have included a picture taken that night (page 10). Then Debbie returned home and I continued on to the Grand Lodge of Nevada in Elko. My Brothers, again, I thank you for allowing me to represent you at the many Grand Lodges I have attended. I have learned so much and acquired an even greater appreciation for craft and the meaning of fellowship.

Lodge Secretaries, don't forget to send your yearend reports to Grand Lodge! This is extremely important and will keep RW Jerry Wasson happy. As a last note, please don't forget to register early for our Grand Lodge. Pre-Grand Lodge events begin January 31st and Grand Lodge starts February 1st. The registration forms have been mailed but you can also access the forms on our web site.

Fraternally,
Debbie & Ron Ackerman, MWGM

*"A MAN CANNOT HAVE CHARACTER
UNLESS HE LIVES WITHIN A
FUNDAMENTAL SYSTEM OF MORALS
THAT CREATES CHARACTER."*

HARRY S. TRUMAN



Light from the Great Land

Deputy Grand Master

Greeting Brethren,



The Grand Master's Official visits are officially complete with the visitation of Kenai, Fairbanks, Valdez, Cordova, and Kodiak Lodges. I was able to visit every lodge within Alaska and I had a wonderful time meeting with the brethren and sharing great fellowship plus a

few war stories in between. Thank you to all the brethren in the Kenai Lodges, the Fairbanks Lodges, Valdez, Cordova, and Kodiak Lodges for your warm welcome and hospitality.

During the visits to the combined lodges, Anchorage, Matanuska Valley, Fairbanks, and Kenai, I expected to see the lodge room full of brethren from all the lodges represented. We may need to reevaluate the Grand Master's Visitation Schedule and allow you to give us some feedback about how we can make the visitations better. Remember brethren, the Grand Lodge Officers truly work for you and we want to do all we can to make the Official Visit meaningful to all Lodges, not just the "Host Lodge".

My topic during the Grand Master's visitations was the Grand Lodge Newsletter, "Light from the Great Land". I talked about the newsletter being on the Grand Lodge Web Site at www.alaskamason.org. Just click on the Grand Lodge Seal to view the Newsletter. Also, I asked the Lodge Secretaries to print copies of the newsletter for our brethren who do not have access to the internet. The newsletter is loaded to the Web Site on the first day

of March, June, September, and December of each year. MW John "Bo" Cline is the Editor for the "Light from the Great Land". There is also an opportunity to access the DMV Web Site and purchase a Masonic Vanity License Plate just by clicking on the Masonic License Plate at the bottom of the Grand Lodge Web Page.

The Junior Grand Warden, RW Dave Worel, asked the brethren during our visitations, "How could the Grand Lodge help the lodges". The majority of the brethren's response was to reinstitute the Warden's Charge or The Lodge Officer Leadership Training Program. Therefore, the Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, and the Deputy Grand Master, with the Grand Masters approval, are meeting to formulate the curriculum for the Lodge Officers Leadership Seminar. The training will be the day before the Grand Lodge Communication at the Anchorage Masonic Center, 1431 Eagle Street, on January 31, 2012 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. If you are staying at the Sheraton Hotel, we will provide transportation for the training from and back to the hotel.

The Grand Lodge Communication Registration and Forms should be on each Lodge Secretary's Desk by now. Please get a copy of the forms and register early to attend the Grand Lodge of Alaska Annual Communication. The dates for the Communication are February 1-3, 2012. I hope to see you there.

"May the God of Love and Peace delight to dwell with you and bless you."

RW Jerry W. Pinion,
Deputy Grand Master

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Light from the Great Land

Calendar of Events (Dec - May)

- ◆ **Glacier Lodge No. 10 Installation of Officers**
December 3, 2011 at 4:00 PM
Anchorage Masonic Center
Contact: Lodge Secretary (olegrizjp@aol.com)
- ◆ **Tanana Lodge No. 3 Installation of Officers**
December 10, 2011 at 10:00 AM
Tanana Masonic Temple, Fairbanks
Contact: Lodge Secretary (tan3sec@alaska.net)
- ◆ **Matanuska Lodge No. 7 Installation of Officers**
December 10, 2011 at 11:00 AM
Matanuska Masonic Temple, Palmer
Contact: Lodge Secretary (dennis86@mtaonline.net)
- ◆ **Aurora Lodge No. 15 Installation of Officers**
December 10, 2011 at 4:00 PM
Anchorage Masonic Center
Contact: Bro. Joe Dahl (jdahl@ak.net)
- ◆ **Valdez Lodge No. 4 Installation of Officers**
December 13, 2011
Valdez Masonic Temple
Contact: Lodge Secretary (mralfp@cvinternet.net)
- ◆ **Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18 Christmas Party**
December 17, 2011
Mt. Verstovia Masonic Temple, Sitka
Contact: Lodge Secretary (thomasb@gci.net)
- ◆ **Mt. Juneau Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 Installation of Officers**
December 17, 2011 at 3:00 PM
- ◆ **Eagle River Lodge No. 13 Installation of Officers**
December 19, 2011 at 7:00 PM
Eagle River Elks Lodge
Contact: Lodge Secretary (skeet@mtaonline.net)
- ◆ **North Pole Lodge No. 16 Installation of Officers**
December 19, 2011 at 7:30 PM
Location TBD
Contact: Lodge Secretary (mad50@acsalaska.net)
- ◆ **Fairbanks Lodge No. 12 Installation of Officers**
December 27, 2011 Location TBD
Contact: Lodge Secretary (fairbanksldodge12@gci.net)
- ◆ **Sterling Lodge No. 22 Installation of Officers**
January 7, 2012 at 3:00 PM
Sterling Area Senior Center
Contact: Lodge Secretary (sar1@gci.net)
- ◆ **Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18 Installation of Officers**
January 7, 2012
Mt. Verstovia Masonic Temple, Sitka
Contact: Lodge Secretary (thomasb@gci.net)
- ◆ **Anchorage Lodge No. 17 Installation of Officers**
January 11, 2012
Anchorage Masonic Center
Contact: Lodge Secretary (anc17@acsalaska.net)
- ◆ **Robert Burns Night Celebration**
January 14, 2012
Evangelo's Restaurant, Wasilla
Sponsored by Matanuska Lodge No. 7
Contact: Bro. Gary Satterfield
(satrflcng@mtaonline.net)
- ◆ **White Pass Lodge No. 1 Installation of Officers**
January 21, 2012
White Pass Masonic Temple, Skagway
Contact: Grand Master (acket@aol.com)
- ◆ **AMLAM Meet & Greet Fundraiser**
January 31, 2012 at 6:00 PM
Sheraton Anchorage Hotel
Contact: Bro. Joe Dahl (jdahl@ak.net)
- ◆ **Warden's Charge (Lodge Officer's Leadership Seminar)**
January 31, 2012 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM
Anchorage Masonic Center
Contact: SGW (olegrizjp@aol.com)
- ◆ **Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge Corp. and other GL Committees**
February 1, 2012 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, Anchorage, AK
Contact: Grand Secretary (grandlodge@alaska.com)
- ◆ **31st Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alaska**
February 1—3, 2012
Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, Anchorage, AK
Contact: Grand Secretary (grandlodge@alaska.com)
- ◆ **Murder Mystery Dinner**
February 10, 2012
Tanana Masonic Temple, Fairbanks
Contact: Secretary (tan3sec@alaska.net)



Light from the Great Land

Senior Grand Warden



THANK YOU

As the year draws to an end and the Grand Lodge visitations have been completed for the year. On behalf of the Grand Lodge Officers, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your hospitality, great food and the brotherly love that you showed us. We were very fortunate during our travels; the weather was great and we had no delays as in the past. After RW Dave Worel started asking questions about what the Grand Lodge can do for the Blue Lodge, we were surprised at some of the answers. We took them to heart and hopefully will meet some of the expectations of the brethren. You should be receiving a communication from the Grand Lodge Secretary in reference to the Wardens Charge. We intend to bring this back, but on a smaller scale to start out with. As we progress year after year it will continually improve. That is our hope. The Wardens Charge will be held on Wednesday prior to the Grand Lodge Communication. The intent is to help those lodge officers that would be required

to fly to Anchorage on their own dime or drive a long distance. By having the Wardens Charge the day prior to Grand Lodge Communication the lodge officers can basically take care of two obligations with one trip.

We have also decided to have a fund raiser, a wonderful idea of the JGW. An old Volkswagen convertible, which is in great shape, was purchased and will be raffled off between now and the Grand Lodge Communication. The nice thing about this raffle is that the tickets can be sold to anyone inside and outside the Grand Lodge and the Blue Lodges. So if you have a car collector in your family or know of someone interested in old vehicles, encourage them to buy some of the raffle tickets. There are other prizes that will be given away to 2nd and 3rd place winners.

We are still looking for ways to help the Blue Lodge and are willing to listen to your suggestions, so please don't hesitate to talk to one of the Grand Lodge Officers. If it is a good suggestion and will benefit all the lodges, we will take a look at it. Again I want to personally thank you for your vote of confidence as your Senior Grand Warden and wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas.

Fraternally
James R. Herrington
Senior Grand Warden

Junior Grand Warden



My Brothers,

Wow can you believe we are almost through this year. Where did this year go? I'm starting to feel the holiday spirit.

I really enjoyed visiting with the lodges this year, and I hope you all remembered what I talked about. Just in case you forgot, I mentioned how lodges are a small business and all businesses must have a strategic plan or a Long Range Plan (LRP). We suggested that each lodge have at least a three year plan; however a five year plan is more preferable. Your lodge plan should be agreed upon by

your elected officers. Why? Because some tasks may take years to achieve!!!! Listed below are some suggested topics that should be in your LRP.

- Membership
- Finance
- Leadership
- Mentoring
- Wills and Endowments

If you haven't started your LRP, now is a good time to start. Please know Grand Lodge is here if you need our help.

Finally, Kathy and I wish you and your families a very happy holiday!!!!!!

Remember if we work as a team we can grow.

Fraternity Yours,
David Worel
Junior Grand Warden



Light from the Great Land

Robert Burns Night

Matanuska Lodge No. 7 cordially invites all Masons (MM, FC, & EA), their ladies, and guests to a celebration of the birth and times of our Brother and poet Robert Burns.

When: January 14, 2012

Where: *Evangelo's Restaurant, 2530 E Parks Hwy, Wasilla AK
(Across from Lowes on the Parks Highway)*

Cost: \$55.00 per person

Dress: *Formal (Tuxedo, Dark Suit, or Traditional Scottish Attire
for men and Dinner Evening Wear for ladies)*

Program

6:00 PM – *Gathering Fellowship with no-host beverage service*

7:00 PM – *Dinner (Prime Rib and Halibut Buffet)*

Entertainment

- *Bagpipe performances*
- *Readings of Burn's Poetry*
- *Special Guest Speaker (Mr. Michael Buckland, Director of the
Department of Aviation, University of Alaska Anchorage)*

*Space is limited, so make your reservations early. For more
information and to make reservations, contact:*

Brother Gary Satterfield

357-3047/250-8287

satrflcng@mtaonline.net



Light from the Great Land

District NEWS



DISTRICT No. 1:

Reported by
VW Mike Starkey
Deputy District No. 1

Brethren,

Tanana 3 conducted a winter clothing drive in October. \$3000 worth of clothing was collected and donated to the Fairbanks Rescue Mission. A canned food drive is currently underway and those donations will be given to the Fairbanks Food Bank at the end of November.

Elections were held at the November stated meeting. The elected Officers for 2012 are:

Worshipful Master, Matt Thompson; Senior Warden, Fred Sandgren; Junior Warden, VW Monte Ervin; Treasurer, VW John Johnson; and Secretary, VW Mike Starkey. Congratulations Brothers! There will be an open Installation on Saturday, December 10, at 10:00am.

Tanana is planning a Murder Mystery Dinner for Saturday, February 11. It will be a block party theme with a catered dinner. Clues will be provided throughout the evening and we will present our conclusions at the end of the evening. Come out and put your acting and detective skills on display! There will be games throughout the evening, and a few door prizes will be given away.

Valdez 4 held elections at the November Stated meeting. Those elected to office are: Worshipful Master, Rob Deaver; Senior Warden, VW Jim Ujoika; Junior Warden, John May; Treasurer, VW Marvin Harned; and Secretary, W Karl Amundsen. Congratulations Brothers! There will be an open installation at the Stated Communication on Tuesday, December 13.

Valdez 4 held several pancake breakfasts at the beginning of the year. They were open to the public and were very successful. They will bring those back after the first of the year.

Fairbanks 12 will hold elections at the November Stated meeting on the 21st. There will be an open Installation on Tuesday, December 27th, at 7:00pm. More information will be published as it becomes available.

North Pole 16 will hold elections at the November Stated meeting on the 21st. Installation will be held at the December Stated meeting on the 19th.

North Pole will also be voting at the November Stated meeting to choose their new meeting location. They have two options available; the VFW in North Pole, and the American Legion in Moose Creek. Results will be published after the vote.

DISTRICT No. 2:

Reported by
VW Billy Harris
Deputy District No. 2



Since being installed as your Deputy for District #2 the following business has been conducted in district #2 by the primary lodges on the Kenai Peninsula, Seward #6, Kenai #11, and Sterling #22.

In April Kenai Lodge #11 held their annual Masonic school awards program for the Kenai Peninsula Borough school District and presented \$3,000.00 in scholarships to Nome High School and two peninsula High Schools.

In the month of March I held a meeting with the Worshipful Master of Seward Lodge #6, Kenai Lodge #11, and Sterling Lodge #22 to plan for the Grand Master's official visit scheduled for August 17, 2011 hosted by Sterling Lodge #22.

I have continued to hold classes at Kenai Lodge #11 on Monday and Wednesday evenings for members of these lodges that want instruction in the ritual or lodge officer's duties.

In the month of May I also traveled to Kodiak Lodge #9 to assist the Deputy of the Grand Master and others in conferring the degrees on the Kodiak brothers.



Light from the Great Land

District NEWS

(Continued from Page 6)

In May Sterling Lodge #22 hosted a dinner for the members of the three lodges and invited members of the public to participate. After dinner two DVDs on masonry were shown. It was a very nice evening and several members from the public asked questions.

Seward #6, Kenai #11, and Sterling Lodges #22 have put on several degrees in the past couple of months. Seward #6 gained its first two new members in quite a few years in July by raising two brothers to the sublime degree of a master mason.

In August Sterling #22 hosted the official visit of Grand Master Ronald Ackerman with the assistance of Seward #6 Worshipful Master Jerry James. It was a very wonderful evening and enjoyed by all.

DISTRICT No. 4:

Reported by
VW Al Brookman, Deputy



This is the final report for 2011, from District 4. Fall activities of Southeast Alaska lodges are much the same as usual, with vacations over, repairs on the outside of houses, and fish put up for this season, we look forward to the activities and business of our lodges, to finish out the year.

Mt Verstovia Lodge No. 18 continues to support research for Crohn's disease, with a donation of \$3700.00 this year in the name of Ashley Bahrt.

Progress continues with the Entered Apprentice degree for Brothers Swanson and Olson.

At a meeting in June, Brother Graham successfully preformed his Master Mason proficiency. He has now stepped in as Junior Deacon of the lodge.

Brother Pratt proved up on his proficiency for Master Mason degree and received his lambskin apron, at the October 6th stated meeting.

Before the November 3 stated meeting, the lodge prepared dinner for the members, their wives, and

widows of lodge members. During the meeting, officers for the year 2012 were elected and the lodge voted to have a public installation. The lodge gave away 5 bikes this year, during its bike giveaway program, and a new chairman was appointed to manage the program for 2012.

IT'S A DATE!! The Mt Vestovia Lodge Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 17, at the Lodge. Santa and his elves, who are renowned chefs, will be present. The lodge needs the names and ages of the children that will be attending, as soon as possible, so that the elves can get busy making toys. Please send the names to chief elf, Tom Brown (thomasb@gci.net).

Mt Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 had a busy September, after shaking the rust off from the rainy summer, with two Master Mason degrees being conferred by the officers and members. In October, three Master Mason degrees were conferred on Brothers Ward, Moselle, and Baysden. This was a special meeting, held on Alaska Day, Saturday Oct 18, where the three degrees were conferred between 8:30 AM and 1:30 PM.

Mt Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge has continued to be busy with degree work this entire year, and they still have two petitions to be processed before the end of the year.

Several times during the summer season, Mt. Juneau Gastineaux members turned out to welcome brothers visiting Juneau by cruise ships. Juneau is a very busy port. One of our cruise ship visitors this year was MW Brook Cunningham, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Arizona, and his party.

Election of officers is scheduled for tonight, November 15. As I write this report, we are expecting 8 to 12 inches of snow to complement the 10 to 14 inches we received yesterday. But, as agreed by WB Steve Stewart and myself, we are all Alaskans and, as such, are still expected to get to work, get our children to school and conduct our normal activities,



Light from the Great Land

District NEWS

(Continued from Page 7)

despite this heavy early snowfall. Therefore, the lodge will hold our normal stated communication tonight and elect the officers for 2012.

Our installation of officers will be December 17, 2011, at 3:00 PM, after the Eastern Star installation at 1:00 PM. A reception will follow both installations.

White Pass Lodge No. 18 will hold election of officers in December and their installation of officers will be the 3rd Saturday of January.

My official visit was the 15th of October at their stated meeting. White Pass is Grand Master Ron Ackerman's mother lodge, where the opening and closing of the lodge were done in ample form. As Skagway is only two hours distant by car from Whitehorse, YT, two Past Grand Masters from Whitehorse were in attendance. I was surprised to see MW Don Frizzell looking well and his recovery is coming along great. Skagway's stated meeting is quite unusual, compared with other lodges I've visited, as they meet at high twelve, on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Their meetings are followed by lunch at a local restaurant. It was a very enjoyable day.

Ketchikan is the first Alaskan city you reach when entering Alaska by water from the South. **Ketchikan Lodge No. 19** meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Ketchikan lodge is a small Alaskan Masonic lodge that is land locked and has infrequent visitors.

All of Southeast Alaska is visited by cruise ships, during the summer months, and quite often lodges in this region are alerted to the arrival of Masons aboard the ships. When possible, the brethren from Ketchikan lodge turn out with open arms to welcome these Mason's. MW Brook Cunningham, Grand Master of Arizona, who visited Mt. Juneau Gastineaux on his tour of Alaska, also stopped at Ketchikan.

Petersburg is another land locked Alaskan city.

My guess is that **Petersburg Lodge No. 23** is the smallest lodge in the grand jurisdiction of Alaska. There are currently two Master Masons living in Petersburg. VW Roger Hansen, who lives in Big Lake, AK (near Wasilla) is the lodge secretary and travels to Petersburg every other month. The lodge meets when Roger is in town, as they then have three Master Masons to open lodge.

Petersburg initiated an Entered Apprentice this year, who is currently working on his proficiency. The lodge must be commended for their determination to keep their lodge open, and are very proud to have a lodge in Petersburg. The lodge is looking forward to developing their new Entered Apprentice and is pursuing other prospective Masons in Petersburg.

DISTRICT No. 5:

Reported by: Dennis Oakland, WM
Matanuska Lodge No. 7

Over the past couple of months, Matanuska Lodge No.7, Eagle River Lodge No.13 and Iditarod Lodge No.20 have all conferred degrees. Recently, Matanuska Lodge Raised a Master Mason with the generous assistance of the Brothers of Eagle River Lodge. Eagle River Lodge will be initiating a new petitioner on November 28th. Matanuska Lodge hopes to raise another Master Mason before the end of December.

Matanuska Lodge has nearly completed the Ty-lers room remodel job. Superb craftsmanship by MW Br. Bo Cline, with funding from the members of the Lodge, has delivered a whole new look for that room. Quite a work of art. We will be installing new flooring and door trim in the near future to complete the transition.

Earlier this year, Matanuska Lodge elected to pursue the Mark Twain Award developed by the Masonic Service Association. Quite a large volume of work again spearheaded and produced by MW Bo Cline. The results of his efforts, resulted in a superb document that may earn the Lodge that Twain Award.



Light from the Great Land

Grand Master's Visit to the Kenai Peninsula

Reported by:
Bill Roberts, WM
Sterling Masonic Lodge #22

The Masonic lodges (Sterling #22, Kenai #11, and Seward #6) on the Kenai Peninsula were honored by the Grand Master's, MWB Ronald L. Ackerman, visitation at the combined Masonic Lodge Meeting on August 17, 2011.

The Elected Grand Lodge Officers, Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, Grand Lodge Committeemen, Deputies of the Grand Master, Past Grand Master's and Members of the combined Lodges and spouses also attended.

Further, Mrs. Claudia Johnson, Deputy of the Most Worthy Grand Matron, General Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, Mrs. Linda Duce, Worthy Matron, Star of the North Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Soldotna, AK, and Mrs. Heather Dunbar, Executive Director of Sterling Area Senior Citizens Inc. were in attendance as well.

Sterling Masonic Lodge #22 was the host lodge and the dinner was catered by the Sterling Area Senior Center, Sterling, AK. The Blessing was given by Worshipful Master Bill Roberts and the evening meal started with a salad bar offering tossed green salad and fruit. The main course consisted of Prime Rib and Pork Tender Loin, with Au Gratin Potatoes, mixed



Vegetables, Rolls & Butter, Soft Drinks and Dessert - Cake and Sherbet - were served.

After the dinner the spouses, friends and Masons of lower rank were retired to the commons room in the housing area. Mrs. Karen Roberts, Mrs. Heather Dunbar and Mrs. Linda Duce were the co-hosts for the Ladies.

The combined Lodge Meeting opened by Worshipful Master Bill Roberts at 7:00 pm with WB Carl Lindstrom - SW #11, [replacement for WB Ken Owens, Worshipful Master, Kenai #11, who was medically excused], S/W and WB Jerry James - Worshipful Master, Seward Masonic Lodge #6, JW. Other Officers and visitors as per the Tyler's Register.

After the necessary order of business items were covered, the Grand Master, elected and appointed officers, committeemen & advisor's, Deputies of the Grand Master, all Past Grand Masters and lodge members with special assigned duties were asked to retire from the Lodge to be returned and Introduced properly. Those presented, Introduced and given the appropriate Grand Honors are listed below:

GRAND LODGE COMMITTEEMEN:

Brother Philip Nash, Advisor, Jurisprudence,

DEPUTIES OF THE GRAND MASTER:

VWB Bill W. Harris, District #2,
VWB Glen E. Josey, District #3 and,
VW B Albert Brookman, District #4.

APPOINTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS:

WB W. Van O. Chaney, Grand Chaplain,

PAST GRAND MASTERS:

MWB Johnnie L. Wallace,
MWB Harry J. Koenen,
MWB L. V. "Joe" Dees,
MWB Leslie R. Little and,
MWB Fred V. Angleton



Light from the Great Land

(Continued from Page 9)

ELECTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS:

RWB Jerry P. Wasson, Grand Secretary,
RWB James Herrington, Senior Grand Warden and,
RWB Jerry W. Pinion, Deputy Grand Master.

MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER:

MWB Ronald L. Ackerman.

The Grand Lodge Officers were presented, introduced and given the “Public Grand Honors.”

The Grand Master was escorted to the East by the Worshipful Master, introduced to the Brethren, who extended to him “Private Grand Honors”. Worshipful Master Roberts invited the Grand Master to preside over the combined Masonic Lodge and tendered him the gavel.

The Grand Master gave compliments to the lodges as well as words of encouragement. The Grand Master closed the combined lodge meeting in ample form at 7:55 pm.

After closure of the combined lodges, the spouses,

friends and Masons of lower rank were invited back into the Lodge to hear the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Grand Lodge Officers and Elected Officers of the combined Lodge "comments and dissertations".

After all officers had introduced their spouses & guests and had given their dissertations, The Grand Master spoke on the ages of new Brethren and stated their ages have lowered the average age of the total membership from 60's to 50's . He further related that our “older Masonic members” of our lodges have an immense knowledge of Masonry. Some of our lodges are allowing this knowledge to go to waste because the older brethren are not being contacted and invited to come back to lodge. And, if needed, transport them to the lodge meeting. The Grand Master encouraged all Lodge Members to participate in getting our older Brethren back into the Lodge.

The Grand Master closed the event at approximately 9:05 pm and a time of ‘fellowship’ followed immediately thereafter.

Bible Signing Ceremony Lafayette Lodge No. 241 Seattle, Washington

Grand Masters pictured from left to right: MWB Jay Leonard (Idaho), MWB William Cave (British Columbia & Yukon), MWB Richard Martin (Oregon), MWB William Alexander (Montana), MWB Michael Sanders (Washington), MWB Ronald Ackerman (Alaska), MWB Bobby Arther (New Mexico), MWB Gardner Torrence, Sr. (Prince Hall of Washington), MWB Frank Loui (California), MWB Allen Pierce (Wyoming)





Light from the Great Land

The Gift of Freemasonry

By Steven Stewart, WM
Mt Juneau Gastineaux
Lodge No. 21



Well here we are mid-way through the year and what a year it has been so far. We have been grinding through the degrees of Masonry for many, many men joining our fair fraternity. This got me to thinking. Masonry is a journey of life but it is also something else.

It is a gift!

A tremendous gift! A gift we can give to a son, a nephew, a grandson or a trusted friend. We of course were given this gift by someone we knew which could have been a father, grandfather, uncle, friend or mentor but it still was given to us with no expectations, no strings attached. It was given to you with the hope and trust that you would carry it with you into your life for you to one day deliver it to the next.

This gift too has something else that we forget. We need to repay this debt that was passed on to us. I say debt because it is a debt of gratitude that we owe to those that have come before us. To show them that we can continue the task, continue the march, continue the fight, but most of all to continue to pass this gift along.

We know that our motto is 2B1ASK1. We emblazon ourselves with rings, pins, patches and other decorations so we are not really “secret” anymore. We are not well versed in how to deliver this gift to another when they ask.

I got to thinking about this while I was in Washington, DC for the Scottish Rite Fellows Reunion and as I was standing on the steps of that grand building The House of the Temple I was approached twice (two

separate occasions) and asked to explain Masonry to a grandfather’s grandson and to a father’s son.

I felt so many emotions as I explained to these young men about Masonry and what it means to us, to the nation and for that matter the world. The looks of recognition in these two boys’ eyes told me that I have given them the gift (so to speak) but that gift of knowledge to continue the journey to seek, learn and deliver.

We must be able to repay our debt to that person who entrusted us with this fantastic gift. I believe you will be able to see the means that you can use to give back to the fraternity by this quote from John Wesley:

*“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”*

I want to thank my father (who sadly was not a Mason but surely had the desire), my uncles, grandfathers, and the generations that came before me and my mentors from when I was in DeMolay. Thank you so very much, I am doing all I can do to repay that debt you entrusted to me.





Light from the Great Land

News from the George Washington Masonic Memorial



"To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country."

The George Washington Masonic Memorial was built in the 1920s by the more than two million American Freemasons who wished to: *"express in durability and beauty the undying esteem of the Freemasons of the United States for him in whose memory it shall stand throughout the coming years."*

The following review provides descriptions of George Washington Masonic Memorial events and activities which Masons and their families may participate in. For more information about the Memorial, go to: <http://gwmemorial.org/index.php>

Editors Note: This beautiful structure is supported by all American Masons through

the generous contributions from each constituent Grand Lodge. In 2003, the Memorial directors embarked on a program to reinstitute a \$1 per member giving program, which had lapsed over the intervening years. The Grand Lodge of Alaska was the third Grand Lodge in the country to rise to the challenge and pledge at that level. We annually contribute \$5 per initiate and \$1 per Alaska Mason to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Fund. Today, 19 Grand Lodges have risen the challenge of "A dollar per member", but more work needs to be done to bring all Grand jurisdictions up to this level. Recent events, including an earthquake and hurricane this past year, have caused significant damage to the Memorial and raised maintenance and restoration costs over what is covered by Grand Lodge contributions. Your generous end of year contribution to any of the giving programs sponsored by the Memorial is tax deductible and would be greatly appreciated.

George Washington Birthday Celebration

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia will be holding a Gala Birthday Celebration to commemorate the 280th Birthday of George Washington on February 22, 2012. The celebration will begin with a Special Communication of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 on Tuesday evening, February 21, 2012. The Lodge meeting will include a special welcome to members of the Society of Washington Lodges. Celebrations will continue with a wreath-laying at the tomb of George Washington on the Wednesday morning, February 22.

The Birthday evening will begin with a reception in Memorial Hall. Concurrently, there will be a private reception with Professor Henriques for members of the new George Washington Memorial Society and other distinguished guests. Following the receptions, guests will enjoy a musical celebration in Memorial Theater, then the Birthday Banquet in Grand Masonic Hall with appropriate Birthday Toasts and



Light from the Great Land

(Continued on Page 12)

short remarks.

The Association looks forward to sharing with you the Gala Celebration of George Washington's Birthday. Invitations will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Fourth George Washington Memorial Symposium

In conjunction with its February 22, 2012 Gala Celebration of George Washington's Birthday, the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia will hold the fourth George Washington Memorial Symposium and will present the George Washington Memorial Award. The recipient of the award is chosen for his contributions in presenting the virtues, character and vision of George Washington. This year's George Washington Memorial Award recipient is Peter Henriques, Ph.D. Henriques is Professor of History, Emeritus, at George Mason University. He specializes in Virginia history, with particular emphasis on Virginia and the American Revolution and the Virginia Founding Fathers. Henriques's most recent work is *Realistic Visionary: A Portrait of George Washington* (2006).

New Family of Freemasonry Exhibit to open

The new Family of Freemasonry exhibit at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia will open on February 22, 2012 as part of the Memorial's celebration of Washington's 280th Birthday. Located on the third floor of the Memorial, it will fea-

ture displays on the Grotto, the Order of the Eastern Star, and the Tall Cedars of Lebanon.



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The Grotto's five display cases will cover the largest area of the floor on the east end. The Order of the Eastern Star will occupy the southeast corner and the Tall Cedars of Lebanon, the northeast corner. Other Masonic Appendant and Affiliated Bodies have been invited to participate and the goal is to have the entire floor filled within the next two years. The displays highlight the history, symbols, charities and social activities of each organization. A future addition in the center of the room will include life-size mannequins dressed in ceremonial, parade and formal costumes to help connect visitors to an organization's symbols and structure.

