

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

Trestleboard

OCTOBER 2021

Jim Russell, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

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FROM THE EAST

[S. Ashley Brinkley](#), Master



A delegation of eleven St. John's Lodge Masonic Family arrived in Boston last month (Sept.), and we had so much fun! The fellowship, family fun and history made this trip a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I personally traveled with my youngest daughter, and I know it will be an everlasting memory to be shared long after I am gone.

The purpose of heading to Boston was to gain Masonic Historical Education. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts building was stunning. Each room looked like it came straight from a Hollywood movie set. The building itself is located in downtown Boston, not far from where the Boston Tea Party started.

One of my favorite rooms we toured was the "Room of Reflection." It was like nothing I've ever seen before. Massive, oversized doors and a gorgeous domed ceiling inside. Placed inside the room was a simple writing table. We also were able to have a quick view of one of the Grandest Lodge rooms I have ever seen. We were lucky to have caught a glimpse as they were about to start an installation. I managed to sneak a seat in the "Master's Chair," and boy did I feel small.

Fun fact #1: The podium for each station is off to the side of their station chairs and not directly in front like ours are.

Fun Fact #2: Parking to attend the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts costs around \$40 per day!!!! The brothers who attend Grand Lodge there are certainly a dedicated bunch.

We also visited the Scottish Rite Museum in Boston. They were in the middle of filming a documentary for DeMolay when we arrived. During our tour of the museum, we got to see the jewels that Brother Paul Revere made and wore at his Lodge. They were made of silver and looked like they had just been crafted.

During our trip we also visited many other historical locations, like where the Mayflower landed and other preserved historical locations to help educate each generation how our ancestors came to the "New World" and survived.

We all arrived back safely without a hitch and are ready to plan our next adventure in Masonic Friends, Family and Fellowship.



Room of Reflection - MA Grand Lodge

CALENDAR



- **October 13 (6pm): Board of Trustees** 2022 Budget preparation
- **October 14 (7pm): Officers meeting** teleconference
- **Oct. 20 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated**
- **October 22-24: District Leadership Retreat** Masonic Park
- **October 27 (7pm): Fellowship** Zoom teleconference
- **November 3 (7pm): Fellowship** Zoom teleconference
- **November 10 (6pm): Board of Trustees**
- **November 11 (7pm): Officers meeting**
- **November 17 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated** Past Masters Night; Election of Officers
- **November 18 (7pm): District 5 Meeting** w/Grand Master via Zoom teleconference
- *November 25: Thanksgiving Day*
- *November 28 – December 6: Happy Chanukah*
- **December 16 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated** Installation of Officers (7pm)
- *December 25: Merry Christmas*
- **December 31: Deadline for payment of 2022 Lodge dues**

Candidates for 2022 Junior Grand Warden

September 1st closed the period for filing for Grand Lodge elections next June. Three Brothers have filed for the office of Junior Grand Warden: current Grand Lecturer VWBro. Larry Foley, PM of Skykomish 259 and Arlington 129; VWBro. Richard Kovak, PM Arcana 87; and Grand Historian VWBro. Roger Nelson, PM of Manito Lodge 246 (Spokane).

Elections will be held next June in Wenatchee during the 165th annual communication of Grand Lodge.

ST. JOHN'S BROTHERS RECEIVE SCOTTISH RITE HONORS

VWBro. **Charles (Chuck) Brockway** was elevated to the 33rd Degree, *Inspectors General Honorary* and **WBro. Adam Creighton** was ordained a *Knight Commander, Court of Honor* at recent ceremonies held at the Valley of Tacoma by the Orient of Washington, Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction. VWBro. Brockway is a Past Master of St. John's Lodge No. 9 and also is an elected member of our Board of Trustees. WBro. Creighton has been our outstanding Musician since 2008.

The Thirty-third Degree is conferred by the Supreme Council upon members of the Rite who have been invested with the honor of Knight Commander Court of Honor (KCCH) for at least 46 months in recognition of outstanding work in the Rite or in public life. The 33° cannot be asked for and if asked for must be refused. At its biennial session the Supreme Council elect members of the Rite to receive the Degree. These 33° Masons are Inspectors General Honorary of the Supreme Council. The active members of the Supreme Council are chosen from among them.



Adam Creighton

The Knight Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH) is bestowed upon deserving Brethren by the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction. To receive the designation, a Brother must have been a 32° Mason for a minimum of 46 months, but typically the period is much longer. The Valley Executive Committee nominates Brethren for the honor. Being nominated for KCCH, a Brother must be deemed to have given exceptional service to the Rite, Freemasonry, or his community, based on principles taught in the Scottish Rite Degrees. The most distinctive apparel of the KCCH Mason is his red cap, "a symbol of the nobility of the soul, which is the parent of all Knightly virtues." It replaces the black cap earned upon becoming a 32° Mason. WBro. Creighton will wear the red cap at all Valley meetings and Scottish Rite functions.

Although there is no higher degree than that of a Master Mason, the 29 degrees of the Scottish Rite serve to enrich the philosophy of the Symbolic Lodge. A Mason who chooses to further his Masonic experience by becoming a 32° Scottish Rite Mason will be expanding upon the fundamental principles of Freemasonry.

In the Scottish Rite, you learn a wealth of knowledge. It will teach you more about Masonry. It will answer some of the questions raised in the blue Lodge degrees. It is a sort of graduate course in Masonic teachings. In fact, it aids, supplements, and reinforces what we learn here at St. John's Lodge in every way. As organizations, York and Scottish Rite bodies are mutually dependent because they strengthen one another.



St. John's will again offer dinner to all comers including guests and visitors at this month's stated communication October 20.

Please make your dinner reservations with the secretary at 206 623-0261 by Friday, October 15, 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 Our District Brethren

District 5 Lodges	Next Meeting	Time
St. John's 9	Wednesday, October 20, 2021	7:30pm
Eureka 20	Monday, November 1, 2021	7:30pm
University 141	Monday, November 1, 2021	7:30pm
Daylight 232	Saturday, October 16, 2021	10am
Lafayette 241	Thursday, December 2, 2021	7pm
Queen Anne 242	Thursday, October 14, 2021	7:30pm
Esoterika 316	Tuesday, October 26, 2021	7:30pm



Charles Brockway

Proficiency Examination

Bro. Louis Turner is ready to prove to the brethren one portion of his proficiency as an Entered Apprentice Mason as he will be tested on the EA Posting Lecture in Lodge this month. He has delivered the apron and working tools lectures to a couple of recently initiated Entered Apprentices.



Table of Contents [linked](#)

- [From the East, Master's Message page 1](#)
- [St. John's Calendar 1](#)
- [Candidates for 2022 Junior Grand Warden 2](#)
- [Brothers Receive Scottish Rite Honors 2](#)
- [Visit Our District Brethren 2](#)
- [Proficiency Examination 2](#)
- [Wardens' Messages 3](#)
- [Zoom Fellowship Wednesdays 3](#)
- [Shared Values – exercise of Brotherly Love 3](#)
- [2022 Annual Dues in St. John's Lodge 4](#)
- [A "Grand View" to Communicate 4](#)
- [The Most Important Meeting 5](#)
- [Master Masons Raised in October 6](#)
- [email Address? Let Us Know! 6](#)
- [Note from Helmuth 6](#)
- [Masonic Outreach Services – Background 7](#)
- [October Birthday Celebrants 7](#)
- [What Does YOUR Behavior Say About Freemasonry? .. 8](#)
- [Electronic Standard Work Now Available 8](#)
- [Beware Phony Grand Lodge Website 8](#)

Senior Warden's Message

WBro. Blair Neumann



Brethren, under the protecting folds of the Flag of Our Country, we have worked as Masons for the good of humanity. May we as Masons stand ever ready to shield and protect that emblem of civil and religious liberty as we should foster and promote the divine principle of which it is the symbol throughout the world.

The plain language of our Craft makes clear that the Flag of Our Country represents the rights of free men and of Freemasons, and nothing that happens in the outer world can weaken, set aside, or repudiate that truth. The Flag of Our Country maintains its Masonic symbolism no matter what winds may wave its stars and stripes. If some demagogue were to disparage our Flag, even if some Brothers were to adhere to that demagogue, it would not change the clear Masonic significance of Our Flag.

So should it be with all the explicit language of our Craft. Masonry speaks for itself. Our words and our work withstand all challenges and outside forces, as the Flag of Our Country may remind us each time we salute it, pledge our allegiance, or sing its many worthy praises.

Junior Warden's Message

WBro. John Murray Louderback



HOORAY - we are back In Lodge! Back to the Brotherhood that we have all missed during the COVID shutdown. It has been great getting back together again where we belong.

We are also back to conducting Degrees. Some have had to wait for their Degree for almost two years. I became aware of Mr. Phil Halverson's interest in Freemasonry in November of 2019. We met for lunch together; had burgers, fries and chocolate malts together. I found Phil to be very cordial, engaging, well-groomed and professional. Phil also told me that both his Grandfathers were Freemasons. I knew then how he had been influenced as a child and that he would be most likely welcomed as a Brother in the Lodge.

A wonderful E.A. Degree was performed for Brother Phil Halverson on Saturday evening, October 2, 2021. VWBro. Neil Quinn presided as Master because Worshipful Master Ashley Brinkley was serving in his capacity as Senior Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Washington at a Lodge Dedication in Spokane.

Thank you to all that were part of the Degree Team and all those dedicated Brothers that attended the Degree. Your presence and participation made for a wonderful evening.

I had told Phil over the last couple of years that I was looking forward to not only calling him my friend, but also my Brother.

Welcome to Freemasonry Brother Phil Halverson!

Shared Values

"By the exercise of Brotherly Love we are taught to regard the whole human race as one family..."

As Masons we often hear that we are all Brothers, who meet upon the Level and part upon the Square. What does this mean? Is it that we are all the same? Of course not. We are unique and separate individuals who think and act independently. But as Masons, we share similar values.

We are taught that in Masonry we must make an effort to exist and to interact in harmony. Harmony, based on Brotherly Love: that is the foundation. But how is this possible? By striving for balance. First we must be balanced within ourselves so our minds and bodies are in balance. This means we are in harmony with our selves, in contact with our deep minds, able to iron out our tensions and rest in the certainty that we are focused and complete. If we are satisfied in our own selves, we are less likely to be dissatisfied by the actions of our Brothers. If, on the other hand, we are a boiling caldron of unsatisfied desires and stunted ambitions, it is sure we will be annoyed by all around us.

We might disagree with a Brother, yet we are taught to subdue our passions.

Let us meet upon the Level, act upon the Plumb, and never part but upon the Square.

Join us on Zoom

Teleconferencing Fellowship
Wednesdays

at 7pm

*We're having a wonderful time exchanging ideas and
Masonic Enlightenment*

Coming dates:

October 13, 2021 Board of Trustees – no Zoom

October 20, 2021 (stated meeting night – no Zoom)

October 27, 2021 – subject: Masonic Education

November 3, 2021 – subject TBA

November 10, 2021 Board of Trustees – no Zoom)

Sessions open promptly at 7pm

*** Fellowship**

*** Check on our brothers and widows**

*** Masonic Enlightenment & Education**

- Use Meeting ID **981 655 9198** to join our Fellowships
 - Enter passcode **1776**

Here's more about how to use Zoom Meetings:

https://zoom.us/download#client_4meeting

2022 Annual Dues in St. John's Lodge

Notices for annual dues will be mailed to all dues-owing members of St. John's this month. Your plastic membership card which identifies all Lodges to which a brother is a member will not be replaced for another 3-4 years, but will show with a quick scan by the Tyler whether or not you are current for the year. 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 (\$5 fee), you may do so through the Secretary.



2022 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+\$28= \$38*

Members enrolled after June 18, 2014

1. Past Masters, Life Members = \$0
2. Age 65+ = \$75 + \$28 = \$103*
3. Residence 50+ miles from Lodge = \$103*
4. Other Raised Master Masons = \$390+\$28=\$418*
5. Future Plural Members (local residence) prorated quarterly at joining:
 - a. Jan. – March 2022 = \$418
 - b. Apr. – June = \$313.50
 - c. July – Sept. = \$209
 - d. Oct. – Dec. = \$104.50

***These fees increase by \$5 each month for overdue payment beginning January, 2022.**

From whence comes \$390 in the above calculation? Our bylaws factor 26 x the Washington State minimum wage rounded up to the nearest dollar. The minimum wage, as set by the State of Washington, will be \$14.49 January 1. Rounded up, that will be \$15. Also added is the Grand Lodge per capita assessment of \$28. Thus (26 x \$15) + \$28 = \$418.

Members may pay their dues by cash, check, Certificates of Masonic Labor, or a combination of these. Certificates of Labor (now valued at \$30 each) are issued at each stated or special communication (degree or officer installation).

Payment by PayPal is available, though not encouraged. St. John's does not have a PayPal account. If you can pay no other way, you can do so through our Treasurer's personal account (his email is jrmaher@comcast.net).

For PayPal:

From your **computer**, here's how to send money:

1. Click [Send & Request](#) at the top of the page.
2. Enter Jim Maher's, email address and click **Next**.
3. Enter the amount, choose the currency, add a note (if needed) and click **Continue**.
4. Select either "Paying for an item or service" or "Sending to a friend."
5. Select how you want to pay and click **Next**.
6. Review the information and click **Send Payment Now**.

Grand View – A “Grand View” to Communicate

Grand View is a comprehensive web platform that provides an encrypted portal where our Grand Lodge, Constituent Lodges, and individual members can communicate and interact online. Over the last few years Grand View has evolved from a simple membership management database into a platform with nearly endless possibilities.

You can access your Masonic record, communicate with your Lodge, edit your own information, register for seminars, and more. Check it out!

If you have not yet registered, you will need to [create your own Member Portal Account](#) and follow the steps to assign a CASE SENSITIVE username and password. There are various levels of access such as member, secretary, Lodge officer, District Deputy, and a variety levels of Grand Lodge staff or officers.

If you do not know your membership number, check your dues card. You can contact your Secretary or Grand Lodge for assistance if needed. After the three fields are filled in, click on the “Check Membership Status” blue button. This will take you to a sign-on screen, where you can establish a password or reset your password. Once, you have established your membership registration, here is the link to login in the future:

https://wa.gvsoftware.com/users/sign_in

Please keep in mind that the Grand Lodge office is not able to create your account for you nor do we have access to your password. If you are having trouble logging in once you have created an account, please use the “Forgot your password” link found directly under the login section. If you have found a mistake in your history or member information that you are unable to update yourself, please contact the Grand Lodge office.

Grand Lodge of Washington Office info: Phone: (253) 625-7891 Emails: connor@freemason-wa.org or LynneB@freemason-wa.org

Once you are activated, at the top of the page there are tabs that you can select. My Portal has different areas to select.

1. “**Feed**” has news worthy information from Grand Lodge.
2. “**Events**” shows a calendar.
3. “**My Profile**” gives you the opportunity to edit your profile.
4. “**Virtual Card**”: Temporary dues card (Not working)
5. “**Grand Lodge**” information on Grand Lodge, committees, boards, PGM
6. “**Member Portal and Mobil App**” Mobile App
7. “**Seminars**” This shows different meetings both past and future meeting.

Examples of past seminars / meetings that you can watch: Lodge accounting & Dues Notices, Member Portal and Mobile App, Introduction to Grand View, Secretary Forum, Six Steps with the Senior Grand Warden (parts 1, 2, 3), What they don't tell you about being Worshipful Master, Leadership, Grandview Training for Secretaries, Ritual and Masonic Education, Officer Protocol and Practices, Lead and Motivate, Masons Membership Retention, and Lodge Finances.

https://wa.gvsoftware.com/membership_registration

LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER



In the Entered Apprentice degree, we are taught: “By the rough ashlar we are reminded of our rude and imperfect state by nature; by the perfect ashlar, of that state of perfection at which we hope to arrive by a virtuous education, our own endeavors, and the blessing of God.” How does one get educated? For every student, there has to be a teacher. While Masonic Education plays a vital role in doing this, not every Lodge does a good job of this. For the new Entered Apprentice, there needs to be a mentor.

The Most Important Meeting

by Midnight Freemason Contributor

WB Darin A. Lahners



It has been said that the First Meeting that an Entered Apprentice attends is the most important meeting of a Freemason's career. I would argue that it's the first meeting after they've been raised as a Master Mason, because as an Entered Apprentice, honestly, you don't have the ability to fully participate in the Meeting. You don't have the right to vote. However, for the sake of argument, let's just discuss that first meeting.

I celebrated 10 years of being part of the Fraternity on September 19, 2021. I was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on that date. If you're like me, you probably have a difficult time remembering that first meeting that you attended. If I'm being honest, I'm guessing it was much like the meetings I currently attend. We were barely making quorum, we probably spent way too much time on trivial matters and not enough time on Masonic education (however you define that). As much as I abhor the trivial business managed in stated meetings now, I'm guessing I thought that it must be an aberration then. Surely that's not what Freemasonry is about I thought to myself.

I used to cringe when someone would say to a newly raised Master Mason: “You get out of Freemasonry what you put into it.” I disagreed with the sentiment of the statement, and thought that we were setting a low bar for new Masons to meet; essentially giving them an excuse to not become engaged in Freemasonry. The whole idea to me was absurd until I realized that it was somewhat true. Essentially a better way to state the above would be to say: “In order to perform the transformative work of

Freemasonry, you have to put in the effort.” In fact, in the Entered Apprentice degree, we are taught: “By the rough ashlar we are reminded of our rude and imperfect state by nature; by the perfect ashlar, of that state of perfection at which we hope to arrive by a virtuous education, our own endeavors, and the blessing of God”. Isn't this essentially saying the same thing?

That first meeting boils down to not how you conduct your business, but how you engage that Entered Apprentice. “By a virtuous education.” What is a virtuous education? Virtue means “excellent” and usually refers to moral excellence or excellence of character. It is an education that at its root teaches an individual to learn, practice, and habituate the four cardinal virtues of Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice, along with Faith, Hope, and Charity; as well as our tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. But most importantly, how does one get educated? For every student, there has to be a teacher. While Masonic Education plays an important role in doing this, not every Lodge does a good job of this. For the new Entered Apprentice, there needs to be a mentor.

At this point, the Entered Apprentice is going to probably have an intender assigned to them (In Illinois, it is the brother who is assigned to the candidate that helps them learn their catechisms and about Freemasonry as they progress through the degrees), but is this person serving as a mentor? They *can* be the same thing, but in my experience when one is an intender, they only help that brother through their degrees, and when they are raised they stop helping. A mentor is someone that helps that Entered Apprentice throughout their life and encourages that person they are mentoring to become a mentor to another. The mentor sets an example of how to live according to the principles of Freemasonry by its application in their everyday life. When mentoring is done right, what develops over time is a mutual friendship and respect for one another on a deep emotional level. By the end of that first meeting (ideally before it); someone in that Lodge needs to become the mentor for the new Entered Apprentice. In a perfect world, they will have several if not all of the brothers of the Lodge wanting to be mentors. However, in many cases, it is one individual stepping up to the plate.

However, the mentor is only able to teach the student if they are willing to learn and participate in the relationship. “By our own endeavors” means that the Entered Apprentice is open and receptive to being mentored, taking the lessons that he is being taught in the

degrees and exemplified by his mentor and that he applies them in his everyday life. This is where the real transformative work happens. Hopefully, it will be understood by the Entered Apprentice by this point, or taught to him by his mentor that this work is a lifelong endeavor. This is the labor we undertake as Freemasons in our personal quarry. This is the application of our Virtuous education. As the saying goes, you can bring a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. If that Entered Apprentice has no desire to practice Freemasonry, nothing you do as a mentor is going to matter. If the investigation committee has done their job, then you're going to have an Entered Apprentice that is willing to do this work, learn from a mentor, and at some point to become a mentor to others that are joining the Fraternity.

Lastly, "The blessing of God" is a reminder of that time when as an Entered Apprentice, you were conducted to the center of the Lodge, caused to kneel and attend prayer. It was here that we all were taught that no man should ever enter upon any great or important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity. The transformative work we engage in as Freemasons is the greatest duty that we will ever undertake. It is therefore appropriate that we ask for the blessing of Deity while undertaking it. It is our hope that by undertaking this work, that we are making ourselves worthy enough to be declared worthy enough to gain admission into the Celestial Lodge where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.

I hope that I have conveyed to you that the goal of the first meeting should be to not put on a perfect Masonic experience for the Entered Apprentice. The goal should be to have someone in the Lodge step up and mentor them. In my case, I was and continue to be extremely lucky and blessed to have Illus. Brother Greg Knott as my mentor. Through Greg, I have met other brothers, like Todd E. Creason, Robert Johnson, Bill Hosler, Steve Harrison, and all of the Midnight Freemasons past and present. I feel that we all inspire and mentor each other. I continue through these brothers to meet other brothers that inspire me and that I hopefully inspire as well. In turn, I have come to mentor other brothers, like Dustin Farris and Tyler Hall, who I hope in turn someday will mentor others. In fact, if you think about it, doesn't the title "Entered Apprentice" invoke the idea of a mentorship? An apprentice is one that learns a craft from someone who is skilled in the application of that craft, i.e.: a mentor. In my mind, this is what we need to practice in order to ensure that our Craft survives.

WB Darin A. Lahners is a Past Master of St. Joseph Lodge No. 970 in St. Joseph. He is also a plural member of Homer Lodge No. 199 (IL), where he is also a Past Master. He's a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Danville, a charter member of Illinois Royal Arch Chapter, Admiration Chapter No. 282 and is the current Secretary of the Illini High Twelve Club No. 768 in Champaign – Urbana (IL). You can reach him by email at darin.lahners@gmail.com.

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
10/28/1971	Don G. Lyman
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



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 Trestleboards, contact us at jimrussell58@frontier.com



Note from Helmuth –

This morning (9/28/21), the MW GL of Austria has issued a press release related to the triple murder of three children by suffocation in Croatia two nights ago, on Sunday last, allegedly by their father, age 56.

The press release was carried by APA-OTS, the (official) Austria Press Agency, and by important media.

In a Facebook message, the father had stated that he is in great financial difficulties, and that not even his "masonic brothers" have helped him.

The Grand Lodge clarifies that the man is not and never has been a member of a Masonic Lodge in Austria or Croatia, and that he never had any contact with the Grand Lodge.

Furthermore, while it is possible that he may belong to a Lodge not recognized by international freemasonry, it should also be considered that the word "Freemasonry" is not legally protected and can be used and misused by anybody.

I have a copy of the press release and will gladly forward it to any interested Brother.



Masonic Outreach Services – Background

Washington Masonic Charities (WAMC) and our Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) program are part of a long, rich, and sometimes complicated part of Washington's Grand Jurisdiction charitable activities. This piece is intended to provide background about Masonic Outreach Services and how that led to our work today.

Prior to Washington Masonic Charities, the Masonic Retirement Center (MRC), built in 1926, was the main charitable focus of the Jurisdiction for the support of Masonic widows, indigent Masons, and older Masonic couples needing care. The building and property was owned solely by the Grand Lodge of Washington. In the 1990s a nonprofit called the Masonic Retirement Center of Washington (MRCWA) was formed to operate the facility. Nonprofit (501 (c) (3)) management of the facility and its operations better enabled the facility to receive Medicaid funds and private donations to help offset increasing expenses and costs of care. It may have also been necessary at the time to form and fund a 501 (c)(3) and make charitable distributions from the Grand Lodge endowments to avoid taxes on the endowments due to changes and increased scrutiny by the IRS during the mid-1990s.

Residents of the MRC qualified for entry in two ways - first was to pay privately and/or turn over their assets in return for life-long care. The second was if they had no resources available to them and were indigent. A long standing Masonic value has been to contribute to one's own support if able. Another long standing value is to contribute to the relief of those who need our assistance when they are without.

Though the Masonic Retirement Center of Washington was formed as a nonprofit charitable organization, not long after, the MRC building was found to be out of sync with State of Washington eldercare facility requirements. The Jurisdiction spent the better part of 2000-2008 trying to address this issue without success.

The MRC was closed in 2008 and Masonic Outreach Services was formed in 2010 as an alternative way to provide assistance for older adults. Rather than provide direct care in a facility owned by the Fraternity, the purpose and role of Masonic Outreach Services is to help people to age in place, obtain skilled care, or receive relief when in distress.

In 2012 the Brethren voted at the Annual Communication to consolidate the MRCWA, CHIPs and Washington Masonic Library Association under the MRCWA's Federal EIN. It was renamed Washington Masonic Charities and new purposes we outlined in the Masonic Code. These included providing relief, assisting older adults, helping children and students, providing scholarships, and operating the Masonic Library and museum.

Following an extensive agency-conducted executive search in 2014 an executive director was hired. This individual came to WAMC with nearly 30 years of nonprofit experience and training, including leadership in boards and governance, nonprofit finances, development, human services, youth services, programs and scholarships, and library and museum work. He was tasked with bringing all of these activities together in a cohesive fashion. Over the course of the next 18 months, the Executive Director worked with the Board of Trustees to develop and implement policies, strategies, programs and services. Staff were hired, programs were streamlined and refocused for impact, new ones were developed, and non-functional ones were jettisoned. The charitable effort became truly state-wide, with case managers and staff serving all communities across the state of Washington.

Based on the policies and objectives of the Board of Trustees, the Masonic Outreach Services program was relocated to Washington Masonic Charities offices at the Grand Lodge building in University Place. There were challenges early on with access to information, technology and communications. The Executive Director hired a new team of employees, each who were highly qualified and had the skills, training and experience to take Masonic Outreach Services and Washington Masonic Charities into the future. Byron Cregeur, who had formerly been the Executive Director of a senior housing program in the Puget Sound area was hired as the MOS Program Director. Case managers were hired, and eventually offices were opened in Kennewick and Spokane. In 2021 Masonic Outreach Services hired a case manager to also serve the north Puget Sound and Western Washington Region.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Day	
2	Paul A. Cox
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
31	Phillip E. Halverson



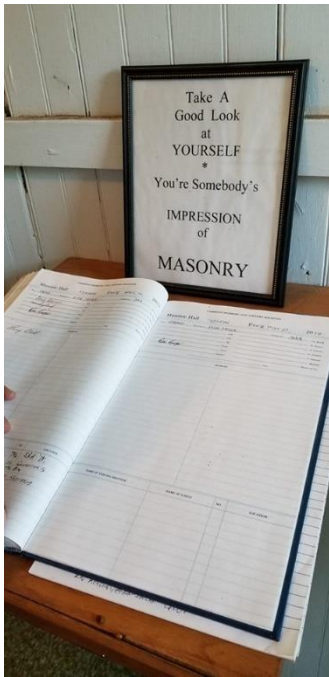
What Does YOUR Behavior Say About Freemasonry?

by *Midnight Freemasons Founder*

Todd E. Creason, 33°

I posted this on my personal blog some time back and it got a big reaction. I don't know that we think about this a lot. We should. I've talked about it before.

When I became a Mason back in 2005, I was joining a group of men. Not only was I joining a group of men, but I became a representative of that group. I joined that group with a desire to improve myself. I embraced those principles, ideals, and morals that the group believed was important to develop in ourselves in order to become men of good character. There was nothing in any of those basic building



blocks of character that conflicted with my religious or personal beliefs. And over the last fourteen years I've met some of the finest men I've ever known, and learned a great deal about Freemasonry, about life, and about the characteristic of being a man of principle. We aspire to live by a higher standard than those in the profane world outside.

I used to say that Freemasonry's best advertising was its members. In the social media age, I'm not sure that's true. I'm frequently embarrassed by the way I see Masons behave on social media. I see Masons

posting memes they know will start a huge debate, and then take part in online fights that are disrespectful and crude. There's one social media page that seems to pride itself on the lack of respect that they show each other. It's also a public forum. That behavior certainly doesn't represent my values nor most of the Masons I know, and it certainly doesn't demonstrate the standards of our fraternity either.

I wonder what non-Masons think about our Fraternity when they see our members behaving this way? I wonder what perspective Masons looking for information think when they stumble on these forums? I'll tell you honestly, if I'd seen some of that back in 2004 when I became interested in Freemasonry, I'm not sure I would have joined. In fact, I'm pretty sure I wouldn't have. That conduct of our members (our representatives) is not what I *thought* Freemasonry was about back then, and it's definitely not what I *know* Freemasonry is supposed to be about today.

I'm a true believer in what this Fraternity can do for men, what it can do for communities, and the positive influence these values we instill in our members can have

on the world. I've studied it. I've applied it. I've written about it. I've spoken about it. I've lived it for the last 14 years. I must admit, however, I sometimes question the direction we're headed. This public foolishness is beneath us. We can't even talk about something as mundane as how we should dress for official functions without getting into ugly public fights with one another.

We've become so inwardly focused on ourselves as individuals and our own needs in this era that we forget we're part of a group – each representing each other and all of us representing a higher standard that we aspire towards. We've forgotten that we're not Freemasons to change Freemasonry into an image of ourselves, we became Freemasonry to be changed by the traditional teachings and values of our Fraternity. To become part of a long and proud tradition. To become better men – to rise above the crude and profane world around us and serve as examples to others.

Let's remember who we are when we interact with the world . . . and try to remember that when we represent ourselves as Freemasons to the world, each of us represents ALL of us.

Todd E. Creason, 33° is the Founder of the *Midnight Freemasons blog*, and an award-winning author of several books and novels, including the *Famous American Freemasons series*. Todd started the *Midnight Freemason blog* in 2006, and in 2012 he opened it up as a contributor blog *The Midnight Freemasons (plural)*. Todd has written more than 1,000 pieces for the blog since it began. He is a Past Master of Homer Lodge No. 199 and Ogden Lodge No. 754 (IL) where he currently serves as Secretary. He is a Fellow at the Missouri Lodge of Research (FMLR). You can contact him at: webmaster@toddcreason.org

Electronic Standard Work

Based on the approved change in the Washington Masonic Code, the Grand Lodge of Washington Standard Work will now be offered in a secure electronic format. We have uploaded the Standard Work onto Grand View. We have made the Entered Apprentice portion available to our Entered Apprentice Masons, the Fellowcraft portion to our Fellowcraft Masons and the full Standard Work is available to all Master Masons. Please do not share this document with anyone and do not make copies. Both the large and small standard works are still available for purchase through the Grand Lodge office.

Brethren,

It was brought to my attention that someone has created a website that appears to belong to the Grand Lodge of Washington. The website is using our photos and information, but has substituted a different phone number and has a chat option. The website in question is freemason-ca.com. We are working to resolve the issue. If you come across this website, please do not interact or give any personal information to the site.

Fraternally,
Clinton M. Brown, Jr.
Grand Secretary