



Light from the Great Land

Volume 4, Issue 4

December 1, 2012

Grand Master's Message



Greetings Brethren,

About ten months ago, I embarked on a journey that has been one of the most wonderful trips I have ever taken and the journey is about to be completed. I have traveled to the four corners of the Great State of Alaska and to lands beyond. It has been a most rewarding experience to represent the Grand Lodge of

Alaska as your Grand Master. I have mixed emotions about the journey being ended with the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in February 2013.

Since the last Grand Lodge Newsletter, I have traveled to Dawson City, Yukon to attend the International Days and the trip, friendship, and brotherly love that our neighbors to the east provided for all the brothers from Alaska was beyond our expectations. If you have never visited Dawson City and the International Days, you have missed a great time and I hope you will have a chance to go.

After Dawson City, I returned to Fairbanks for my Official Visit to Tanana Lodge No. 3, North Pole Lodge No. 16, and Fairbanks Lodge No. 12. The

Grand Lodge Officer Line and I were treated royally. Thank you Fairbanks Lodges for the warm welcome and friendship.

Next, we visited Mt. McKinley Lodge No. 5 and it is always enjoyable to see the city of Cordova. The lodge members are not numerous but the brotherly love is as warm as any larger lodge. The lodge brethren told us some stories about the amount of snow they received this past winter. We were treated to a sight seeing tour of the Cordova area.

Since Valdez and the Kenai received numerous inches of rain during the month of September and had major flood damage, I talked with the Worshipful Master of each Lodge and their respective District Deputy and we decided to reschedule the Official Visit until later. The Junior Grand Warden and I traveled to Valdez on October 2 and our Official Visit was well received. The lodge officers, the Junior Grand Warden, and I discussed the lodge's problems and solutions over breakfast the next morning before we departed.

All of the Grand Lodge Officer Line traveled to Kodiak for their Official Visit on October 8, 2012. Many of the lodge members are very new Master Masons and had to fill officer chairs they were not familiar with. The opening and closing of the lodge was very well done. I believe we have some potentially great candidates for lodge officers in the future. I wish to thank Kodiak Lodge for receiving the Grand Lodge Officers and myself. Because of the weather, we spent three days in Kodiak.

Because of the severe weather and flooding in October, we rescheduled the Official Visit to Kenai Lodge No. 11, Seward Lodge No. 6, and Sterling Lodge No. 22 for October 18, 2012. The meeting was well attended by many brethren from the Kenai area. We were given a very warm welcome and a wonderful evening of friendship.

Brethren of all the lodges within Alaska, I sincerely thank everyone for the friendship you have extended to the Grand Lodge Officers and to me especially. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve every one of you as the Grand Master of Alaska. I hope to see everyone at the Grand Lodge of Alaska's Grand Communication on February 5, 6, 7, and 8, 2013 in Anchorage at the Sheraton Hotel. Your secretary has the registration forms.

May the God of Love and Peace Delight to Dwell with you and Bless You.

MW Jerry W. Pinion
Grand Master

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"If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."

— Benjamin Franklin



Light from the Great Land

Join the George Washington Memorial Society

In 2011, the Memorial Association's Board of Directors approved the creation of a new Society comprising a select group of members dedicated to supporting the Memorial and its mission. The purpose of the George Washington Memorial Society is to raise funds for and to increase awareness of the Memorial among Masons and in the community. Membership in the Society consists exclusively of **Charter Members** and Regular Members.

Charter Members are those who donate \$1,000 or more to the Memorial with their membership application from now until February 22, 2013, and \$250 or more per year thereafter. Charter Members will receive a unique patent signifying their membership in the Society, a distinctive, high-quality medal, and a specially produced lapel pin. The names of Charter Members will be placed on a permanent plaque in the Memorial and displayed on the Memorial's website. Charter Members will also be invited to a private reception at the gala celebration of George Washington's Birthday at the Memorial each year. The deadline to become a Charter Member is February 22, 2013.

Regular Members are those who make an initial donation of \$500 or more to the Memorial with their membership application and donate \$250 or more per year thereafter. Regular Members will receive a unique patent signifying their membership in the Society, plus a specially produced lapel pin.

Membership in the George Washington Memorial Society is available to both Masons and non-Masons who wish to provide ongoing support to the Memorial and its vital projects and programs. Applications

for both types of membership are available on the Memorial's website, gwmemorial.org, and payment can be made directly online for your convenience.

For more information about the GWMS, please contact the Memorial's Executive Director George Seghers at [703.683.2007, x2010](tel:703.683.2007) or gseghers@gwmemorial.org.

Note: The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law.



The George Washington Memorial Society's limited edition medal will be presented only to Charter Members



Light from the Great Land

Deputy Grand Master



YOU'RE YEAR AS WORSHIPFUL MASTER

By the Time this is published I am sure that most every lodge in Alaska will have held their elections for the year. For those that were elected to the most honorable position as Worshipful Master I want to congratulate you and wish you all the best in the coming year. Your year as Worshipful Master can be a very rewarding experience or it can be frustrating. Let me help you out if I may?

One of the most important responsibilities you have is appointing a line that will support you during your year in the east. You should select brothers that want to be there and learn those next two chairs above them. You want brothers that are willing to learn the work and put it to memory and not read out of the book. Look for a brother that is willing to step up in case someone is not able to make it for whatever reason.

The next thing to do is plan out your year. I have on my wall the twelve month calendar all on one big page so I can list things I want to accomplish during the year. By having it laided out, you can see at a glance where I am weak or strong or have things that conflict with each other and be a problem. The summer is not a good time to commit a lot to due to the fact that everyone is fishing, camping and enjoying the summer months.

Put your budget together. Ask the advice of the Past Masters in your lodge and your Treasurer to help with this. You will be surprised at the different suggestions you get and how easy it is to put that budget together.

Be pro-active and appoint your standing committees now. I cannot emphasize enough the im-

portance of selecting brothers for the different committees that are willing to do the job. After selecting the different committees you should sit down with each one of them and spell out what you would like to see accomplished. Let them know that you are willing to help but it's their responsibility to be ready to report the activity of the month at the next stated meeting.

Get the family involved with your lodge. Plan evenings that are fun and include the kids. Other evenings should be just for adults. There are several lodges in the state that do an outstanding job in this area. Attend other lodges and ask for help or advice. I've been to every lodge in the state and I have yet to ask a question on any subject and not get a response. Some I have used and others I have not. If you are willing to listen, you will be surprised at some of the different ways each lodge is accomplishing the same problem you are having. As the old saying goes "listen and learn"

Last is the Grand Master Award of Excellence. I see no reason why there should not be 20 Worshipful Masters receiving this award this year and next year. It is doable.

Good luck and if I can be of any assistance please don't hesitate to ask. If I can help you I will. My year for 2013 maybe pretty busy but I'm always a text, email or phone call away.

Fraternally

RW James R. Herrington
Deputy Grand Master of F&AM of Alaska





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Senior Grand Warden



My Brothers,

Wow can you believe Christmas is around the corner. Where did this year go? Kathy and I would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays.

I promise you this Alaska Mason will know what my

message is during my tenure in Grand Lodge. Just in case you didn't, I mentioned how we are a Fraternal Organization with business challenges. All Lodges must have a plan; in other words, a Long Range Plan (LRP). We should have at least a 3 year plan, but a 5 year plan is preferred. Your plan should be agreed upon by your elected officers. Why? Because some task may take years to achieve!!!! Listed below are some suggested topics that should be in your LRP.

Membership

Retention

Mentoring!!!!!!!!!!!!

Restoration

Get the members back to lodge.

And the ones that demitted too

Recruitment

Become a member of the Chamber of Commerce and go to their lunches as Freemasons

Finance

Budget

Wills and Endowments

Fundraising

Masonic Education

By now each lodge should have a LRP in place. If you haven't started your LRP, now is a good time

to start. Please know that Grand Lodge is here if you need help.



Today I'll write about Finance

We suggest that the new officers for 2013 create a budget. It can be as simple as you want. Budgeting is a great way to see, on a yearly basis, **what your income is and what your expenses are.** Obviously if your expenses are larger than your income then your lodge has a problem. For lodges that own their own building, you have a bigger challenge. As you already know the up keep on a building can be a major drain. And if you end up deferring your maintenance on the building, the building will start looking neglected. And if you have a neglected looking building that will portray your image of your lodge. Another advantage to have a budget is – if your bills for the month are a budgeted item and your lodge has already approved the budget for the year, you do not have to bring it up to the stated meeting. Which means you can spend more time doing the things in lodge that attract your members to the meetings (i.e. MASONIC EDUCATION)



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Above you will notice Wills and Endowment. That's really a sub category under Finance. Wills and Endowments is a must for your Long Range Financial plan. Most lodges may have a member or we know a member that has Wills and financial planning background that can help you set up an active program. Let me give you an example why it is so important to have a Wills and Endowment program.

Let's say you have 100 members in your lodge. And each member leaves \$10,000 endowment in their will for your lodge. And we have an average of 3 brothers that pass on to the lodge above per year. That gives you \$30,000.00 per year to invest in any way your lodge wants. I'm sure I'll get some flack about writing about this subject. I do not want to offend anyone.

Fundraising can be a challenge to some lodges. My suggestion is to start small and easy; the ole KISS system. "Keep it simple stupid". This year do a sweet-heart dinner and invite non masons too. A nice dinner plan can make a few hundred dollars. Remember if you do a raffle and the raffle is sold to others outside our fraternity, you must have a State of Alaska gaming permit. Again brothers if you need help please let us know.

My Friends, Please contact me anytime. I'll be happy to help set up a plan or even come to your lodge to explain further. I'm here to support you and your lodge.

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

Remember if we work as a team we can grow.

Fraternally Yours,
David Worel
Sr. Grand Warden

Junior Grand Warden



Hello Brethren,

This year has been an exciting time for me, and difficult to adjust. I was beginning to believe that I might have bitten off more than I could chew. The Grand Master had his calendar for this year and we were expected to follow it as best as we were able. I missed many things, as my wife and I had made some previous commitments that we couldn't ignore. The other Grand Lodge officers came to my rescue and pointed out that they also had to make the same adjustments and not to worry, do the best that you can this year and get used to schedule changes, and get ready to jump in next year.

My very first visit was to attend Waheed Court #81 Installation, and I was delighted to see Lady Sandy take her well-deserved station, followed by GM Meeting with Concordant Body Leaders.

April 3rd saw us on the way to Mt. Juneau/Gastineaux, afterward the WM and the others were on their way to visit the rest of our brethren in the South-eastern Lodges and I had to return to Anchorage to attend a Court date. Yes I even missed Hawaii, darn it. I was able to attend Aurora 15, Anchorage 17 and Glacier 10 with the Grand Master during his Official Visits.

During the month May I was fortunate to visit the joint Official visit of Matanuska 7, Eagle River 13 and Iditarod 20 lodges, accompanied by WB Mark Sledge, Anchorage No. 17 Worshipful Master. We had a very nice visit and good food afterward.

June was a very busy month. "My first out of state visit" The Grand Lodge of Oregon, Grand Master Richard Martin appointed a host to see that my visit was a success. My Hosts were Ken and Judy Hall, a very, very nice couple, and I didn't have worry about anything at all. I had the honor of being the Grand Master's Representative from Alaska, for this visit. The weather was cloudy and rainy every day except the last evening an then Seaside showed her beauty, and I witnessed one of the most beautiful sunsets ever.

AF&AM work is a bit different than F&AM work,



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and I can see why MW Jerry is stressing “DO ALASKAN WORK”. Thanking my Hosts and saying good byes, I was able to catch the last day of the Grand Lodge of Washington across the river at Vancouver Washington, and I was able to attend one dinner with our Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master. After meeting with my counterpart, I headed home.

Our next project was the visit to Grand Lodge of B.C. and Yukon, where all four of the Grand Lodge Officers were able to attend. We were joined by brothers from Whitehorse and Dawson City, Tom Mickey, John Johnson, Don Frizel, Monte Ervin, and others from Fairbanks, who have dual memberships with Dawson City Lodge. I was amazed by the number of members attending and by the difference in the work. We were received and treated very well and look forward to return next year.

I finished June by being able to accompany the Grand Master to the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG) Grand Assembly in Fairbanks. These Young Ladies really showed us how to do their work and we were properly impressed.

My next big venture was the trip to International Days at Dawson City, Yukon Territory, and what a trip! The Grand Master drove his truck and the Deputy Grand Master and his lady and Linda and I each took our Motor Homes. We took the Taylor Highway and what is called the Top of the World Highway. It was a beautiful trip, up on top of the world. The sky was clear and you were able to see as far as the eye could see. Only one big problem, the road was hard packed dirt steep and curvy and barely two lanes, with no guard rails. Linda does not do well in high places, however we made it in fine shape. There was no way I could convince her that we were going to return by the same route. WE came home by way of Whitehorse. I am glad that we did, because about one third of the way from Dawson to Whitehorse the right rear tire just blew up, and had we been that far on the top of The World Highway, we would have likely been tumbling down the side of the mountain.

Now this being Sunday, nothing was open for business and of course Monday was Labor Day all closed. Tuesday we found that no one had the right tires for our rig and they had to fly in a pair. We weren't able to leave until Friday and missed Grand Master's visit to Fairbanks.

September 13th found three of us at Mt. McKinley#5. The brethren were short on members but we opened and a

held meeting, after we had a very nice meal. The next morning we were treated to breakfast and some wonderful sightseeing, as we waited for our airplane to bring us home.

September 21st required us to choose between California Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Idaho. I was asked to represent the Grand Master at Idaho and the rest went to California. Now VW Robert Wiseman has been attending the GL of Idaho for some time as a Grand Representative and he has been doing a very good job. Bob has won their hearts with his smoked salmon, and he graciously shared the honor of representing the Grand Master this year. I was received by my counterpart, RW G. Arthur Shoemaker, and treated to my second A.F.&A.M. meeting. I was received and introduced as G.M.'s representative, exchanged gifts between GM Jay Leonard and GM Jerry Pinion, attended the Grand Master ball and M.M. Diner, and stayed for Installation of Officers. I thanked my sponsors, congratulated the new officers, and presented a gift from GM Pinion to the incoming GM Keith C. Brooks .

On October 8, I accompanied the Grand line on the Grand Master's official visit to Kodiak #9. MW Jarred Decker greeted us warmly. We assisted in opening lodge, had a nice feed afterwards, and met new members and a potential member. We spent the night there and were at Airport early only to be informed our flight was canceled due to fog. Unfortunately, the fog did not clear off for two days

Official visit to Valdez Lodge #4, WM Robert Deaver warmly greeted GM Jerry and myself. We had a productive meeting and nice diner afterwards. We met for breakfast and talked about any concerns that lodge had and assured them we would be of assistance, if and when needed.

Official visit to Kenai Lodge #11 WM Ralph Sterling: We had a good meeting, we were received well and all was productive. We had a nice dinner and returned home the same evening.

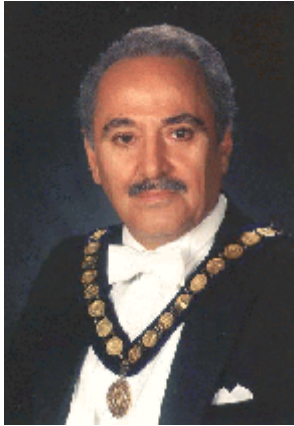
Fraternally Yours
RW Douglas C. Teninty, JGW





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From the Desk of the Grand Secretary



Frontiers of Freemasonry
By Mansour Hatefi, PGM
Grand Secretary of the Grand
Lodge of the District of Co-
lumbia, F.A.A.M.

My brethren, it has been said that high ideals are the building blocks of civilization; and striving for those ideals constitutes the essence of human progress. As one surveys the course of human history and with it the apparent but sometimes frustrating ebb and flow of improvements to our civil society, one must be especially impressed by the rapidity and the extent of the influence of the great American experiment on the cause of democracy worldwide. Never in the history of civilization has a single political power established itself more quickly than the U.S. as a driving force, shaping current thought on the destiny of man.

The early growth of the United States was territorially and economically phenomenal. In the spirit popularly enunciated by the 19th century principles of “Manifest Destiny”, territories and/or states were quickly added to the original 13 states, one by one, and by 1850 the U.S. had control of lands that extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In these developments social and cultural proclivities were a significant part of the movement.

Our political destiny, the creation of the present 50 states, including non-contiguous Alaska and Hawaii, was ultimately fulfilled in 1959, the last year in which American Grand Lodges, as a whole, recorded a net gain in membership. The Manifest Destiny of the nation had been achieved; the frontier had been conquered; all that remained was to nurture and support

the result.

In contemplation of the evolution of the state structure in our American republic, it is inevitable that the thoughtful man will appreciate that there has also been a Manifest Destiny for Masonry in this country. The Craft in America, being irrefutably tied to the republic's expansion, territory by territory, and state by state, was a part of that effort.

Freemasonry, in short, played an active role as a frontier fraternal force; hopefully it will do so again! One cannot help but appreciate the process whereby Masons in a given Grand Lodge would encourage, through the chartering of lodges in adjacent states or territories, the formation of new Grand Lodges. Typically, one or more Grand Lodges would charter subordinate lodges in virgin territory, and in due time, as the infrastructure of the new settlements was established, a coalition of these lodges would unite to form a new independent Grand Lodge. In this process Grand Lodges created as provincial bodies actively promoted those that were not.

It was by this method that the Grand Lodge structure of Freemasonry in this country quickly evolved. By the end of the 18th century there were 13 U.S. Grand Lodges in operation; by the end of the next 5 decades, another 24 had been added. When the 19th century ended, 48 Grand Lodges had been created (one being in Oklahoma Territory). A full inventory was achieved in the 1980's with the addition of the Grand Lodges in Alaska (1981) and Hawaii (1989).

Thus it is evident that the structure of Freemasonry in America was fairly well established by the beginning of the 20th century. That is not to say that it has not been subsequently modified, for it has. But in broad outline, the frontier of Masonry in this country was fixed by 1900, and the challenge then became one of strengthening the institution through preservation and development.



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By 1959 there were 4,103,161 Masons on the roles of U.S. Grand Lodges, an all-time high. It may be assumed that 1959 likewise marked the year when an all-time high in the total number of functioning subordinate lodges in our Grand Lodges was also reached. At that point, however, the favorable trend, which was so long enjoyed, began to turn sour. During the next 50 years Masonic membership in this country declined, without interruption, until it reached a low of 1,373,453 in 2010.

Paralleling the decline in membership is a probable decline in the number of chartered lodges in operation. Instead of cultivating the frontier, as Masons had done in our formative years, the energy of the Craft was redirected to lodge preservation. Our effort became defensive rather than offensive, one of retention rather than growth, of retreat under the best possible terms. Unquestionably, the frontier had changed and we failed to adjust ourselves to the new reality.

It is interesting to view these trends against the backdrop of Masonry worldwide.

According to the List of Lodges Masonic, there were seven Grand Lodges in the mother countries prior to the dawn of the 19th century, during which 37 new Grand Lodges were subsequently created in areas other than the U. S. Concurrently, the mother countries chartered hundreds of subordinate lodges wherever their national interests carried the flag.

The creation of new Grand Lodges outside of the U.S. continued briskly throughout the 20th century, over the course of which at least 76 such grand bodies were established in all parts of the world, including countries in Africa and the Far East. That movement has been continuing in current century, with about two dozen more Grand Lodges having been newly created abroad. The List of Lodges, moreover, indicates that subsequent to 1800, another six Grand Lodges, whose dates of consecration are unstated, were created.

It should be noted that from 1960 to date, a period when all the North American and old European Grand Lodges were experiencing continual membership stagnation or decline in, at least 35 new Grand Lodges were established elsewhere. Moreover, while reliable membership trends for most of these young Grand Lodges are yet to be compiled, fragmentary data clearly suggest that numerical trends in them are quite favorable. Development on the frontiers of Masonry in the developing countries of the world, to date, appears to have been fruitful.

Unfortunately our response to demographic diversity here in this country has been mostly protective and defensive as we have labored to preserve our past. We have focused efforts on the preservation of dwindling assets rather than on the exploitation of a changed and essentially new frontier. Every community today, in the year 2011, differs in substance or degree from what it was just a quarter of century ago. Moreover, in the totality of that difference, there is latent opportunity.

Over the years in which I have lived in the area of Washington, D.C., I have been privileged to witness the remarkable transformation of demographic and social patterns in our nation's capital. That transformation has been equally apparent in the adjacent suburbs. Formerly empty areas have been settled and in each of them an infrastructure of commercial, educational, and spiritual outposts has been established. Missing, however, in almost every instance, is a local Masonic lodge. This begs the question: "Why?"

For this we have only ourselves to blame. While the leadership of other community interests has been busy exploiting opportunity, we have instead busied ourselves with efforts designed primarily to keep semi-dormant lodges alive; to merge two weak lodges into one larger weak lodge; and to close lodge structures in areas of changing demographics.



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Our forays into public relations are usually reactive rather than probative, and defensive rather than aggressive in nature.

The Grand Lodge of Washington D.C. is well acquainted with this depressing routine. Until 1990 its energies largely focused on the retention of its past, to the fullest extent possible, rather than the sober exploitation of evolving opportunities. At that point in time our Grand Lodge entered into a period of self-examination of the customs and practices then prevailing.

In this survey it was quickly determined that the Washington, D.C. of 1990 was significantly different ethnically, racially, and functionally than it was in 1960. The city, it was agreed, was no longer the quiet and sleepy southern town it long had been; indeed, since the conclusion of World War II, it had become a leading city of the world, a place of international import. The new role and function of the jurisdiction, they reasoned, required new assessments and new approaches, if Masonry was to be a significant player and stakeholder in this new local frontier.

The obviously changed and still changing demographics of the city, it was reasoned, demanded an inventory of the diminished number of lodges and consideration of how Masonic membership-eligible residents of the city could be best served. It was concluded that the lodges then available were insufficient to accommodate many specific resident groups. This finding led quickly to the chartering of the first new lodge to be created in 47 years, Mehr Lodge No. 90, which was authorized to work in the Persian language. The only other lodge working in a foreign language at that time was Arminius Lodge No. 25, a lodge which had been operating continuously in German since 1876. Additional charters were soon thereafter granted to several other linguistic groups and there are now also chartered lodges on our rolls that do their work in Spanish, French, Italian, Armenian,

and the Turkic language.

All told, a total of 22 lodges have been chartered in the District of Columbia since 1990, of which 20 remain in operation. Among them is Phoenix Lodge No. 1001, consecrated in Beirut, capital of the Republic of Lebanon, on October 10, 2010. This is the only lodge on the register of the Grand Lodge of D.C. that operates in a foreign country, where jurisdiction is shared with two other Grand Lodges. During the period since 1990 the Grand Lodge chartered three lodges that since became founding lodges in newly-created Grand Lodges abroad.

In the list of newly-created lodges are several that were created to accommodate special-interest groups. While most are fairly small, each of them offers Masonic dialogue to those having specific and well-defined interests, social, educational, occupational, regional, racial, and spiritual. We believe that now men of every division of society can find suitable and comfortable Masonic options to satisfy their particular interests.

The developments of the past 20 years on our Masonic frontier have mandated adjustment of a number of our earlier practices. Notable on this score was the early decision to permit lodges to adjust meeting schedules to reflect the practicalities governing membership size and participation. Thus the Grand Lodge has permitted its lodges to adjust their schedules to conform to situational reality; hence, some meet monthly, some twice a month; some quarterly, semi-monthly, or on some other approved schedule.

The expansion of the number of lodges in the District of Columbia has also necessitated modifications in previously prevailing ritualistic norms, when all work was done in accord with the standard ritual of the District of Columbia. With the chartering of lodges to work in foreign languages, it became necessary to permit those lodges to use alter-



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native rituals. Many of them work the emulation ritual of Europe in a language of their choice.

In working the new frontier in the District of Columbia the Grand Lodge has authorized the addition of other books of faith alongside the Holy Bible as a part of the furniture of all lodges. We have further authorized the publication and distribution of the coded English-language ritual of the Grand Lodge; the introduction and promotion of a truly revolutionary concept now known throughout the country as the Grand Master's Class (first initiated by this Grand Jurisdiction in 1992, but discontinued since 2007); the lowering from 21 to 18 as the minimum age for petitioners; the allowance for lodges, with advance permission, to meet at locations other than established lodge facilities; and the authorization of lodges to dispatch business on any convenient degree, at the discretion of the Master.

While widening its local attitudes and practices, the Grand Lodge of D.C. has been particularly attentive to the evolving globalization of Freemasonry. To that end, it has authorized its officers to not only to become active in conferences and associations serving the American Grand Lodges, but also to promote and participate in the globalization of Freemasonry by their attendance at intercontinental or world gatherings of the Craft and by sponsorship of imaginative and innovative programs designed to foster universal brotherhood.

I believe that we in D.C. now have a better appreciation of our particular "frontier" than ever before. Furthermore, we are grateful for the progress that we have made in the past 20 years. At long last we have come to understand that change is a constant, and that adaptability, in the long run, is the key to the Craft's survival.

While the past two decades have been momentous for Masonry on the Potomac, there is still much work to

be done in a never ending effort designed, not to master, but to serve our designated territory. Challenges grow in mass and intensity with each passing day as we continue to cope with frontier issues, old and new -- past, present, and evolving. Hence, as we strive to satisfy the needs of the present, we also plan necessarily for the very nebulous future.

To that end we are also laboring over plans: (a) to reclaim parts of the city that have been lost, in the past, to regular Masonry; (b) to reestablish meeting places, traditional and non-traditional, in those areas from which we retreated; (c) to assure the implementation of prudent investment and spending strategies sufficient to support Masonic offensives as they develop; (d) to use modern technology, not only to communicate and keep accurate records, but also to identify frontier opportunities and/or dangers; and (e) to develop a meaningful and working relationship with all recognized Masonic bodies in the city.

Admittedly, the Masonic frontier of our Grand Lodge may appear to differ substantially from many others; I would submit, however, that in principle our frontiers are more similar than different. I am convinced that all Grand Lodges, old or young, large or small, are faced with similar "frontier" issues, and that success or failure in attaining the goals of the Craft, will undoubtedly reflect the interest, dedication, and resolve of its members to learn from the past, build in the present, and look forward, fearlessly, to the challenges of the evolving future.





Light from the Great Land

News from Around the Jurisdiction

DISTRICT No. 1:



Brethren,

For years I have wondered why we light the Lesser Lights during the opening of the lodge, and why do we extinguish them at the closing? Why do we extinguish them when we go to refreshment? Nowhere in our ritual does it tell us to. In the opening the Senior Deacon is ordered to open (or arrange) the Great Lights, and in the closing he is ordered to close the Great Lights. No mention of the Lesser Lights. The only mention of the Lesser Lights is during initiation when the Master instructs the candidate to behold the Three Great Lights of Masonry, by aid of the Three Lesser Lights. I have searched many Masonic Volumes and found nothing to further enlighten me on the subject, until recently. I came across a Masonic Service Association Short Talk Bulletin that was originally published in February, 1926, that states Masonic Tradition is that "They are supposed to be lighted as soon as the lodge is opened, and then the Altar is arranged; to be extinguished after the Altar is disarranged, and the Great Lights displaced." This makes sense to me when one considers that our ancient Brethren had no electricity and met outside at night. The Lesser Lights would have had to be illuminated in order for the Senior Deacon to see to what verse he was opening the Bible. I have heard many discussions on the subject, and everyone has their own opinion as to Lodge tradition. For what it's worth, my opinion is that Masonic Tradition takes precedence. After all, every Master obligates himself to strictly comply with, abide by, and enforce all Ancient Masonic Usages, and agrees that it is not in the power of any man, or body of men, to make innovation in the body of Masonry. **The Short Talk Bulletin is reproduced on Page 16 of this newsletter.** Read it and glean from it what

you will. I provide it for those who may have had the same questions I had and to save them the years of wondering and searching that it took me to finally find an answer.

Tanana 3 held elections on November 14th and Installation is scheduled for Saturday, December 8th at 11:00am. A lunch reception will follow Installation. A Fellowcraft Degree is scheduled for November 28th at 7:00pm.

Valdez 4 will hold elections and installation at the Stated meeting on December 11th.

Fairbanks 12 held elections at the Stated Meeting on November 15th and Installation is scheduled for 6:30pm on Thursday, December 27th. A Past Masters Dinner will be held at 6:30pm on Thursday November 29th at Tanana Lodge. Cost is \$20 per person. It will be a catered dinner of Margarita Chicken and Beef Roast with sides and dessert. Beginning in January Fairbanks 12 will be moving their meeting location to the Tanana Lodge building. The meeting day and time will not change.

North Pole 16 will hold elections at the Stated Meeting on November 19. Installation has been set for December 17 at the monthly stated meeting. North Pole #16's stated meetings have had more discussion concerning Masonic education and what the Lodge can do to make meetings more interesting. They have discussed having an open house again, encouraging inactive members to attend Lodge more often, and make sure they are taking care of candidates or newly raised Master Masons; making sure they know they're welcome. There has been a lot of talk about how our Fraternity used to have a more social feel to it, and what we can do to help it be that way again.

Fraternally submitted,
VW Mike Starkey, DDGM District 1



Light from the Great Land

News from Around the Jurisdiction - Cont.

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DISTRICT No. 2:
Reported by WB Bill Roberts

Sterling Lodge #22 and the "Spirit" of Masonry

While delivering food from the Sterling Area Senior Center to shut-in citizens within the area of Sterling, AK, a members of Sterling Lodge #22 saw a need & a chance for our Lodge to show the spirit of Masonry by "Lending a Helping Hand" to one of our Senior Citizens by refurbishing her two porches.



He presented this need and an approximate cost for the project to the Lodge. The Lodge members

purchased the items needed (paint, lag bolts, screws, etc.) and furnished the labor to complete the task with no cost to the homeowner.



On August 15, 2012, members of Masonic Lodge #22 refurbished the two porches. Needless to say, the homeowner was very happy and thankful for our help.





Light from the Great Land

News from Around the Jurisdiction - Cont.

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DISTRICT No. 4:
Reported by
VW Al Brookman, Deputy

Mt Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge # 21 is looking forward to receiving PGM Ron Ackerman, GM Jerry Pinion, and DGM Jim Herrington on Dec 7th & 8th, for our MM Conferal. It will be a 2 day event, the GM's party will be provided, with a car and dinner will be served for the 2 nights, while they will be here. RW Jim Herrington will deliver the lecture in the MM Degree.

Election of officers for 2013 was held on the Dec. stated meeting, with the following results: WM Dan Logan, SW Ken Vaughan, JW Paul Moran, Treas. Brad Kiefer & Sec. Dan McCrummen.

Past Masters Night will be held Nov. 20th at 7PM in the lodge. Nov 10th the Shrine Annual Turkey Bash was held with over 50 people present. After the dinner, Eastern Star, held a pie and white elephant auction and made over \$ 800.00. Everyone stayed and had a good evening of fellowship.

Dec 15th, a joint Installation of Officers for 2013, will take place with Blue Lodge 1st and then Eastern Star, and afterwards it will be followed by a large dinner of steak & chicken open to all Masons, Star, and their family & friends..

Mt. Verstovia Lodge #18 met Thursday Nov 1st at their Stated meeting and elected the following officers: WM Darrell Windsor, SW Jack Ozment, Treas. Don Alexander & Sec. Thomas Brown. The degree work & proficiencies continue.

\$150.00 was donated to the high school wrestling team, and the lodge agreed to spend up to \$250 on pamphlets from the Masonic Information Center. Also, an invitation was sent to the 3rd grade teachers of the school to prepare nominations for the next bicycle awards program.

The Shrine Club is to meet Nov 8th at Van Winkle.

White Pass Lodge #1 has had 2 EA degrees and, on Nov.17th, one of the new Masons will be made a FC Mason.

The installation of officers for 2013 will be held at their January meeting and all officers remain the same.

Skagway being a small town, so activities are slow and quiet, yet Masonry is important and all are kept busy.

This is the PGM Ron Ackerman's home lodge and he still plays an important part, seeing that Masonry does continue to be strong. His inspiration to keep White Pass Lodge #1 up and running does shine bright.

Petersburg Lodge # 23,

No Report – (Roger must be out fishing with the guys!!!!)

Ketchikan Lodge #19, the following report was provided by WB Jeff DeFreest: Ketchikan has initiated Dave Hayden, he passed his EA and now his FC, for which the lodge has much pride. He should have moved to MM before the end of the year.

The lodge has received a request from a Prince Hall Mason to transfer membership to the Grand Lodge of Alaska. He is stationed in Ketchikan as a state policeman.

I have enjoyed working with the 5 lodges in District 4, they have been courteous, and cooperative, and have responded to my questions. Their help has been an inspiration to me in the 2 years I have been Deputy in District 4. With All their help and interest, we have kept the Grand Lodge of Alaska, informed of the activities in Southeast.

Respectfully Submitted:
VW Al Brookman
Deputy in District 4



Light from the Great Land

News from Around the Jurisdiction - Cont.

(Continued from Page 13)



DISTRICT No. 5:

Reported by the
VW Dennis Oakland, Deputy

Greetings Brethren,

Well, September was a very busy month, with the State Fair ending and my retirement as Fair Booth Committee Chairman; District 5 still had lots of Lodge work ahead. Matanuska Lodge had its Joint Friendship Night with Iditarod Lodge, but we were again disappointed with the number of persons who signed up at the Fair, but never showed up for the evening's festivities. Two young men and a young lady, none of whom had any intention of joining, but were very polite and had an enjoyable evening of Fellowship.

I followed this event up with my Official Visitation to Eagle River Lodge the following Monday and received a warm reception at which I spoke again about the Grand Masters message, and also reminded the brethren of the Corvette Raffle for the Grand Lodge fundraiser.

The following week members of Eagle River again went out and picked up more trash along the Glenn Highway. That same week, Matanuska Lodge conferred a 2nd Degree, which went very well. I am very impressed with the steady and committed improvement in ritual and degree work that all three lodges in District 5 have shown.

On Saturday September 22nd, I hosted a District "Wardens Charge" presentation which was very well attended, but unfortunately was interrupted near the closing by a frantic call that WB Russell Sanders had been hospitalized.

Things slowed a bit in October, but several Alaska Masons travelled to Boise Idaho for the York Rite

Northwest Department Conference, and a great time was had by all. The Leadership Program was very educational and I recommend it for any Mason who is interested in pursuing that venue.

This November, Eagle River elected Br. Scott Carnahan Worshipful Master, Br. Tim Parris as Senior Warden and WB Dylan Youngblood as Junior Warden. WB Nick Choromanski was re-elected Treasurer and RW Jerry Wasson re-elected as Lodge Secretary. Matanuska Lodge Re-elected WB Mitch Coulthard, Master, Br. Tom Lehe as SW and, WB Norm Gutcher as JW. WB Ted Hutchinson was re-elected Treasurer and VW Dennis Oakland as Secretary. Iditarod Lodge elected WB Dennis Alvord, Master, WB Durward "Bones" Cannon, SW, and WB Creig Boyd, JW. VWB V. Clifford Darnell was reelected Treasurer and VWB Roger Hansen was reelected Secretary.

I am looking forward to all the lodge installations coming up next month.

Respectfully Submitted:
VW Dennis Oakland
Deputy in District 5

MATANUSKA MASONIC FOUNDATION



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Light from the Great Land

Grand Lodge of Alaska Trip Save the Date February 22, 2014

“Participation in Grand Lodge of the Month has been outstanding. The program was initiated to recognize and honor the Grand Lodges that created the Memorial association and constructed the Memorial. It exemplifies a united effort by the diverse and geographically separated Brethren who support and maintain the Memorial.”

From LIGHT of the George Washington Memorial

The Grand Lodge of Alaska has been identified as the representative Grand Lodge at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA for the month of February 2014. As the Conference of Grand Master of Masons in North American will be meeting in Baltimore, MD February 15—18, 2014, and several Alaska Masons are already planning to attend, this provides a unique opportunity for all Alaska Masons to visit our nation’s capitol and the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Plans are currently in the works for a Grand Lodge of Alaska trip to “the Memorial” and several activities are being explored, which include:

- Opening a special session of the Grand Lodge of Alaska in the George Washington Masonic Memorial
- A visit to George Washington’s home at Mt. Vernon
- A visit to the House of the Temple, A&ASR,SJ
- A visit to the Smithsonian Institute and National Monuments
- Participation in the Memorial’s Gala Celebration of George Washington’s birthday on February 22, 2014

For more information, please contact RW Dave Worel at 907-378-4640 or email dw@nlhc.com.



Light from the Great Land

Lesser Lights

The following Short Talk Bulletin is reproduced here with permission from the Masonic Service Association of North America (<http://www.msana.com/>). (Editor)

SHORT TALK BULLETIN Vol.IV February, 1926 No.2

When an initiate is first brought into the light in a Masonic Lodge, the radiance come from the Lesser Lights, which form a triangle about the Altar. It seems, at first, rather odd that so great and important a symbol should receive such scant attention in the ritualistic body of Freemasonry.

We are instructed that they are called Lesser Lights, that they are placed in a triangle, that by their light we may see other objects, that they represent the Sun, Moon and Worshipful Master, for certain reasons which are rather briefly explained . . . and that is all! Later on we learn, more by example than by precept, more by custom than by law, that Lesser Lights are always lit when a lodge is opened. Even when their flames do not really burn (have you ever stood at a grave side on a day too windy to permit the flickering candle to send forth its light?) they are constructively burning. They are supposed to be lighted as soon as the lodge is opened, and then the Altar is arranged; to be extinguished after the Altar is disarranged, and the Great Lights displaced. But nowhere in our ritual are we told much of anything as to why all these things are so; how the Lesser Lights came to be; what their hidden, covered, secret, symbolic meaning is.

And you shall search through many a Masonic volume and tome and find no more light on the Lesser

Lights than the ritual gives. Mackey, the great authority, is unusually brief, and beyond drawing a parallel to the use of the seven branched candelabra as described in the Great Light, and stating that their use in Masonry is very old, they appearing in print in references to Masonry in the seventeenth century, adds practically nothing to the ritual explanations.

And yet it could not be possible that so important a symbol could have no more soul than is given in the few words we devote to it. It seems obvious that it is one of those symbols in Freemasonry . . . of which there are so many! . . . which the individual brother is supposed to examine and translate for himself, getting from it what he can, and enjoying what he gets in direct proportion to the amount of labor and thought he is willing to devote to the process of extracting the meaning from the outer covering.

Let us dig a bit together; labor in company is lightened always; a burden shared is a burden halved!

Immediately after the Lesser Lights are named, our attention is directed to the fact that they are in a triangle about the Altar. In some Jurisdictions they are closely about the Altar; in others, one is placed at each of the stations of the three principal officers.

In some lodges the three Lesser Lights form a right, in others an equilateral; in others an isosceles triangle. What is uniform through out the Masonic World is the triangular formation about the Altar; what is different is the shape and size of the triangle. Of course, it is not possible to place three lights to form anything else but a triangle, or a straight line; they cannot be made to form a square or a star. Which brings us to the first place in which to sink our Masonic shovel; why are there three Lesser





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Lights, and not two or four?

There are a number of reasons. Any thinking brother has already discovered that there is "Three" throughout the whole system of Ancient Craft Masonry; three degrees, three steps, three ancient Grand Masters; and so on. It will be no surprise to recall that three is the first of the great Sacred Numbers of the ancient Mysteries, and that it is the numerical symbol of God. Not, if you please, because God was necessarily considered triune.. While many religions of many ages and peoples have conceived of Divinity as a trinity, the figure three as a symbol of God is far older than any trinitarian doctrine. It comes from the triangle, which is the first possible figure made up of straight lines which is without either beginning or ending. One line, or two lines have ends. They start and finish. The triangle, like the square or the five or more sided figure, has no loose ends. and the triangle is the first of these which can be made; as God was always considered as first; and also as without either beginning or ending, the triangle itself soon became a symbol of Deity.

Sun worship was among the first of religions; let him who knows lay down the facts as to whether sun worship preceded fire worship, or fire worship that of the sun. To us it does not matter. Sun worship is far, far older than any recorded history; it goes back, far back, into the first dim mists which obscure the very first beginnings of intelligence. So it was only natural that the early worshipers should set a light beside their Altar or Holy place and name it for the sun.

Ancient peoples made much of sex. Their two greatest impulses were self-preservation and mating. Their third was protection of children. So enormously powerful were these impulses in primal man, that not all his civilization, his luxury, his complicated and involved life, have succeeded in removing these as the principal mainsprings of all human endeavor. It was natural for the savage worshiper of a shining God in the sky to think he, too, required a mate; especially when that mate was so plainly in evidence; the moon became the Sun's bride by a process of rea-

soning as plain as it was childlike.

Father, Mother . . . there must be a child, of course.

And that child was mercury, the nearest planet to the sun, the one the God kept closest to him. Here we have the origin of the three Lesser Lights; in earliest recorded accounts of the Mysteries of Eleusis (to mention only one) we find three lights about the Holy Place, representing the Sun, Moon and Mercury.

Albert Pike says:

They are still the three lights of a Masonic Lodge, except that for Mercury, the Master of the Lodge has been absurdly substituted."

Albert Pike was a very great and a very learned man.

To him Freemasonry owes a debt greater, perhaps, than to any other who ever lived; he gave her study, he brought forth her poetry, he interpreted her symbols, he defined her truths, he made plain much that she had concealed. But Pike himself defended the right of Masons to study and interpret the symbols of Freemasonry for themselves. So that it is with no thought of controversy with the immortal dead that many contend that there is no absurdity in Freemasonry taking the ancient lights which symbolized the Sun, Moon and Mercury, and making them stand for the Sun, Moon and Worshipful Master of His Lodge.

For the Sun and Moon give light. While it is true that there is no real "regularity" with which the Moon "Governs" the night . . . since the night gets a along just as well without the Moon as with her . . . she does give light when she is present. There is no question that the Sun Governs and Rules the day. And the Sun, of course lives light and life as well.

The Worshipful Master rules and governs his lodge as truly as the sun and Moon rule the day and night. There can be no lodge without a Worshipful Master; he is, in a very real sense, the lodge itself. There are some things he cannot do that the brethren, under him, can do. But, without him the brethren can do nothing, while he, without the brethren's consent or even their assistance, can do much. It is one of the principal functions of the Worshipful Master to dis-



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seminate light - Masonic Light - to his lodge. That the duty is as often honored by neglect as by performance has nothing to do with the fact that it is a duty.

So that the inclusion of a symbol of the Worshipful Master, as a giver of light, is to most of us neither fanciful nor absurd, but a logical carrying out of that Masonic doctrine which makes a Master a Giver of Light to his brethren.

The ritual instructs candidates that they behold the Great Lights of Masonry by the illumination of the Lesser Lights. This is an actual fact, but it is also a symbol. The Great Light cannot be read without light; the Square and Compasses cannot be used in the dark; and neither can be understood, nor can we make any use of them for the noble and glorious purposes taught us in Speculative Masonry, without we receive symbolic light, Masonic light from the East; that is, from the Worshipful Master, or those he delegates to bring that "Good and Wholesome Instruction" which is at once his duty and his happiness.

A lesson is taught in the references to regularity of the heavenly luminaries, as guides for the government of a lodge by the worshipful Master. The fact that the Moon is not "Regular" in her attendance upon the sun, or the night, and she does not, in any such sense as does the sun, "govern" that period of darkness in which she appears, in no way detracts from the force of these admonitions. For these phrases are very old, and go back to a time when men knew much less of astronomy than they do today; to a time when the moon, in popular belief, had much greater powers than she actually possesses. We know the moon to have almost no effect upon the earth, as far as our lives are concerned, save as she makes the tides. Our ancient brethren believed her light to be full of weird and wonderful powers; "Moon-Struck" and "Lunatic" (from luna, the moon) are symbol words of these ancient and now exploded beliefs. Less than two hundred years ago, many crimes, misdemeanors, beneficent influences and beautiful actions were ascribed to the moon; things evil had to be done "in the dark of the moon;" witch-

es were supposed to ride in moonlight; dogs bayed at the moon because by its light they could see what was hidden from mortal eyes; sheeted ghosts preferred moonlight to star light; incantations were never properly recited unless in the moonlight, and the moon gave or withheld crops, influenced the weather and, when eclipsed, foretold disaster.

With such a body of belief it is not surprising that the moon was considered, even by the educated, to have "governing" powers, whence, probably, her inclusion with such abilities into our ritual.

That we know better is in no sense antagonistic to our use of the old, old phrase in our ceremonies. We know better about many things. The knowledge of the art of architecture as set forth in the Middle Chamber lecture would get no one a job as office boy in a builder's office today. Our penalties, never enforced by Masons, are wholly symbolic. We have many other ways of transmitting intelligence today which are not included in a list of ways of writing and printing. But we love and repeat the old ritual because it is old; because it is a bond with those who have gone this way before us, because it is the time-tried and well-trusted way of making Masons, and we would not alter it; no, not for any modern phrases, no matter how deep in erudition they were steeped.

And so we continue to have our moon "govern" the night, and do it "regularly," too, finding in this a bond with other men of other times something dear and precious, none the less that the words portray only a fancy.

Indeed, the whole matter of the Lesser Lights is such a bond, and such a fancy. It would be far more accurate if we repeated "The Lesser Lights represent the Sun, the Earth and the Moon. As the sun, in its gravity, causes the earth to revolve around it in three-hundred and sixty-five and a fraction days, and the moon revolves about the earth in approximately twenty-eight days, so the earth is never without government and light, as all lodges should also be."

- **Source: Short Talk Bulletin - Feb. 1926**
[Masonic Service Association of North America](#)