

# St. John's Lodge No. 9, F. & A. M.

## Trestleboard

AUGUST 2018

*Jim Russell, editor*



Serving Seattle since 1860

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## FROM THE EAST

[Seann Maria, Master](#)



Brethren,

Our last meeting was one of the most rewarding Masonic meetings I've been to. Hearing the thoughts of our brethren on the subjects of inspiration and the search for something more felt like the Masonry I have always craved. We have arrived at a place in the year where we are best situated to take advantage of this momentum and build our collected vision into the St. John's of tomorrow. More than five years ago we drafted the last five-year plan. We learned a lot about who we *think* we are and who we are. Additionally, I think we learned of the importance of how the process to build something is perhaps just as important as what we are trying to build.



The way we conduct ourselves is the craft. The product of the craft is the Lodge. The Lodge is not a building but a group of men seeking higher thoughts and greater deeds. When we used our craft to build the last five-year plan I think many of us were taken off guard by the exercise. Who are we?

Who do we want to be?

How is our Lodge different from other Lodges?

Perhaps we assumed we could draft the tracing board that answered these questions more easily. Where there is a lesson learned there is an opportunity to grow. This is an opportunity to take what we have done in the past five years and reflect on what this says about who we are and what we spend our time doing. In the next stated meeting I intend on revisiting the five-year plan process anew. It's time we make bolder decisions and take more valuable risks. This Lodge has all the working tools to inspire and teach the craft. We have the means to offer lessons in liberal arts, moral philosophy, the intrinsic meaning of the ritual, and the historical events that brought it into being. Let's change the hearts of good men by offering them many ways to look within ourselves. Let us provide a foundation for all present and future brethren to discover a broader moral compass by which to square their actions.

## CALENDAR



- August 4 (10am): Open Air Degree Masonic Park
- August 8 (9am): Seattle Teachers Autism Symposium
- August 8 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- August 9 (7pm): Officers meeting
- August 11 (6pm): family night Everett AquaSox baseball
- August 15 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated (casual dress)
- August 18 (6:30): Visit to Skykomish Lodge (railroad degree)
- September 3: Labor Day
- September 4: Happy Birthday to us!
- September 9-11: Rosh Hashanah
- September 12 (7pm): Master Masons Study Group
- September 13 (7pm): Officers meet
- September 15 (5pm social hour): 158<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Ivar's Salmon House
- September 18-19: Yom Kippur
- September 19 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated
- September 25 (7pm): "Intender" Masonic Education Study
- September 26 (6:30pm): District 5 Assoc. meeting (Razzis Pizza)
- October 10 (6pm): Board of Trustees (2019 Budget preparation)
- Oct. 11 (7pm): Officers meeting
- October 17 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated Past Masters Night; Election of Officers
- October 20: Trip to Portland Shriners's Children's Hospital
- October 23 (7pm): "Intender" Masonic Education Study
- October 27 (10am): Past Masters Brunch Jimmy's on Broadway
- October 27 (10am): Quarterly meeting Masonic Service Bureau
- Nov. 14 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- November 14 (6:30pm): District 5 Assoc. meeting (Razzis Pizza)
- Nov. 15 (7pm): Officers meeting
- November 21 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated



LONG-TERM GOALS

PRECISION



PRESENT

PURPOSE

SWEAR PLAN

FUTURE

## **JOIN US NOW FOR ST. JOHN'S 158<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Mark it on your calendar. St. John's Lodge will celebrate 158 years of Freemasonry in Seattle with dinner at Ivar's Salmon House, Saturday evening, September 15. Social hour begins at 5pm. As usual, it's not too early to make your reservations with the Secretary for an evening of good food, a bit of entertainment, and just plain fun. Make your selection of entrée options from Alder Grilled King Salmon or Alder Grilled 10oz Prime Top Sirloin Steak, or Penne Pasta Pomodoro. A beverage bar will be available, as well as an assortment of wines for each table. Dress is evening attire for the ladies, suit and tie for the gentlemen.

After three consecutive years at Ray's Boathouse, your anniversary committee felt that it was time for a fresh start but with an old friend – Ivar's Salmon House. We will have the banquet room to ourselves as we were used to when we hosted our annual FABulous Family Appreciation Brunch.

***Oh yes, we do have a stated communication this month.....***

Worshipful Master Seann Maria invites all Masons to join us for our August stated communication on Wednesday, August 15. Dinner will be served at 6:15, followed by a short business meeting and Masonic Enlightenment. Dress will again be casual to ward off the heat of the dog days of summer.

Please make your stated communication [dinner reservations](#) with the secretary at 206 623-0261 by Friday, August 10, prior to the meeting. If you



need a ride, the secretary will be happy to find one for you. Do you know of a brother who has not attended Lodge in a while?

Call him and ask if you can pick him up and bring him to Lodge.

### **Visit Portland Shrine Hospital by Train**

VWBro. Ashley Brinkley reports that the date has been set for the one-day trip to the Portland Shriner's Hospital. A morning train will leave the King Street Station 7:25am on Saturday, October 20 and arrive in Portland at



10:55am. The return train is at 3:56pm and arrives back at King Street Station at 7:56pm. Those who live closer to Tacoma

can choose to board at that station a bit later and arrive home a bit earlier. We can snack on the train.

Once in Portland we will shuttle to the Shrine Hospital for a 1-hour tour. After the tour, if time permits, we will lunch at [The Grand Lodge by McMenamins](#) in Forest Grove which is the former Grand Lodge of Oregon building and sits across the street from the present site of the Grand Lodge. After lunch we will shuttle back to the train for a 3-hour train ride home.

If it looks like we won't have time to make the trip to Forest Grove, we'll find a good restaurant closer to the Shriner's Hospital.

If you would like to add your name to that of those interested, contact [VWBro. Brinkley](#) at 206 601-5118.



Ivar's Salmon House views downtown Seattle from Lake Union

### **Take Me Out to the Ballgame**

St. John's Masons and families will once again head to the Everett AquaSox baseball game August 11. "Pre-admission" opens at 6pm into the Coca Cola Food Pavilion, with hot dogs, hamburgers, fruit salad, baked beans, soft drink and reserved seating. Free parking on site.

Game seats will be in the lower rows on the 1<sup>st</sup> base side of the field. First pitch will be thrown at 7:05; fireworks following the game.

All available tickets have been sold. If you have a ticket that will not be used, contact WBro. Terry Grove (425) 610-4561.

### **2019 Charity Requests Due August 31**

St. John's brothers are reminded that requests for annual charity bequests need to be submitted by the end of this month. A form has been distributed to all brethren by email, with additional forms available at the Secretary's desk.

The Board of Trustees will soon be preparing next year's Lodge budget for submission to the brethren in October and final approval at the November communication. The Board solicits your input for its charity nominations.

*It's coming!!*  
**St. John's**  
**158<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
**Ivar's Salmon House**

Potlatch Room  
Social hour – 5pm     Dinner 6pm  
Saturday, September 15

***Make your reservations, today***

## MASONIC ENLIGHTENMENT FOR ST. JOHN'S

During the course of our July stated communication, we formed a "circle of enlightenment" to talk about what way Freemasonry and our Lodge was important to us.

The Master introduced three Entered Apprentices (Bro. Corey Thompson of St. John's and Bros. Ebrahim Almanai and Al Richardson of Daylight and Queen Anne Lodges respectively). They had been invited by WBro. Seann Maria to that evening's enlightenment discussion to express their views as "fresh" Entered Apprentices on why they joined the fraternity and what they expected to gain from their association.

We heard our newly enjoined brothers share their desire to have a better connection to the veteran Masons by engaging in stronger mentoring, having better access to Masonic discussions of Philosophy and Symbolism, learning about the history of the mystery schools that formed before and around Masonry, and having more time with each other after meetings to discuss their questions and share their own discoveries.

The Brethren, including our Past Grand Masters, offered ideas such as brothers paired with EAs at every meeting, traveling to other Lodges, planning degrees that leave time for long discussion afterwards, and placing meals and refreshment following some events so the Brethren are encouraged to spend more time in reflection of the nights' events.

The Master expressed hope that we all join in building off the ideas discussed. He will propose ways we take initiative on some of these thoughts with our approaching Stated Meetings.

- Perhaps we continue to make our meetings lean and focused on only the necessary business so we can spend as much time on fellowship and a Lodge of Instruction as we did in this last meeting?
- Perhaps we assign brothers to sit with our EAs and FCs during meetings so they can share small discussion on Masonic knowledge?
- Perhaps we build more focus on Research and Presentation of Masonic concepts into the duties of every member?
- Perhaps we move a dinner to the end of one of our meetings once we've fine-tuned the expected length of the Tiled Lodge?
- Perhaps we start the next 5 year plan to enable future generations to be attracted to St. John's?

The Master writes, "These are ideas I hope you consider as well as offer your own. Don't wait until next stated. Call me, Write me. Schedule a Fellowship night with other brothers to discuss. This is our Lodge and we have a responsibility to make it better, so please don't assume the labor can be done without your active initiative. I look forward to your thoughts."

## WANTED: EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

*The following is adapted from a paper presented by the late MWBro. Houston A. Brian, Past Grand Master of Arkansas, at the 1969 Southwestern Conference on Masonic Education.*

Today young men reaching their majority are better educated than those of any generation which has preceded them. They have been taught *by us* to spend their leisure time wisely and to affiliate with organizations that are run smoothly and efficiently by competent people *with leadership ability*. Is it any wonder that it is difficult to keep them interested in an inefficiently run Masonic Lodge?

Have you ever observed a business fail when it seemed to have all the ingredients for a successful future? Not long ago a new business opened its doors in an excellent location. Its owner had ample capital for the venture, the products offered for sale were good, and the prices were competitive. In less than a year it failed dismally. The owner did not have *the leadership qualities* necessary and would not employ the right kind of personnel to operate the business successfully. We know that the mission of Masonry is laudable, that through its teachings good men become even better men. We have also experienced the warm fraternal fellowship which the association with our Brethren and their families affords us. In view of this, interest in Masonry, from both within and without the Fraternity, should be on the increase. Why, then, do we find the opposite to be true?

Perhaps the fault lies in the fact that we have allowed our Lodges in many instances to be run by Brethren who do not have the *leadership qualities necessary* for the efficient operation of any organization, more especially a Masonic Lodge. I have seen Brethren who would not even have been assigned the chairmanship of a relatively unimportant committee in a going venture of any nature because of their inability to get the job done effectively serving as Masters of Lodges with membership in the hundreds. Yes, in many instances Masonry is using for its *leaders* Brethren who would not be accepted for *leadership* anywhere else. This is not to cast aspersions against these Brethren. They are good men and good Masons, but Brethren who simply should not be allowed to become Masters of their Lodges because of their inability to perform the duties of the office in a satisfactory manner.

Find a Lodge whose Master and other *officers are leaders* in the true sense of the word, and you will find a Lodge in which the Brethren value their membership, participate in the activities of the Lodge, keep their membership active, and through their actions, in and out of the Lodge, attract other good men to petition for the Degrees.

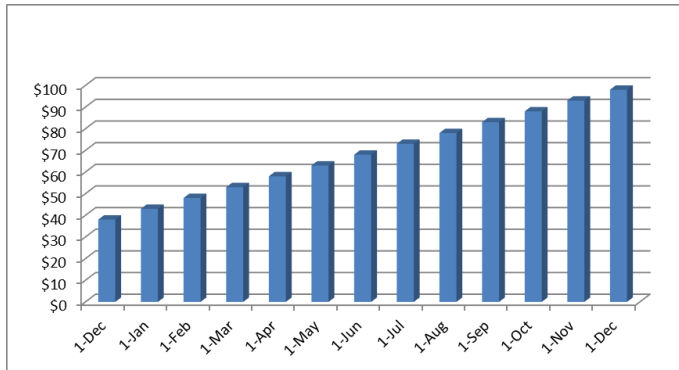
"...Always focus on the customer, and everything else will fall into place. As long as we remember that our candidates are our customers for degree work (and all of our brothers are customers of the Lodge all year long), our focus will stay true, and we can finally relax a bit about membership!"

*WBro. Adam Thayer, Lancaster Lodge No. 54 in Lincoln (NE) and Oliver Lodge No. 38 in Seward (NE)*

## 2018 MEMBER DUES (\$38) NOW \$78!

Here's a toast to all those Brothers who paid their 2018 membership dues on time – you've saved yourselves a good deal of money. To those seven Brothers who are still procrastinating, we offer our sympathy and a little scorn.

For those who were members when we adopted a bylaw change June of 2014, your dues (payable by December 31, 2017) were \$38. Fees increase by \$5 each month a member delays to pay his annual dues beyond December 31. You can see by the chart that this is becoming more expensive month-by-month!



Annual dues for Brothers who became members after June 16, 2014 are \$327. The same \$5/month increase in dues applies to these brothers, as well. (One of these remains delinquent!)

Certificates of Masonic Labor (valued at \$20 each) are issued at each stated or special communication (degree or officer installation). These or cash or personal check may be used toward the payment of dues in St. John's Lodge.

As we are now well into the second half of our Masonic year, your Secretary is already preparing the ledgers for 2019 when dues under the new structure will increase to \$340.

Here's something to seriously consider: The purchase price for Endowed *Life* Memberships as defined by the Masonic Code of Washington may be a prudent route to pursue:

- Age 18 to 35, \$650
- Age 36 to 45, \$600
- Age 46 to 55, \$500
- Age 56 to 65, \$450
- Age 66 and over \$400 *Rev. 2012*

*Didjknow? Even though you may be current in your annual dues with our Lodge, if you're not current in any of your other Lodges you will be dropped and cannot participate in ANY Lodge until your membership is re-instated with that Lodge in which you have been dropped for non-payment of dues!*

*"How one believes in their relationship to God is their own personal faith and responsibility. It should not be imposed by force on others, nor should intolerance rule because of different faiths."*

---James Janos

## Skykomish Lodge Railroad Degree

WBro. Seann Maria invites brothers of St. John's to join him on Saturday, August 18, when he along with others will be receiving his "railroad degree" at Skykomish Lodge No. 259.

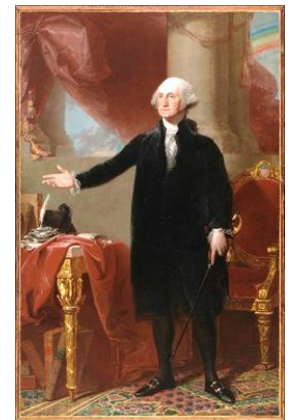
Lunch will be served at noon, followed by the degree "about" 1:30pm. The railroad degree uses the working tools of the railway worker for its moral lessons.

\$30 will cover the cost of the lunch and the degree. All attending will be those who wish to receive the degree or have already participated in the unofficial ceremony. Contact Bro. [Chris Lorenzen](#) at 425 599-0707 for reservations.



## Lansdowne Portrait Charity Project

Last month the brethren of St. John's Lodge leaped at the opportunity to support our Grand Master MWBro. Jim Kendall's initiative to fund our continuing efforts with the Honor Flight program, to assist members of our youth groups in the area of leadership development, and to reintroduce George Washington in our schools.



The Lodge *agreed to purchase two portraits that might possibly be accepted by Sacajawea and John Rogers Elementary Schools.*

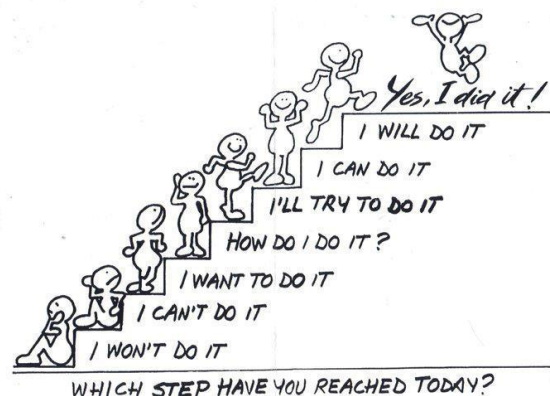
## Seattle Teachers Autism Symposium

Chairman Bro. Kent Curtis extends thanks to those brothers who assisted with this year's Seattle Teachers Autism Symposiums. They were so popular, we added a 4<sup>th</sup> session to the three scheduled.

Not only is this sponsorship a worthy community Lodge project, many of our members have first-hand relationships with those on the autism spectrum.



Seattle Teachers Autism Symposium



## PRESENTATION OF 40-YEAR PIN

Last month we were pleased to recognize MWBro. Darrel Schrader who was raised a Master Mason in Lebanon Lodge No. 34 North Dakota, May 8, 1978 and is a Past Master of Lebanon Lodge, serving as Master in 1984 and again in 1997. He became a member of both the York and Scottish Rite Bodies and the KEM Shrine and the Langdon 49er Shrine Club. He served as Potentate in 1993. In June of 2005, MWBro. Darrel was elected the 117<sup>th</sup> Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of North Dakota.

MWBro. Schrader has since moved to Kansas City, KS, where he has affiliated with Wyandotte Lodge No. 3. He affiliated with St. John's Lodge No. 9, December 17, 2014. The Master presented our brother with a 40-year lapel pin to commemorate his years of service and honor to the fraternity.

## The Investigating Committee

There are so many individuals who hold ideas which are at variance to those of Masonry that the admission of such would be a most serious calamity. The problem of proper investigation of petitioners for the degrees is one which ought to be worked out by thorough preparation.

The old idea of secrecy in appointing an investigating committee does not square with present day conditions, and members of St. John's have rejected that concept for good reason.

When a brother has knowledge of any disqualifying character of a petitioner, he has an obligation to present his concern to a member of the investigating committee.

We have reached a period in our Masonic development when a *skilled* committee on petitions composed of men who have the time, ingenuity, and *best interest of the fraternity* to devote to the cause might well be desirable. Then, we may and should trust the recommendation of the committee when we approach the ballot box.

This is a problem with which we must grapple sooner or later and can be worked out in due time when thoughtful men give to the subject that attention which it should receive.

## The form of a Freemason's Lodge

The form of a Freemason's Lodge is said to be an oblong square, having its greatest length from east to west, and its greatest breadth from north to south. This oblong form of the Lodge, has, as Brother Mackey thought, a symbolic illusion that has not been adverted to by any other writer. If, on a map of the world, we draw lines which shall circumscribe just that portion which was known and inhabited at the time of the building of Solomon's Temple, these lines, running a short distance north and south of the Mediterranean Sea, and extending from Spain to Asia Minor, will form an oblong square, whose greatest length will be from east to west, and whose greatest breadth will be from north to south.

## The Pitfalls Of Being Worshipful Master

by *Midnight Freemasons Founder*

**Todd E. Creason, 33°**

I recently ran across some photos of being installed Worshipful Master of Ogden Lodge back in 2010. I recall that day clearly. I remember going home after being installed, all wound up about all the things I was going to accomplish during my year in the East. I told my wife, Valerie, that it wasn't necessary for her to call me *Worshipful* at home – she could just call me MASTER.

I was only joking, but it made her so angry, I didn't see her for two solid weeks! Well, actually after a week, I could see her a little bit out of my left eye.



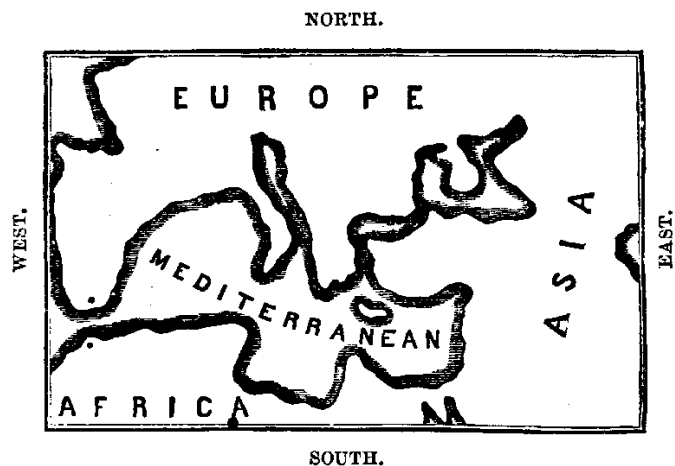
***“Pay the Craft their wages, if ought be due....”***

To some the practical wages briefly mentioned above are the important payments for a Freemason's work. To others, the more intangible but nonetheless beloved opportunities to give, rather than to get, are the **Master's wages**, which count the most.

Great among these is the Craft's opportunity for service. The world is full of chances to do for others, and no man need apply to a Masonic Lodge only because he wants a chance to “do unto others as he would that others do unto him,” But Freemasonry offers peculiar opportunities to unusual talents which are not always easily found in the profane world.

There is always something to do in a Lodge. There are always committees to be served – and committee work is usually thankless work. He who cannot find his payment in his satisfaction of a task well done will receive no **Master's wages** for his labors on Lodge committees.

There are brethren to be taught. Learning all the “work” is a man's task, not to be accomplished in a hurry. Yet it is worth the doing, and in instructing officers and candidates many a Mason has found a quiet joy which is **Master's wages** pressed down and running over.



# LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER



*When we joined the fraternity, each of us had hopes of finding answers to that question: “How can I be a better man (a better husband, a better father)?” Hopefully, we’ve found some of the answers at St. John’s. But there’s a lot that can be added to make our association here more meaningful. Worshipful Master Maria will be helping us find further answers in the months ahead...*

## The Final Countdown (Not the song by Europe)

*by Midnight Freemason Contributor*

**WB Darin A. Lahners**

I was looking for something to watch tonight (July 17, 2018) and saw that one of my guilty pleasure movies was available on demand. The movie, ‘The Final Countdown’, was released in 1980. Starring Kirk Douglas, Martin Sheen, Charles Durning, Katharine Ross, James Farentino, and Ron O’Neal, the premise is that while on maneuvers outside of Pearl Harbor, The USS Nimitz, encounters a strange storm. After some investigation, it becomes apparent that the aircraft carrier has been transported through time to December 6, 1941. The crew then must make a decision regarding whether to impact history by destroying the Japanese fleet before it can attack Pearl Harbor, or allow history to take its course. Ultimately, the decision to attack the Japanese Fleet is made, but the strange storm reappears. Unable to outrun the storm before they can destroy the fleet, they return to the present day. Of course, this is an over simplification of the plot, but the movie made me think about something.

Imagine if you will, “You’re traveling through another dimension, a dimension not only of sight and sound but of mind. A journey into a wondrous land whose boundaries are that of imagination. That’s the signpost up ahead- your next stop, a Lodge meeting in the past.” If you were able to travel back in time, to a Lodge meeting say 100 years ago, what do you think you’d encounter? Most of us would probably answer that we’d see a Lodge room full of our Brothers engaged in fellowship. The golden age of Freemasonry. But my guess is that after those brothers were done investigating you and probably questioning your manner of dress, that you’d encounter brethren frustrated with the state of Freemasonry.

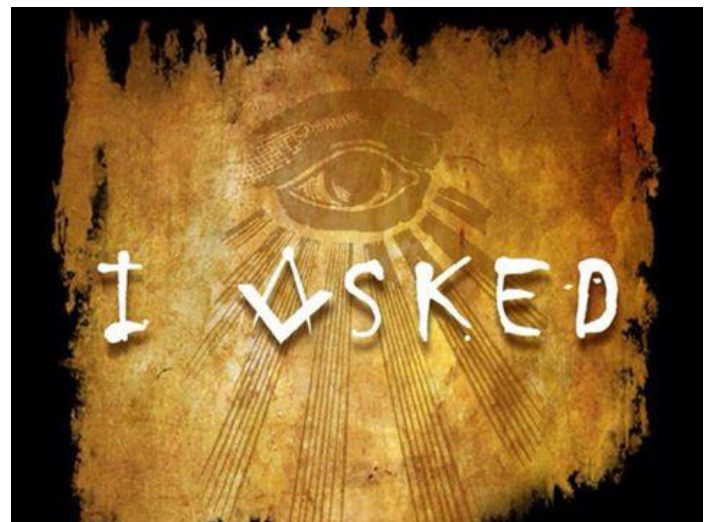
We tend to have a romantic view of the past. If you want some interesting reading, read through the minutes of your home Lodge from 100 years ago. (Or an older Lodge if your home Lodge was formed after 1918). I am willing to bet that you will see that the attendance was not much better than it is today. Sure, each Lodge may have had a greater membership, but I’m willing to bet that you’re going to see attendance pretty much the same. You’re going to read about all of the issues that face us as Masons today, facing them. You’re going to quickly realize that Freemasonry as an institution hasn’t really changed in the past 100 years.

So being 100 years in the past, what advice could you possibly give to your Brothers? What wisdom would you impart? Do you think that you could change something in the past that would radically impact the future? Would you reveal that you were from the future?

We each most likely will have different answers to the above questions. If you’re a regular reader of our blog, then I tend to believe that you probably care about Freemasonry. I’d also be willing to believe that you are an active member of Freemasonry. So if you have answers to the above questions regarding advice, wisdom or change that you could give to our Brothers in the past then guess what? You can impact Masonry now. If the issues of Freemasonry haven’t changed in 100 years, whatever answers you could provide for then would still be relevant now.

I know, I know... Past Masters, bylaws, impediments. It’s not that easy to change the institution. Actually it is. If you aren’t getting out of Masonry what you want to get out of Masonry, then I’m willing to bet there are a good number of Brothers in neighboring Lodges that feel the same way. Find them. Seek them out, and tell them there has to be a better way. Apply your answers to the questions above by finding a Lodge that is in need of saving (At that point, the remaining Brethren of that Lodge are going to be more open to change in order to keep the Lodge open), or form a new Lodge. You can’t change the past. You have the ability to change the future. You just need to find a corner of the world to create something that you and other like-minded Brethren have a stake in. “It has to start somewhere. It has to start sometime. What better place than here? What better time than now?”-RATM, Guerilla Radio

*WB Darin A. Lahners is the Worshipful Master of St. Joseph Lodge No.970 in St. Joseph and a plural member of Ogden Lodge No. 754 (IL), and Homer Lodge No. 199 (IL).*



**now what??**

“If you always do what you’ve always done, you always get what you’ve always gotten. “