

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

Trestleboard

OCTOBER 2019

Jim Russell, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

meets: 7910 Greenwood Ave. N.

Lodge phone: (206) 623-0261

Jimrussell58@frontier.com

www.seattlemasons.org/

FROM THE EAST

Seann Maria, Master



Brethren,

Before I begin I want to apologize for missing the opportunity to write for the past two Trestleboards. I value the ability to share my thoughts in the Lodge in a manner that gives me time to consider my words carefully and refine my message to reach the Lodge. Personal matters were at an all-time high volume these past two months and it was one of the few moments in my Masonic history where I needed to forego Masonic duties for those of my family.



In similar context I want to raise the importance of this time of year and the importance of being thoughtful and considerate of all fellow beings in the world. Our Brother Fred Hutchinson lent us a message of inspiration to fuel our compassions at the September meeting and we should not forget the importance of his words. It is growing colder both in the weather and within the climate surrounding our communities outside of the Lodge. We are a group of men obligated to support freedoms and to lend charity to all mankind when our cable tows are long enough.

Let us enter into the winter season as leaders in the community in recognizing the common denominator in all mankind. Let us show tolerance to those we do not understand or agree with and help them to see that we can be kind and considerate despite our differences. Remember that there are people you love that require the good nature of strangers to help them and that the next person you know may be someone that needs your assistance to carry on their journey to a better person.

Each one of you has the power to change the lives of many because of the fortune that has found you. No matter what your struggles have been in the past and present, we can all say we have the support of this Fraternity and that is much more than those without it. Please consider that every action you make is the action of a Mason and in light of those actions you have the ability to make the world a better place. Give, with all your heart and mind this holiday season.

Be ye all of one mind.

Fraternally,

WB.: Seann Maria, Master

CALENDAR



- October 5 (9am): Northwest Masonic Conference *Portland*
- October 8 (7pm): EA° Practice
- October 8-9: Yom Kippur (Tuesday-Wednesday)
- October 9 (6pm): Board of Trustees (2020 Budget preparation)
- October 10 (7pm): Officers meeting
- October 14 (7pm): EA° Practice
- October 16 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated *Past Masters Night; Election of Officers***
- October 18 (6pm): Entered Apprentice Degree
- October 26 (10am): Past Masters Brunch *Jimmy's on Broadway*
- October 26 (10am): Quarterly meeting Masonic Service Bureau
- November 13 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- November 14 (7pm): Officers meeting
- November 20 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated *50, 60-Year Pin Ceremony; Memorial Services***
- November 28: Thanksgiving Day
- December 7? (9am): Shopping for Operation Kids Smile
- December 14? (9am) 1pm: Operation Kids Smile
- December 18 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated *Followed by Installation Of 2020 Officers***
- December 22-30: Happy Chanukah
- December 25: Merry Christmas
- December 27: Feast Day of St. John the Evangelist
- December 31: Deadline for payment of 2020 Lodge dues

Brotherly love is not a tangible commodity. We cannot touch it or weigh it, smell it or taste it. Yet it is a reality; it can be creative, it can be fostered, it can be made a dynamic power. Carl H. Claudy

OCTOBER – PAST MASTERS NIGHT; ELECTION OF OFFICERS

St. John's October stated communication will be packed with business and fellowship as members will vote to amend our bylaws (see below), receive a proposed budget for 2020, recognize our Past Masters, ballot on two petitioners, and elect 2020 officers.

Why so much packed into one meeting? Well, we often recognize our Past Masters in September, but that was delayed a month; officer elections are moved up a month in anticipation that our November meeting will be negatively impacted by it being the evening before Thanksgiving. The calendar can play mean tricks.

Election of officers presents a bit of a challenge, as Senior Warden Bro. Blair Neumann is well-prepared to serve as Worshipful Master and VWBro. Ashley Brinkley has agreed to again make himself available to serve in the South if it is the will of the brethren. The bit of unknown is who will step into the Senior Warden's station? VWBro. Jim Maher has agreed to continue as Lodge Treasurer, VWBro. Jim Russell as Secretary, and WBro. Eric Koteles is open to serving another three-year term on the Board of Trustees.

Worshipful Master Seann Maria invites all Masons to join us for our stated communication on Wednesday, October 16th. Dinner will be served at 6:15. Please make your dinner reservations with the secretary at 206 623-0261 by Friday, October 11, prior to the meeting so our chef can acquire and prepare enough to go around. 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.

Dues Increases Outpacing Certificates of Labor

Brothers of the Lodge are in general agreement that attending twelve stated communications per year should be rewarded by near-to-full credit for annual dues. Our Certificates of Labor, issued at each stated communication, are valued at \$20 each, per our bylaws. The following recommendation was proposed last month as an ***amendment to our bylaws***, to be acted upon in October:

Article 4, Section 3, (h):



Members may pay for annual dues using St. John's Certificates of Masonic Labor. Each St. John's Certificate of Masonic Labor will have a value ~~of Twenty Dollars (\$20)~~ ***(new) that is set annually by the Lodge*** when applied to the annual dues for payment. Members may use multiple St. John's Certificates of Masonic Labor to pay for annual dues up to the total amount of the annual dues. St. John's Certificates of Masonic Labor must be used in the year that they are valid and may not be carried over for any following year's annual dues payments. (6/18/14)

2019 MEMBER DUES (\$38) NOW \$88!

Brothers who are still procrastinating in paying your 2019 membership dues, what in the world are you waiting for?

For those who were members when we adopted a bylaw change June of 2014, your dues (payable by December 31, 2018) were \$38. Fees increase by \$5 each month a member delays to pay his annual dues beyond December 31. Now, as of October 1, they have risen to \$88!



2020 Annual Dues in St. John's Lodge

Notices for annual dues (or delinquent notices) will be mailed to all members of St. John's later this month. Your plastic membership card which identifies all Lodges to which a brother is a member will not be replaced for another 4-5 years, but will show with a quick scan by the Tyler whether or not you are current. It also identifies if a brother is a Life Member, a 50-year member and a Past Master. If your status has changed and you wish to have a replacement card, you may do so through the Secretary.



2020 dues structure for membership in St. John's:

Members on record June 18, 2014

1. Past Masters, 50-year members, Life Members = \$0
2. Others = \$10+\$34= \$44*

Members enrolled after June 18, 2014

1. Past Masters, 50-year members, Life Members = \$0
2. Age 65+ = \$75 + \$34 = \$109*
3. Residence 50+ miles from Lodge = \$109*
4. Other Raised Master Masons = \$364+\$34=\$398*
5. Plural members (local residence) prorated quarterly at joining:
 - a. Jan. – March 2020 = \$398
 - b. Apr. – June = \$298.50
 - c. July – Sept. = \$199
 - d. Oct. – Dec. = \$99.50

****These fees increase by \$5 each month beginning January, 2020.***

Members may pay their dues by cash, check, Certificates of Masonic Labor, or a combination of these. Certificates of Labor (valued at \$20 each) are issued at each stated or special communication (degree or officer installation).

Letters have gone to all those who are still in arrears for their 2019 dues. If you haven't made good on your obligation to the Lodge, please do so today.

GLASGOW GALA



**Sunday Oct 13th
4-7pm, Edmonds WA**

A fun-filled evening:

- Live pipes & drums
- Celtic music
- Fine food & desserts
- Whisky tasting

(non-alcoholic options available)



Venue: Holy Rosary Pastoral Center in Edmonds WA

RSVP: Buy tickets on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) (\$85/person) or email tickets@nwjpb.org to arrange a table discount

Fundraising event in support of...



Northwest Junior Pipe Band
Edmonds • Washington

nwjpb.org

NORTHWEST JUNIOR PIPE BAND

The Northwest Junior Pipe Band, one of our sponsored charities, is a Novice/Grade 4 and Grade 5 youth bagpipe band based in North Seattle/Shoreline. It is the only youth competition pipe band in Washington. The



Northwest Junior Pipe Band placed 5th in Glasgow 2015 world championships

NWJPB every 5-6 years travels to Scotland to compete against the “best pipe and drum bands in the world.” On their last trip, they placed 5th in their age group, trailing only bands

from Scotland.

They will be presenting a “Glasgow Gala” on Sunday October 13th as a fundraising kickoff to their summer of 2020 Scotland trip. The gala will be in Edmonds from 4-7pm and we are encouraged to attend with our spouses and friends. The event will include fine food catering, whisky tasting, Celtic music, chocolate desserts, and of course some live pipes & drums from their young musicians.

Tables for eight may be purchased or individual tickets are available. Young members of the band entertained our brethren and guests with pipes, drumming and Scottish dancing following dinner at our September stated communication.



The Christmas People Foundation

This December will mark its 20th year as the Christmas People Foundation will be led by WBro. Fred Hutchinson and his Lady Ruth Bishop. On Christmas Day, assisted by volunteers (like you!) they open the dining room at the Alki Masonic Center, offering a hot meal and entertainment for any homeless, senior citizen, or any other person who chooses to join them. Over 150 persons attend the annual Christmas Day Dinners. The doors open from noon to 4pm. This is another fantastic opportunity to share a meal, fellowship and love with those in need.

In addition to this meal, The Christmas People provide 1600 meals to homeless shelters in the Greater Seattle Area. They distribute an estimated 7600 home-baked cookies. Volunteer are needed to again meet at Alki Masonic Center on December 22, 23, 24 and 25, 2019. Volunteers with commercial cooking and serving experience are welcome and encouraged. Home-baked cookies are welcome throughout the week.

ENTERED APPRENTICE TO BE INITIATED

All Brothers of St. John's are asked to come witness the initiation of (and welcome) Mr. Michael Adams. Mr. Adams, a stepson of our VWBro. Carl Alexander, will be initiated Friday, October 18.

Worshipful Master Seann Maria will open Lodge at 6pm. **Dinner** (*Chop Chop salad; Shepard's Pie; Chocolate brownie with ice cream*), **toasts, and fellowship will be held following the degree.** With your attendance and participation, we can make this entry to Freemasonry memorable!



email ADDRESS? LET US KNOW!

The secretary reminds those who have email to let us know so that we can include you in our special notices issued throughout the month “in between Trestleboards.” For many, your addresses have changed, and we have not been able to continue our correspondence. If you've missed your messages or more complete eTrestleboards, contact us at jimrussell58@frontier.com

OCTOBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Here's a look at what's happening at our October stated communication:

Dinner - guests welcome

1. Menu: Potato dill chowder; Sockeye salmon with pearl couscous and greens; Pumpkin pie dessert
(allergies, vegetarian? Let us know a week before.)

Announcements

Stated Meeting – tiled

1. Past Masters Recognition
2. Ballot on (2) Petitioners
3. Election of 2020 Officers
4. Presentation of 2020 Budget

Refreshments

Kick back, visit, and enjoy a beverage and dessert

MASTER MASONS RAISED IN OCTOBER

Date Raised:

10/25/1948 Donald J. Zuck
10/3/1951 John R. Lilyengren
10/8/1952 Morris R. Capeluto
10/31/1964 Gary G. Jentoft
10/31/1970 Louis A. Van Der Wel
10/30/1976 Eugene P. Foster
10/24/1985 Dennis J. Archambault
10/3/1986 Roger A. Barnstead
10/12/1988 Allan B. Pinch
10/31/1992 Brian P. West
10/30/1993 Paul G. Winter
10/12/1996 Storrs L. "Skip" Albertson
10/12/1996 James A. Wold
10/23/2004 Matthew D. Vasey
10/29/2015 Blair J. Neumann



Past Masters Brunch October 26



All Past Masters of St. John's are invited to attend our quarterly brunches not only for a good time but also to keep up with how things are going at St. John's. Affiliated Past Masters are welcome, too.

We get together on the last Saturday of January, April, July, and October. Brunches start at 10am and close shortly after noon at Jimmy's On Broadway - just north of Madison at the Silver Cloud Hotel. *Free parking.*

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Day

2 Sylvain Niles
8 David C. Flood
8 John R. Adamson
10 Jarrold "Jerry" Schuh
12 Satoru Tashiro
12 James J. Swift
12 Alvin W. Jorgensen
12 Paul A. Smith
13 J. Joseph DuWors
14 Robert E. Reed
14 Steven L. Specht
15 James M. Russert
15 David J. Stanford
17 Paul N. Bernal
17 Jeffrey L. Pullen
18 Robert F. Sluder
20 Russell A. Johnson
24 Richard T. Heston
25 John J. Jorgensen
26 Charles H. Tupper



With age comes wisdom. You're the wisest people I know.

Junior Warden Message

VWBro. Ashley Brinkley



Summer is over and we are back at Masonic work even though our Lodge did not go dark for the summer. In my personal life, we have had several people who have passed away recently and we went to their funerals. Lisa's Dad passed away, and couple of days before the wake and on his birthday, his wife of almost 50 years passed away too. I also had the privilege of helping at the Celebration of Life of one of my best friends, VWBro. Tee Jackson.

The internet is great. You can find all the information you ever wanted to know about most any subject. Because it is on the internet it must be true, right?

If you look up "what to do if your loved one passes away" and "what is the first thing you should do", what are the first things it says to do? One place said the number one thing to do was request a Death Certificate. One place said to choose a funeral home. On one list it said to contact the Voter Registration Board. Personally, I would think this would be last thing on the list. I think it would be contacting the life insurance company... More money for a party, right?! 😊

The most important thing is letting your loved ones know what you want. What type of service do you want to have? Do you prefer a regular service, something different, or nothing at all? One of my good friends passed away recently and did not want to have anything. His Dad was in charge and made up small bottles with his ashes and gave them out to friends. I am telling you brothers; I do not want this, and you all better make sure this does not happen with me! Lisa's Dad wanted to have a football party with football food, so we celebrated with Northlake Tavern Pizza and the Seahawks streaming. My good friend Tee wanted to have a party with great food and people at the Lodge. Lisa and I saw a movie not long ago where the person was dying, had no family, and saw an advertisement on the TV that a company would put your ashes in fireworks, then shoot them off. I may look into that. I wonder if that is even possible and what the cost would be?

But back to the internet, I would think the most important thing would be to let your family know what you want to happen. Do you want a Masonic service or just a memorial in Lodge? Where is your white lambskin apron? Talk about it to your loved ones; let them know. Do not be surprised at your service if your loved ones do something you had not wanted if you never let them know what do.

Visit Our District 5 Brethren

District 5 Lodges	Next Meeting	Time
St. John's 9	Wednesday, October 16, 2019	7:30pm
Eureka 20	Monday, November 4, 2019	7:30pm
University 141	Monday, November 4, 2019	7:30pm
Daylight 232	Saturday, October 19, 2019	10am
Lafayette 241	Thursday, December 5, 2019	7pm
Queen Anne 242	Thursday, October 10, 2019	7:30pm
Esoterika 316	Tuesday, October 22, 2019	7:30pm

I am standing upon the
seashore. A ship, at my
side, spreads her white sails
to the moving breeze and
starts for the blue ocean.
She is an object of beauty
and strength.



Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone."
Gone where?

Her diminished size is in me – not in her.

And that is dying...

Charles W. McQuery 1944-2019

It is with a heavy heart that we must report that the roll of the workman has been called, and one Master Mason has not answered to his name. ***MW Charles W. McQuery, Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Washington*** passed to that house not made with hands on Saturday, September 28, 2019. He has laid down the working tools of the Craft and traveled to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns. MWBro. Charles served as Grand Master from 2006-2007. He was a member of Ashler Lodge No. 121, University Lodge No. 141 and Grand Mound Historical Lodge No. 3. MW Bro. Chuck was raised in Mary's River Lodge No. 221 in Oregon on March 22, 1966. He and his lady Diane recently sold their home in Bothell, WA and moved permanently to Surprise, AZ. At this time, we have no information regarding a memorial service. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Want to know your degree dates, change your address, determine your dues status or more? If you haven't done so already, log in now:

- Step 1. Enter the url for the [Grand Lodge of Washington](#)
- Step 2. Click on Member Portal
- Step 3. Click on Member Registration
- Step 4. Enter your Lodge Number
- Step 5. Enter your Member ID (found on your dues card)
- Step 6. Enter your Last Name - (case sensitive)
- Step 7. Click on Check Membership Status
- Step 8. Enter your email address
- Step 9. Enter a password that you can remember
- Step 10. Enter Confirmation by entering password again
- Step 11. Click on Submit

The Masonic Charity 365 Society is a group of supporters who have committed a dollar a day to support the work of Washington Masonic Charities. These generous donors help youth experiencing homelessness succeed in school, assist older adults, Masonic widows, and others in need, help with scholarships, and help us keep our Masonic Library and Museum in good order.



[Click here for more information.](#)

Yes! I'd like to support Washington Masonic Charities.

- ☐ Check enclosed made payable to "Washington Masonic Charities"
- ☐ Please charge my gift to my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX
- TOTAL GIFT: _____

☐ This is a recurring gift, please bill my card: ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Yearly ☐ End by: _____

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Account Number: _____ Expiration: _____ CVV: _____

- ☐ Please add me to the Washington Masonic Charities' newsletter list.
- ☐ I would like more information about planned giving or naming Washington Masonic Charities in my will.



Thank you for supporting Washington Masonic Charities

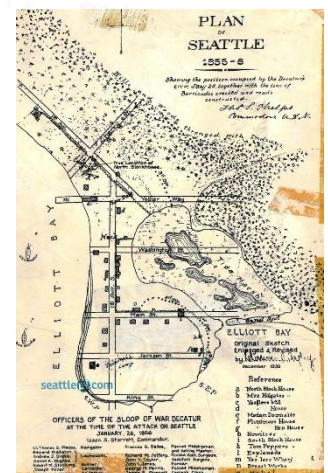
Our mission is to create a culture of philanthropy to invest in youth and education, provide comfort and support for seniors and those in need, and to preserve and share the Masonic heritage of Washington.

Washington Masonic Charities is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization.
Your donation may be tax-deductible as provided by law. TIN 91-1663363

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The name “Seattle” appeared in print for the first time on October 30, 1852, when the Olympia-based newspaper *The Columbian* carried an ad for the [Seattle Exchange](#), a general store run by [Doc Maynard](#). The paper also told of Seattle’s first steam-powered [sawmill](#), then under construction by [Henry Yesler](#). The village that became Seattle was still called [Duwamps](#), but not for much longer.



LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER

Last year the Grand Lodge of Washington Membership Development Committee reached out to members of this jurisdiction to solicit our input on why we attend or no longer attend our Masonic Lodges. This month we received a letter from MWBro. Charles E. Wood, Grand Master, who has relayed a share of the committee's findings:



Brethren.

I have heard from many of you that you would like to know what insights we have gleaned from the surveys done by the Membership Development Committee last year. Well, here is the overview.

Why are our EA's and FC's not advancing?

Outside of the expected conflicts that will arise from work and family obligations, they indicated that they were not getting the help they needed to advance. In fact, almost 60 percent of them said they did not receive any meaningful assistance from their coach/mentor. On the positive side, over 60 percent of them found the New Candidate Education Program valuable.

Why are the Brothers demitting?

Almost half of those demitting are doing so because they cannot make the meetings. The other major reasons given are very concerning: Too much drama/conflict in the Lodge; a lack of any education; and a feeling that Masonry has lost its focus. Additionally, two-thirds of the Brothers had been a Mason over ten years, while half of them were between 55-65 years old. Finally, over half of them were Past Masters.

Why are the Brothers being dropped for NPD?

Here are the three primary reasons: Too much drama/conflict in the Lodge; A lack of fellowship within the Lodge; and a feeling that Masonry is stuck in the past, no longer relevant. Additionally, three-quarter of them were Past Masters and had been a Mason for five years or more. Are they likely to return? Two-thirds say no way.

What the current Brothers replied

Over one-third of us regularly attend Lodge for one or more of these reasons: Ritual; Community involvement/Charity work; Fellowship; and Education. The finding on the write-in questions was - We want more esoteric education. The top three reasons Brothers no longer attend Lodge: Too far a drive; Health issues/aging; and Lack of time/desire. The three most identified membership issues are: declining membership; aging membership; and cliquish behavior. The number one thing most missing from the Masonic experience: including the family in Lodge events, the desire for more family social events.

Brethren, these are major findings from the surveys that you completed last year. I realize that this communication will raise many questions and hopefully will also lead you to spend some time looking inward and examining your Lodge culture more closely to see where there are ways to improve the Masonic experience you provide each other. Here at Grand Lodge, we are striving

to develop new programs to address many of the issues noted above. Your input is desired, as you have as much to gain in the future as I do.

Fraternally,

Charles E. Wood, Grand Master

September 30, 2019

THE CHARACTER OF A FREEMASON

The real Freemason is distinguished from the rest of Mankind by the uniform unrestrained rectitude of his conduct. Other men are honest in fear of punishment, which the law might inflict, they are religious in expectation of being rewarded, or in dread of the devil in the next world.

A Freemason would be just if there were no laws, human or divine, except those written in his heart by the finger of his creator. In every climate, under every system of religion, he is the same.

He kneels before the Universal throne of God in gratitude for the blessings he has received, and in humble solicitation for his future protection. He venerates the good men of all religions.

He disturbs not the religion of others.

He restrains his passions, because they cannot be indulged without injuring his neighbor or himself. He gives no offense, because he does not choose to be offended.

He contracts no debts which he is certain he cannot discharge, because he is honest upon principle. He is a good man when nobody is looking.

That is the character of a Freemason.

Finally, my brothers, be ye all of one mind: Live in peace; and may the God of love and peace delight with and bless you.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

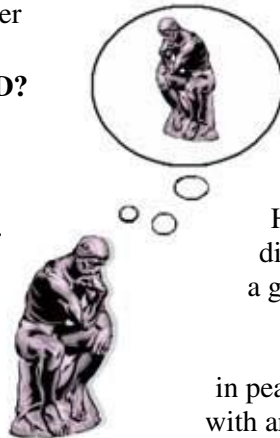
May God Bless us as we continue our work in the Quarries of Freemasonry.

--Closing remarks of the Most Worshipful William J.

Thomas, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, on St. Johns Day, June 27, 2015 in Utica, New York.

We've always done it this way.....

When the Guru sat down to worship each evening the ashram cat would get in the way and distract the worshippers. So he ordered the cat to be tied during the evening worship. Long after the Guru died, the cat continued to be tied during evening worship. And when the cat eventually died another cat was brought to the ashram so that it could be duly tied during the evening worship. Centuries later learned treatises were written by the Guru's disciples on the essential role of a cat in all properly conducted worship.



Masonic Lodge holds mysterious meeting at Historic Knapp's Tavern

Union Lodge No. 5 of Stamford, CT holds "mysterious" meeting at historic Knapp's Tavern in Cos Cob, where they received their charter back in 1763.

By Richard Gross, Neighbor

On the evening of September 18th, as the night began to blanket the sky over the small town of Cos Cob, a group of gentlemen dressed curiously in colonial attire, wearing Masonic aprons and regalia decorated with mysterious symbols, began to emerge on the grounds of the Historic Knapp's Tavern.

After greetings, whispers and peculiar handshakes, members of this Masonic order draped the windows and arranged the furniture in a peculiar pattern within the Tavern. These men

proceeded to conduct a secret meeting, a degree of which only other Masons were allowed to witness. They were dressed in period appropriate clothing, similar to when Union Lodge previously met there back in the late 1700s.



Knapp's Tavern



Union Lodge Altar

Lodge and even the Master of Union for a few consecutive years.

"The intent of the evening was to pay homage to our local history, a tribute to our deceased brothers, reliving an experience to which they too would have done, all while enjoying the evening and the fellowship among other brothers." said one member of the Lodge.



Masonic Aprons & Union Visitor Register

Union Lodge No. 5 received its Charter back in 1763 in that very spot, and many meetings were held there through the rest of the 18th century. One meeting in particular, was brought to light when the members of Union Lodge presented the Israel Putnam House Association and Daughters of the American Revolution, with a framed print, extracted from Union Lodge's earlier recorded minutes, documenting a meeting held there at the home of Israel Knapp on the 3rd Tuesday in June of 1783. The document also lists Israel Knapp as Union Lodge's Master, along with many other prominent members of the local area there in attendance on that long forgotten evening.

As the night drew to an end,.. and after the cheers and camaraderie had stopped, the eerie colonial music had drawn silent, the group of mysterious men disappeared, and were gone without a trace. The only clue they were even there was the Masonic document left behind, from 1783.



Responsibility

There is a poem entitled "Let George Do It" (I searched but could not find the name of the author). In the poem, everyone in the town pushes all their work and obligations onto poor "George", instead of shouldering their own responsibilities. Soon George is running everything, while everyone else is having fun and society falls apart due to neglect.

I think something like this happens in every Lodge. Everyone wants to be part of the fun. Dinners with white tablecloths and gourmet food served on fine china. Toasts to the health and longevity of the Lodge, fun, and merriment for all. But when the lights go out, the crystal glasses are empty and the last bite of food has been consumed, no one wants to wash and dry the dishes. Let "Hiram" do it.

It's fun to have a big degree night with Brethren from all over. The happy talk and handshakes make the evening a special evening everyone will remember for a long time. The next day, who is there to empty the wastepaper baskets or sweep the Lodge room floor? Let "Hiram" do it.

Everyone always assumes "Hiram" will be there to plan events, pay for materials needed and clean up afterward. "Hiram" is the one that is expected to get up early on a Saturday morning. To help clean and repair everyone's Masonic Temple. To work at the pancake breakfast, which by the way, the Lodge voted to hold, so they won't have to raise the yearly dues five dollars a year. But what if there isn't a "Hiram" there to do all the nasty work you don't want to do? Chances are it doesn't get done, and our temples begin to disintegrate. Long-standing traditions tend to get abandoned. Sound familiar?

Not long ago the Grand Lodge of Illinois held a "Masonic Pride day". Basically, the Grand Lodge asked the Brethren of their jurisdiction to wear Masonic branded clothing on a certain Saturday while they were out enjoying their weekend. This was done to display pride and membership, and possibly create an interest in Freemasonry within the profane world.

I thought this was a great idea. If Illinois could do it why couldn't Masons in other jurisdictions take part and don a Masonic T-shirt or ball cap on the same Saturday? So I posted their graphics and hashtag on my social media and on the Midnight Freemasons Instagram page.

The posts garnered a lot of interest and I saw Brethren from many jurisdictions posting photos of themselves in their Masonic clothing and using the hashtag. Maybe with promotion, in a few years, this can become an annual event. *(continued next page)*

Sadly, one thing troubled me in some of the comments on these posts. Although most of the replies to these posts were positive, so many comments were along the lines of, "I wish our Grand Lodge would do this," or "I wish someone around here would start something like this."

I have been seeing comments like these on many posts being shared around the Masonic world. There are always people saying, "I wish someone would do this here," or "I wish our Grand Lodge would do this." My thought is, Why don't you start it?

All good ideas must start somewhere, usually at the grass-roots level of membership. If it is successful, others take notice and may adopt the program themselves, and eventually they may become something that benefits everyone. What if everyone sat around the Lodge room and complained and expected "Hiram" to start it?

Eventually, something that could benefit everyone would fly away to that place in Heaven, that all good ideas are laid to rest.

Brethren, if we want to try new things (or bring back old traditions which we have cast aside) we need to each be willing to take part, and use our strengths and God-given talents to at least try to make that event a success. If it works; Awesome! Carry on! If it fails, you go back to the drawing board and come up with another idea.

Brothers, you don't need a large group to make a change, just several men who are willing to try.

~BH

WB Bill Hosler was made a Master Mason in 2002 in Three Rivers Lodge #733 in Indiana. He served as Worshipful Master in 2007 and became a member of the internet committee for Indiana's Grand Lodge. Bill is currently a member of Roff Lodge No. 169 in Roff Oklahoma and Lebanon Lodge No. 837 in Frisco, Texas. Bill is also a member of the Valley of Fort Wayne Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in Indiana. A typical active Freemason, Bill also served as the High Priest of Fort Wayne's Chapter of the York Rite No. 19 and was commander of the Fort Wayne Commandery No. 4 of the Knight Templar. During all this he also served as the webmaster and magazine editor for the Mizpah Shrine in Fort Wayne Indiana.



Have a Happy (and safe) Halloween!

Federal Benefits for Vets, Dependents & Survivors

https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp

"This is [your Vets Info friend] again wanting to share a few things with you. Recently my aunt age 88 called to ask me some questions about home care for her, as an elderly spouse of a Disabled deceased Vietnam Veteran. Good Question. She has been receiving her husband's disability income, but after researching this for her, I found in this booklet Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors 2018 edition, that she may be eligible for additional income for Home Care.

Interesting is that she could be eligible for monetary income for home care if her husband was a veteran prior to 2001. However, if he had been a veteran since 2001, she would be entitled to a Home Care person.

Why am I sharing this information with you? Purpose is to get you veterans to obtain this free booklet from Veterans Administration for yourself or to share with other veterans. So many benefits defined in this 68-page booklet. Yes, you can review these benefits online by going to VA.Gov. However, there are many veterans who live up in the hills, out in the Plains, where there is no Internet, etc. You get the idea. Many are home bound and unable to get on Internet. Also Amazon sells this booklet for \$6.

Note: As a veteran you are entitled to some benefits. However, think about your spouse or dependents; they may also be entitled. Did you know if you are a disabled vet, your children can receive free college tuition? Remember the old song "It's In The Book"? Well here's the "book."

The Level And The Square

Closing - Millard

We meet upon the Level,
And we part upon the Square;
What words of precious meaning
Those words Masonic are
Come let us contemplate them,
They are worthy of our thought,
With the highest and the holiest,
And the rarest they are fraught.

Let us meet upon the level then,
While laboring patient here,
Let us meet and let us labor
Though it be severe,
Already in the western sky
the signs bid us prepare
To gather up our working tools
and part upon the square.