



Light from the Great Land

Volume 4, Issue 1

March 1, 2012

Grand Master's Message

February 15, 2012

Greetings Brethren,



First, I want to thank all of the Brethren attending the 31st Annual Grand Lodge of Alaska for electing me as your Grand Master. It is an honor and a privilege to represent you as Grand Master of Masons in

Alaska. With the help of all brethren, the Grand Lodge Officers, Elected, Appointed, and Committeemen, the year of 2012 will be a fun and productive one.

MW Ron Ackerman and Lady Debbie worked very hard to make the 31st Grand Communication enjoyable and informative and my thanks go out to them and their committees. If you missed the Awards Banquet on Thursday night, the entertainment was especially enjoyable. MW Ron assisted the Rainbow Girls with a fashion show.

Inside this issue:

Report of the 31st Annual Communication	2
Calendar of Upcoming Events	4
Deputy Grand Master's Message	5
Senior Grand Warden's Message	5
Grand Lecturer's Message	7
News From Around the Jurisdiction	8
Mark Twain - Masonic Awareness Award	14
Annual Communication Photos	15

My theme for 2012 is "Getting Back to Alaska". The thrust of this is, I want all of the lodges to refresh their memory regarding the ritual work, the lectures, and charges. This means I want you to use the Alaska Ritual, Monitor, and Officer Handbook (and not some other Jurisdiction's) when we confer our degrees on the candidate. When you are presenting the degree lecture or charge, please review the Monitor and see if you are leaving out paragraphs or changing the meaning of sentences by inserting or removing words. Let's strive to make Alaska Masonry and our Masonic work the very best we can and please keep it Alaskan. It is a beautiful message that we and the candidate will remember for years to come.

If you log on to the Grand Lodge Web Site at www.alaska-mason.org, you will see the Grand Master's Travel Itinerary. My plans are to start the Official Visits in the Southeast on April 3, 2012 with the Visitation of Mt. Juneau-Gastineux Lodge No. 21 and continue throughout the Southeast ending in Skagway on April 7, 2012. Any and all brethren are invited to travel with the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge officers during their Official Visits or to other Grand Jurisdictions.

I am planning a meeting with the HEADS of the Masonic Concordant/Appendant Bodies on March 31, 2012 at the Anchorage Masonic Center, 1431 Eagle Street in Anchorage. An invitation will be sent to the Head of each Body.

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

MW Jerry W. Pinion
Grand Master

*"What is a man without energy?
Nothing. Nothing at all."*

-MARK TWAIN



Light from the Great Land

Report of the 31st Annual Communication

As reported by VW Mike Starkey
and VW Roger Hansen,

The Grand Lodge of Alaska met in annual communication February 2 – 3, 2012. It was great time to meet old friends and become acquainted with new ones. Grand Master, Ron Ackerman kept the sessions ahead of schedule and things never got frantic. All business was completed on time and with no difficulty. We even broke out early for lunch both days, and wrapped up early each afternoon. The Grand Masters Banquet and Fellowship Banquet were lots of fun, where we had good food and entertainment. The following are the highlights of the 31st annual session:

Awards and Recognition

The **Buckley C. Hazen award** for the highest percentage growth was presented to Kodiak Lodge No. 9.

The **James A. Williams award** for the most



Master Masons raised this year by Anchorage Lodge No. 17, Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18, and Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21; each lodge raised

six candidates to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.

The **Edward O. Weisser Performing Arts and Music Scholarship** was awarded Miss Sydney Alice Stone of Lathrop High School in Fairbanks, Alaska.

The **Grand Master's Award for Excellence** was earned by the following Worshipful Masters in 2011:

- Dennis Oakland Matanuska Lodge No. 7
- David Prentice Glacier Lodge No. 10
- Carlton Haenel Fairbanks 12
- Frank Weiss Eagle River 13
- Jonathan C. Ward Aurora Lodge No.15
- Dave Arnold North Pole 16
- Thomas Schram Anchorage 17
- David Creig Boyd Iditarod Lodge No. 20
- Steven Stewart Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21
- Bill Roberts Sterling 22

At the Fellowship Banquet on Thursday evening, Most Worshipful Ackerman awarded the **Mason of the Year for 2011** to VW Michael A. Starkey of Fairbanks, Alaska.



A highlight of Thursday evening's festivities was the **presentation of 50 year credentials and pin to MW Gene Freeman** by Grand Master Ackerman and PGM Johnnie L. Wallace, who were assisted in the presentation by WB Matt Thompson, master of Tanana



No. 3 (Gene's lodge). Congratulations MWB Gene! He assured us he will be back in 2037 to receive his 75 year pin.



Light from the Great Land

(Continued from Page 2)

Finally, during the Fellowship Banquet, Grand Master Ackerman participated in a fashion show put on by Nugget Assembly of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls, where he demonstrated the proper way to wear a 'hoop skirt'.



Balloting Results

In addition to reports from the various Grand Lodge committees, several legislative items were discussed and voted on. Following is the disposition of the resolutions presented and voted on (synopsis provided for brevity):

Emergent Resolution 2012-1 – To correct a vote by Grand Lodge in 1994 pursuant to Carryover Resolution 1993-8. (adopted)

Resolution 2012-1 – To provide lodges greater flexibility in their Alcohol policies. (rejected)

Resolution 2012-2 – To correct omission within Resolution 1999-6. (adopted)

Resolution 2012-3 – To make housekeeping changes to the AMC. (withdrawn)

Resolution 2012-4 – To properly clarify to whom the Alaska Monitor and Freemasons Guide may be distributed. (adopted)

Resolution 2012-5 – To eliminate a conflict as to whom the Grand Secretary may sell ciphers. (adopted)

Resolution 2012-6 – To allow lodge officers and Past Masters to wear replica 18th and 19th Century American aprons. (carryover)

Resolution 2012-7 – To allow EA and FC Masons to visit other Lodges unescorted, with a certificate of candidacy. (carryover)

Resolution 2012-8 – To require each lodge to meet the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service. (adopted as amended)

Congratulations to our new Grand Master, MW Jerry Pinion, and the rest of the elected line: RW Jim Herrington, DGM; RW Dave Worel, SGW; and RW Doug Teninty, JGW. RW Jerry Wasson and RW Jim Grubbs were elected to continue their service as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Thank you all for serving the Craft. I hope you have a successful and enjoyable year.

2012
Grand Lodge
Of Alaska
Grand Line





Light from the Great Land

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Deputy District No.1, Official Visit to Tanana Lodge No. 3**
March 14, 2012
Fairbanks, AK
Contact: Michael Starkey, DDGM#1 (starkey@gci.net)
- ◆ **Deputy District No.1, Official Visit to Fairbanks Lodge No. 12**
March 15, 2012
Fairbanks, AK
Contact: Michael Starkey, DDGM#1 (starkey@gci.net)
- ◆ **Deputy District No.1, Official Visit to North Pole Lodge No. 16**
March 19, 2012, dinner 6:30, meeting 7:30
North Pole Lions Club
Contact: Michael Starkey, DDGM#1 (starkey@gci.net)
- ◆ **Master Mason degree, Tanana Lodge No. 3**
March 21, 2012, 7:00 PM
Fairbanks, AK
Contact: Matt Thompson, WM
- ◆ **Grand Master meeting with Leaders of Concordant Body**
March 31, 2012
Anchorage, AK
Contact: Grand Secretary (grandlodge@alaska.com)
- ◆ **Grand Master's Official Visit, Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux #21**
April 3, 2012
Juneau, AK
Contact: Grand Secretary (grandlodge@alaska.com)
- ◆ **Grand Master's Official Visit, Mt. Verstovia #18**
April 4, 2012
Sitka, AK
Contact: Grand Secretary (grandlodge@alaska.com)
- ◆ **Grand Master's Official Visit, Ketchikan #19**
April 5, 2012
Ketchikan, AK
Contact: Grand Secretary (grandlodge@alaska.com)
- ◆ **Grand Master's Official Visit, Petersburg #23**
April 6, 2012
Petersburg, AK
Contact: Grand Secretary (grandlodge@alaska.com)
- ◆ **Grand Master's Official Visit, White Pass #1**
April 7, 2012
Skagway, AK
Contact: Grand Secretary (grandlodge@alaska.com)
- ◆ **Masonic Education Night, North Pole Lodge No. 16**
April 9, 2012
North Pole Lions Club
Contact: Dave Arnold, WM (907) 490-7344
- ◆ **Grand Master's Official Visit, Aurora Lodge #15**
April 24, 2012
Anchorage Masonic Center
Contact: Grand Secretary (grandlodge@alaska.com)
- ◆ **Grand Master's Official Visit, Anchorage Lodge #17**
April 25, 2012
Anchorage Masonic Center
Contact: Grand Secretary (grandlodge@alaska.com)
- ◆ **Grand Master's Official Visit, Glacier Lodge #10**
April 26, 2012
Anchorage Masonic Center
Contact: Grand Secretary (grandlodge@alaska.com)
- ◆ **Deputy District No.1, Official Visit to Valdez Lodge No. 4**
May 8, 2012
Valdez, AK
Contact: Michael Starkey, DDGM#1 (starkey@gci.net)
- ◆ **Grand Lodge Finance Committee meeting/Long Range Plan review**
May 15, 2012
Anchorage, AK
Contact: Grand Secretary (grandlodge@alaska.com)
- ◆ **Grand Master's Official Visit, District No. 5 lodges**
Matanuska #7 host joint meeting, Eagle River #13 & Iditarod #20
May 8, 2012
Matanuska Masonic Temple
Contact: Grand Secretary (grandlodge@alaska.com)
- ◆ **Turkey Shoot, North Pole Lodge No. 16**
May 26, 2012
Chena Hot Springs Road shooting range
Contact: Dave Arnold, WM (907) 490-7344
- ◆ **St. John the Baptist's Masonic Feast Day**
June 24, 2012
No known activities scheduled

Please send along news of your events and planned activities for the June edition of this newsletter to clineboak@gmail.com.



Light from the Great Land

Deputy Grand Master



Another Year

Another year has begun and I want to thank everyone for your vote of confidence and electing me the Deputy Grand Master. This is indeed an honor and I am truly humbled.

I think this is going to be a great year. We started off with the Grand Communication and it was a lot of fun. I met some old friend and some new ones. This year will also be a little busier for me in that I plan to travel more than last year. I also want to comment on the Wardens Training on Saturday. The classes were presented and according to the critique sheets I received, everyone enjoyed them. Next year we plan to do the same. We will start a little earlier and add a few hours. If there is a subject that you would like to see taught please let me know. If you would like to

teach a class, we would be willing to listen to what you want to teach.

Our raffles went well and we did make some money. This year we will raffle off a 1984 Corvette. This is a very nice car and some lucky winner will enjoy it. If you want to sell some ticket please let me know. Remember these tickets can and should be sold outside of the lodge. There are a lot of people that are not Masons that would love a chance to win this car. If you have any money making ideas that would help Grand Lodge I would be willing to listen to them. We want to find ways to bring in money without taking it out of our brothers pockets.

Again, I want to thank everyone for electing me Deputy Grand Master and I will try to do the best job possible. I am always looking for ways to improve myself and the Grand Lodge.

Fraternally
RW James R. Herrington
Deputy Grand Master

Senior Grand Warden

My Brothers,



Wow can you believe a year has passed. Where did this year go? Thank you all for your vote of confidence.

I hope you all remembered what I talked about last year. Just in case you didn't, I mentioned how we are a Fraternal Organization with business challenges. All Lodges must have a plan, or a better word would be Long Range Plan (LRP). Each lodge should have at least a 3 year plan, but preferably you should have a 5 year plan. Your plan should be agreed by your elected

officers. Why? Because some task may take years to achieve!!!! Listed below is some suggested topics that should be in your LRP:

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

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 we are here if you need help.

Today I'll write about Membership. Membership is broken down in 3 parts.

- Retention
- Restoration
- Recruitment



Light from the Great Land

(Continued from Page 5)

I put these topics in this order for a reason. I will explain.

Retention is the most important part of your Membership Plan. If you CAN'T keep members, why restore or Recruit? One suggestion would be for the Master to create a chairman for this activity. But take advice from all and put together a very strong committee.

Restoration is basically trying to get back or Restore the members we have lost. You can look at this in different ways. One way is getting your inactive members back to lodge. Another is getting back members that have demitted or were dropped NPD. A suggestion is to have the Senior Warden take charge of this activity. Why you say? Because there is no doubt his goal is to have a better turn out at lodge meeting/degree work than his Master.

Recruitment Could be chaired by the Jr. Warden. One recruiting activity might be to have an open house. INVITE people to your lodge. Have refreshment!! Have a seminar- History of Freemason in your town. There are so many ways we can bring in new members. Most of all be in the public eye!!!!

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 Spring!!!!!!

Remember if we work as a team we can grow.

Fraternally Yours,
David Worel
Sr. Grand Warden
(907) 378-4640, dw@nlhc.com



TAKING THE OBLIGATION OF OFFICE

RW Douglas Teninty (JGW), RW David Worel (SGW), RW James R. Herrington (DGM)

Light from the Great Land is the official publication of the Grand Lodge of Alaska F.&A.M. It is published quarterly on the Grand Lodge's WEB page. Individuals who desire a hard copy of this newsletter should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: the Grand Lodge of Alaska, P. O. Box 190668, Anchorage, AK 99519. The opinions expressed in this publication are the opinions of the individual authors of the various articles only. They do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of this Grand Lodge or of any Grand Masonic jurisdiction or any other Masonic related body. All articles, letters and photographs should be submitted via email to the editor at clineboak@gmail.com. We reserve the right to edit submitted articles and columns.



Light from the Great Land

Grand Lecturer's Message



Brothers, it is again an honor to serve our Grand Jurisdiction as your Grand Lecturer. As you know, it is the responsibility of the Grand Lecturer to uphold the ritual. I pursue this obligation from the perspective of education, training, understanding, and encouragement. The District Deputies

and I are available to answer questions and assist in training Lodge officers. Please don't hesitate to call on us to assist you.

The Alaska Masonic Code establishes that the Cipher and Monitor are the "Standard work of the Grand Lodge of Alaska". The new combined cipher and monitor workbook, (while still subject to corrections being made), is a great tool and I encourage its use. That said however, I have observed that it is so useful that I am seeing it being open on officer's podiums as a crutch. I encourage the use of the Workbook, but Brothers let's not let it become a crutch to lean on.

Ritual is not the end all of Masonry, but it is an important part of who and what we are. First, it is the basis of our character and morality as Masons. In it is the introduction to those subjects which we should study and pursue for self improvement and service to our fellow man. Second, it is the structure by which we function. Taking pride in good ritual leads to well structured and ordered meetings, which encourages attendance and retention of members. In learning the ritual, charges, and lectures we begin to attain greater understanding of the lessons imbedded therein.

MW Grand Master Pinion presented an excellent discussion on leadership at the Warden's training. I wish all Lodge officers could have attended. Those of you who are Masters and Wardens are mentors to younger Brothers in your lodges; they look to you for leadership. You are responsible for the operation of your lodge, its finance, structure and upholding the ritual. First, lead by example, know your ritual. Se-

cond, encourage others, compliment good work and effort. When necessary to be critical; be gentle, criticize in a complimentary way. *Example; Brother Tom, I can tell you have been studying keep up the good work, one suggestion where you need to study* Let me know if you need any help? This will leave the Brother with the feeling that his efforts are appreciated, he is respected and you will be respected in return. No Brother should be openly criticized before others! Remember in the most tender manner encourage with Brotherly Love and Friendship.

Lastly Brothers, memorization is not and end all either. However, if done with the intent of learning the lessons of the subject, it will lead you to greater enlightenment. I encourage every Brother to learn some small part in the Drama of the third degree, or a charge. Eventually you may want to tackle one of the lectures. Have pride in your work, your Lodge, and your fraternity!

John Bishop
Grand Lecturer



New logo showing the relationship between Craft Masonry and the Family of Freemasonry



Light from the Great Land

News from Around the Jurisdiction



DISTRICT No. 1:
Reported by
VW Mike Starkey
Deputy District No. 1

Brethren,

WM Matt Thompson and Tanana 3 have had a busy start to the New Year. On January 4th Brother Joseph O'Connor was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, and he was installed Senior Deacon at the stated meeting on January 11. Tanana held a Rusty Mason degree on the 18th, and seven Brothers turned out to receive instruction. The following Wednesday a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons was opened for the purpose of Masonic Education. Each of these meetings was followed by a festive board where refreshment was served and some Masonic history was presented and discussed. On February 11th the long anticipated Murder Mystery Dinner was held. It was a booming success. Everyone had a great time, and many have raved about it and asked when we are going to do another one. Upcoming events on Tanana's calendar include a breakfast and silent auction on February 25; a Fellowcraft Degree on February 29; a Past Master's degree night in March, probably a Master Mason Degree as we have a Fellowcraft who is almost proficient; a yet to be determined Lodge fundraising event in April; and community clean-up in May.

North Pole Lodge #16 had an exciting time last year. They moved their meeting location twice, and finally found a permanent home with the North Pole Lions Club. This is a great opportunity for North Pole #16. Not only has the Lions Club provided them with a place to meet, they've allowed them to use their facility rent free! The only thing they've asked for is help once a month sorting out the thousands of glasses that are donated to them.

This a great opportunity for North Pole #16 to work with the Lions Club for a good cause, and it opens the door for the City of North Pole to see that their Freemasons are alive and well, and continuing to help support the community!

WM Dave Arnold was elected to a second year as Master, and has set the following goals: regular attendance by the members that live in the area, Masonic education, and increased proficiency with degree work. He provided the following calendar and comments for the next six months:

February - We're hoping to have the Sojourners come to do their Flag ceremony. If it doesn't happen this month it will take place in March.

March - We will hopefully be selling Daffodils to help support Cancer research. I'm still working with the reps from the Anchorage Cancer Research center to get this arranged. If we can't get all the particulars figured out this year, I hope to lay the ground work for next year's Worshipful Master to make this a reality. We will also be hosting our District Deputy, VW Brother Mike Starkey, for his official visit.

April - We will be hosting a Masonic Education night. I'm really looking forward to this event with the hopes of having some of the more knowledgeable Masons show up to help us. This is planned for April 9. More information on the way!

May - This is the month that the Turkey Shoot will be taking place! This a friendly contest using .22 rifles being shot at different distances and firing positions (standing, kneeling, and prone). It will be on May 26 at the Chena Hot Springs Road shooting range. There will be a range safety officer to ensure a safe, fun time. There will also be a picnic/potluck. More information will be coming. WM Ed Rogers of Tanana 3 won the event last year, and the traveling plaque is hanging in the lobby of Tanana Lodge # 3. We will also be doing spring clean up on Laurence Road in conjunction with Alaska clean-up day.



Light from the Great Land

News from Around the Jurisdiction

(Continued from Page 8)

June - This month we're going to host a Past Masters night at our stated meeting dinner. Nothing too extravagant. This should be a fun, family event.

July - North Pole lodge #16 will be taking part

in the City of North Pole's 4th of July Parade! There may be a North Pole #16 Family picnic afterwards but that has yet to be decided.

Fraternally submitted,
VW Mike Starkey
DDGM District No. 1



**Cast and other participants from Tanana Lodge No. 3
Murder Mystery Dinner**



Light from the Great Land

(Continued from Page 9)

DISTRICT No. 2: Reported by WB Bill Roberts

Sterling Lodge No. 22 Installation of Officers

Sterling Lodge No. 22 held their Eleventh Annual Installation of Officers January 7, 2012 at 4:30 P.M.

The Lodge was opened by Worshipful Master Bill Roberts at 3:30 P.M. and after Sickness & Distress and introduction of visiting Brothers, the lodge was called to refreshments. A period of fellowship and reception of guests followed.

At the sound of the gavel in the east at 4:30 P.M., the Installation of Officers began. Worshipful Master Roberts welcomed everyone to the Installation of Officers, made a short dissertation and introduced the Installing Officers: MWB Harry J. Koenen, Installing Marshall, MWB John R. “Bo” Cline, Installing Chaplin, MWB Johnnie L. Wallace, Installing Secretary and MWB Les Little, Installing Master.

The following are the Officers for Sterling Lodge for 2012:

Worshipful Master	WB Carl Lindstrom
Senior Warden	VWB Wil Josey
Junior Warden	Bro. Paul McConnell
Treasurer	Bro Bill Nelson
Secretary	VWB Tim Smith
Chaplin	VWB Bob Wiseman
Senior Deacon	MWB Les Little
Junior Deacon	WB Bill Roberts
Senior Steward	Bro Jake Jedlicki
Junior Steward	Bro Lenny Moskovich
Tyler	WB John Klaysmat

After Installation, Worshipful Master Lindstrom thanked the Installing Officers and invited everyone to join him for dinner. Approximately 50 members, family & friends were in attendance.

Sterling Senior Center Fundraiser

Sterling Lodge No. 22 members were asked by the Executive Director, Mrs. Heather Dunbar, of the Sterling Area Senior Citizens Inc. [Senior Center, aka SASCI] if the members would volunteer to help ‘SASCI’ out with their January “Fund Raising Dinner” on Saturday, 5:00 to 7:00 P.M., January 14, 2012. She asked the lodge members to prepare, cook and serve the all you can eat fish dinner with all the trimmings.

The menu was: Deep Fried Beer Battered, Halibut, Pacific Cod & Red Salmon with French Fries, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Cheese Biscuits and Hush Puppies.

The very delicious desserts were provided by Mrs. Karen Otter, the wife of the President of the Board of Directors for the Sterling Area Senior Citizens Inc., Mr. Del Otter, who carved the white whale for the Grand Lodge silent auction.

The Worshipful Master, Carl Lindstrom plus eight Lodge members volunteered to assist the ‘SASCI’ with their Fund Raising Dinner.

A total of 41 people braved the -20 degree weather and supported their Senior Center.

Fraternally yours,

Bill Roberts, JD
Sterling Masonic Lodge #22



Light from the Great Land

(Continued from Page 10)

DISTRICT No. 3:

Reported by
WB John Bishop

Aurora Lodge No. 15 held its first special educational meeting under its recent bylaw change on Tuesday Feb.14th. Under this bylaw change Aurora now has only six stated meetings a year, being every other month starting in January. The other six months of the year are to be special educational meetings for the study and discussion of Masonic subjects. These meetings will be opened on any degree as appropriate to the subject matter to be discussed. Dinner is at 6:30 PM, lodge opens at 7:30 PM, and all Brothers are welcome to join us. The subjects of the February meeting were; the different types of dates used in Masonry and “The Point within a Circle”, its background, history, and interpretations’.

Aurora also raised three new Master Masons in January, and has four petitions in progress. We are looking forward to a busy year at Aurora.

Masonic Hat-Trick

By Bo Cline

On Tuesday, January 24, I had the honor and pleasure of conferring the obligation and assisting in

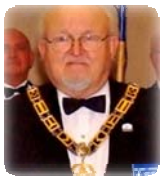
the raising of another member of the Dahl family to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. The candidate for this particular degree was Brother Parker Dahl. This was indeed a special occasion for me, as I had previously conferred the 3rd degree obligation and assisted in the raising of Brother Christopher Dahl (Parker’s brother and Musician for Aurora Lodge No. 15) and his father (WB Joe Dahl, WM of Aurora Lodge No. 15) before him. I understand that WB Dahl has a third son. Maybe there is a chance I can make this a four horse trifecta.



From left to right: Brother Christopher Dahl, Brother Parker Dahl, WB Joe Dahl, and MW John R. “Bo” Cline

DISTRICT No. 4:

Reported by
VW Al Brookman, Deputy



We look forward to working with Grand Master Jerry Pinion and his line of officers for 2012.

Ticket sales for the grand lodge raffle 2011, here in district 4, did about what we expected, as in Southeast Alaska it rains on the average 150 inches a year, and so convertibles are not easy to sell. In the short time we had the tickets; we sold 32 of the 40 tickets

issued to district 4, really not that bad.

The lodges in District 4 are preparing to host 5 official visits for Grand Master Jerry Pinion and his party. He will be in Juneau April 3rd, Sitka April 4th, Ketchikan April 5th, Petersburg April 6th, and Skagway April 7th. Traveling in southeast Alaska is difficult, as we fly into and overnight in each town.

I have met each of the worshipful masters for 2012, in District 4, and I believe they will do a good job this year.



Light from the Great Land

(Continued from Page 11)

There will be more about these official visit trips in my next article.

VW Al Brookman
Deputy for District 4

Local Masons Pledge Early Support

From: <http://psglib.wordpress.com/>

On January 3, 2008 Gerald Lind, Dale Bosworth, and Ed Sarff from Petersburg's Masonic Lodge presented then Library Board president Julie Hursey with a \$25,000 donation towards the new library. The Masons, an organization with deep historical roots in our community recognized the value of a new library early on. With their donation, they were among the first to propel the fundraising effort for the new library forward. As Julie Hursey, then Board President noted, their gift was a "vote of confidence" for the new library. According to Dale Bosworth, "we're trying

to give you a jump start...I think it will be an incentive for others to follow".

To thank them for their generous gift, the Archive Room in the new library will be named after Petersburg's Masonic Lodge.



DISTRICT No. 5:

Reported by the
VW Dennis Oakland, Deputy

My first duty, of course, is to thank Grand Master Jerry Pinion for my appointment to District Deputy of the Grand Master for District No.5. This District encompasses a large triangle which includes Matanuska Lodge No.7, Eagle River Lodge No.13, and Iditarod Lodge No.20 and stretches from Eagle River to Big Lake.

I will be visiting each of the Lodges through March and April promoting the Grand Master's message and assisting the District in preparing for the Grand Master's Official visitation in May. By direction of the Grand Master this will be a combined District visitation with Matanuska Lodge as host. Officers from each Lodge will fill the chairs for the occasion.

I attended this year's Grand Lodge Annual Com-

munication held at the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage, and according to those I drove forth and back to the airport, this was one of the best times they had, and everyone complimented the shuttle service provided by the Grand Lodge as a courtesy.

Given the record weather we are experiencing this winter, lodge activity has been somewhat subdued, but there has been some degree work as well as planning for the ensuing year's projects and activities by all three Lodges.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will also find an Article regarding the presentation of a 75 year Mason pin which was awarded recently on behalf of Matanuska Lodge No.7 to WB Melvin Burgan.

I am also very proud to announce that Matanuska Lodge has won a Mark Twain award for excellence from the Masonic Services Association. Congratulations to all of the members and especially to MW Bo Cline who assembled the packet and prepared it for submission.



Light from the Great Land

(Continued from Page 12)

Lodge news: Well, I have only been able to attend Iditarod Lodge since my appointment as District Deputy and gave a short talk regarding the Grandmasters Message on "Getting back to Alaska", ritually speaking, that is. It was very well received and I thank the members of Iditarod for their hospitality.

VW Dennis N. Oakland
Deputy District No.5

75 Year Mason

On February 10, 2012, MWB D. Brook Cunningham (Grand Master of Arizona) presented 75 year credentials and pin to WB Melvin Burgan at his home in Yuma, Arizona. Accompanying MW Brook was MWB Jack Anderson, Past Grand Master of Montana. On this occasion, WB Burgan commented, "This is the greatest day of my life".



WB Burgan and MWB Cunningham

WB Burgan, who was born in Creet, Illinois on December 7, 1914, was initiated on January 7, 1937, passed to the Fellowcraft degree on February 12, 1937 and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 4, 1937 at Mt McKinley Lodge No. 183 in Cordova Alaska.

WB Burgan was found proficient March 18th. 1937. He demitted from Mt. McKinley Lodge and joined Anchorage Lodge No. 221, after which he became a life member of Matanuska Lodge No. 293

WB Burgan is a Charter Member of Matanuska Lodge No. 293 (7), being the 6th signer of the petition requesting constitution of the lodge.

He served as the 3rd Worshipful Master of Matanuska Lodge No. 293 in 1953, while under the jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Washington State.

He received his 50 year pin at Yuma Lodge No.17 at Yuma Arizona in September 1990.

Companion Burgan was also a Past High Priest and member of the Palmer Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

During his time in Alaska, WB Burgan worked for the Alaska Railroad



**W Melvin Burgan
Worshipful Master Matanuska
Lodge No. 293, 1953**



Light from the Great Land

Mark Twain - Masonic Awareness Award

The following was extracted from the [Masonic Service Association of North America](#) website:



Based on the [Masonic Information Center's \(MIC\)](#) commitment to improving Masonic public awareness, MIC sponsors the Mark Twain Masonic Awareness Award to recognize lodges that have demonstrated exemplary work in constructing a positive Masonic identity within the lodge and for the local community.

As the quote from Brother Mark Twain on page one of this edition of "Light from the Great Land" emphasizes, it takes energy among the officers and members of a lodge to sustain a successful Masonic program. Richard E. Fletcher's (Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association for 24 years) vision for and development of the Twain Award for Excellence in Masonic Awareness has proven to be a meaningful way to energize Lodges. Since 2005, its initial year, Twain Award entrants have provided evidence of extraordinary improvements in communicating their awareness of the fraternal experience of Freemasonry.

Brother by Brother, Lodge by Lodge

WHO: Regular lodges throughout North America are invited to participate in a competition that evaluates initiatives and activities that create a positive Masonic identity in the community.

WHAT: The Mark Twain Masonic Awareness Awards are presented annually to the lodges that demonstrate exceptional commitment to Freemasonry's philosophy of self-improvement and enlightenment.

WHY: Awards are made to the participating lodges that, in the evaluation of the MIC Task Force, have successfully addressed the challenges of improving Masonic Awareness within both the lodge and the community and that the brothers have done so with exemplary skill, creativity, and resourcefulness.

WHEN: The MIC announces the winners of the Mark Twain Award once a year at the Grand Master's Conference.

On February 19, 2012, at the annual meeting of the Masonic Service Association, during the Conference of Grand Masters of North America in Atlanta, GA, 18 winners of the 2011 Mark Twain Award were announced. **Matanuska Lodge No. 7 of Palmer, Alaska** was among the winning lodges. Congratulations to the officers and members of Matanuska No. 7 for your exemplary work and a job well done.





Light from the Great Land

31st Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alaska (Miscellaneous Photos)



Grand Master & Sons



Obligation



Most Worshipful Grand Father



DDGMs



GM's Award of Excellence



AMLAM Fundraiser



PGMs



AMLAM Fundraiser



AMLAM Fundraiser