

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

Trestleboard



Serving Seattle since 1860

JULY 2022

Jim Russell, editor

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FROM THE EAST

[Blair Neumann](#), *Master*



Blair Neumann,
Master

Brethren, we know that religion and politics should not be discussed in Lodge, but do we know why not, and do we understand due bounds when these topics are discussed outside of Lodge?

The prohibition against Masons talking about religion and politics was taught to me even before I became a Mason myself, by soon-to-be Brothers who shared this conventional wisdom with pride, apparently as an example of what sets Masons apart and how we maintain Harmony despite the various disharmonies that the outer world might otherwise demand.

I took it on faith that I would be more-formally taught to avoid religion and politics as part of my Masonic journey. Having now completed all three degrees of Masonry, and having become a Past Master myself, I look back and am surprised to find that explicit instructions to avoid religion and politics were not provided in our ritual.

I've come to understand the prohibition against religion and politics as rooted in the Ancient Charges, where we are indeed instructed to avoid talking about religious or political topics in Lodge or immediately thereafter. And since we're both obligated and charged to observe all ancient Masonic usages, these Ancient Charges apply to us today.

Beside the Ancient Charges (Appendix E), I find this prohibition in a by-law regarding the recognition of foreign jurisdictions (Sec 1.09 B.L.) where this prohibition against discussion of any and all religious and sectarian doctrines and political subjects within the Lodge Room helps place us squarely within the broader Masonic Fraternity worldwide.

Clearly then this prohibition exists, and is binding on us today, but the prohibition is specific to the Lodge Room and immediately following Lodge. Nowhere do I find such prohibition as it applies to the life of a Mason outside of Lodge, nor regarding discussions between Masons outside of the times immediately surrounding our sacred retreats.

My point, Brothers, is not to encourage you to discuss religion and politics, but to help place our concerns into appropriate Masonic context. Masonry teaches us how to conduct ourselves with Masons and non-Masons alike outside of Lodge, such as to subdue our passions and maintain ourselves within due bounds. Nowhere is there an exception for difficult conversations like these.

It's my belief not that we should talk about religion and politics outside of Lodge, but that we may, and if we do, that we should be careful to apply due bounds and all other lessons of Masonry, more especially with a Brother Mason, lest we divide ourselves instead of conciliating true friendship among persons who might otherwise remain perpetually at a distance.

CALENDAR



- July 13 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom
- July 14 (6pm): Officers meeting teleconference
- July 20 (6:15pm): **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated**
- July 27 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- August 3 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom
- August 6 (10am): **Open Air Degree, Masonic Park St. John's campout & Picnic canceled**
- August 10 (6pm): Board of Trustees teleconference
- August 11 (6pm): Officers meeting teleconference
- August 17 (6:15pm): **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated**
- Sept. 4: **Happy Birthday to us!**
- Sept. 23: **162nd Anniversary Celebration Ivar's Salmon House**
- September 30 – October 3: **Districts 2, 4, 5 Lodge Leadership Retreat at Rainbow Dream Camp**
- October 5-6: *Yom Kippur*
- October 9-18: **Tour of Scotland**
- October 12 (6pm): Board of Trustees 2023 Budget preparation
- October 13 (7pm): Officers meeting teleconference
- October 19 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated**

Grand Lodge Communications

Brothers, log on to Grand View periodically and check the latest word from the Grand Master and Grand Lodge. There are many interesting communications there regarding meetings, training, the Annual Communication, and the like. We encourage everyone to log on to the site periodically and check under 'Feed' to see the latest from Grand Lodge.

Grand View

JULY COMMUNICATION AGAIN PRESENTS AN EVENING OF EDUCATION

Masons with an interest in the history of Freemasonry are led to believe that at the time of the formation of the Grand Lodge of London and Westminster there were only two degrees, Entered Apprentice and Fellow of the Craft. These degrees were in practice by the Operative Masons in Scotland.

Somewhere between 1710 and 1723 a third degree was being conferred in Scotland and then in 1726 a revised third degree was presented as a play in England. We know from documents at the time (Rituals and Lodge minutes) that the current third degree was formed by taking a part of the Fellowcraft degree and constructing the Hiram Legend around it. The problem is that it is not generally known what part was moved and it requires looking at several ancient documents to find the answer.

Our Senior Deacon will attempt to share how part of the Fellowcraft degree became the base for the Master Mason degree. WBro. Thonas Lamb has been a Freemason for eighteen years, and is a member of five Lodges here in Washington. He has been recognized with both the Hiram Award and the Grand Master's Achievement award. He has served as Worshipful Master three times, once in Edmonds Lodge No. 165, and twice in Walter F. Meier Lodge of Research, a position he currently holds.

Additionally, Bro. Louis Turner will be addressing the brothers on the subject of the Cornucopia. There are many ancient myths associated with the Cornucopia, to which Bro. Turner will undoubtedly refer. For Freemasons the Cornucopia is most commonly known as the symbol for the stewards who are stationed in the Masonic South. The Masonic South is tied with nourishment of the brothers. Often one of the duties of the stewards is to help with meal preparation and other times when nourishment is provided to the members of the Lodge.

All Brothers are encouraged to join us for our 6:15 dinner preceding our stated communication. Please make your dinner [reservations](#) with the secretary at 206 623-0261 by Friday, July 15. Doors open at 5:30. 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.



WB Thomas Lamb will present his research on the origins of the Master Mason degree in July

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AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

***St. John's Education Committee
Introduces another Chapter***

*This year we're exchanging ideas and
Masonic Enlightenment
at our stated communications and on Zoom*

Masonic education is the study of Masonic values, history, symbols and myths. It also encompasses lessons in leadership, self-improvement and community building. Our purpose is to help members learn more about Freemasonry and themselves.

*** July 20 Stated: How Part of the Fellowcraft Degree became the Base for the Master Degree**

*** August 3 Zoom: Unannounced**

*** August 17 Stated: Inadvertent North American Influences on Australian Freemasonry**

ST. JOHN'S ANNIVERSARY DINNER

WBro. Eric Koteles has arranged for our 162nd Anniversary Dinner to be held Friday, September 23, at Ivar's Salmon House. Social hour will open at 6pm followed by dinner at 7pm. Choice of New York steak, wild salmon or vegetarian. Contact the Secretary to reserve your entrée selection and that of one guest.

Seattle Underground Tour

The Master reported that a date has yet to be set for a family outing of the Seattle Underground Tour, but that we are hoping to reserve Saturday, September 17 – a week before our anniversary dinner. Attempts will be made to focus a part of the tour on a little bit of St. John's history, such as Seattle pioneer and member Bro. David "Doc" Maynard.

Senior Warden's Message

[WBro. John Murray Louderback](#)



Due to personal family concerns, our Senior Warden regrets he has no message to offer this month. Your editor shares this prayerful message:

Living God, remind us who we are as Masons. We are men who would rather yield up our lives than forfeit our integrity. We are men who believe that selfishness must die in us if we are truly to live. We are men who believe that the soul is immortal, and that this has consequences for our lives on this earth right now. We grieve for those who grieve. Keep us ever mindful of those teachings from the Sublime Degree and enable us to put them into practice in our daily living. Amen.

MEET THE NEW JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

Roger B. Nelson, Jr.: Greetings from the South, Brethren! I am honored and greatly humbled to have been elected as your Junior Grand Warden and look forward with tremendous enthusiasm to the ensuing Masonic year.



RW Roger Nelson
Junior Grand Warden

For those of you with whom I have yet to become acquainted, I'm a third generation Freemason raised in Destiny Lodge of Tacoma (now Fairweather), a Past Master and Secretary of Manito Lodge in Spokane. I was a DeMolay in Tacoma and the Tri-Cities and remain heavily involved in Scottish Rite and the Shrine. My professional vitae includes more than a decade at KOMO and KING in Seattle as an

investigative reporter and anchor, and for the past 20 years in Spokane in broadcast and digital marketing.

My wife Martha and I have enjoyed traveling around the jurisdiction the past year meeting many of you, and I look forward to spending even more time now learning about all our Lodges, their members and how I can best be of service.

I believe there is a kind of "quickenning" occurring within our fraternity right now, with more men seeking us out than perhaps in any time since World War II. Quickly responding to the hundreds of annual inquiries received by the Grand Lodge office, discouraging men who would not be a credit to our craft, and enhancing the Masonic experience for those who would, are important responsibilities we can all muster to.

Stoic philosopher Epictetus is quoted as saying, "We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak," and that pretty much sums up my immediate plans as Junior Grand Warden. If there's anything I can do to help you or your Lodge, please don't hesitate to text, e-mail or phone me anytime.

Fraternally, RW Roger Nelson Junior Grand Warden
radiorog@comcast.net

Junior Warden's Message

[WBro. Eric Koteles](#)



Brethren,

As I put the last ribbons on the details for St. John's 162nd anniversary dinner, it came to my mind that what an honor it is for me to be the person in charge of putting together an Anniversary Dinner, the 162nd for a Lodge of Freemasons in Seattle. Washington.

Also, it dawns on me that it could be a good exercise to all the St. John's Brethren to take this time to meditate about not the 162 years but these years that we are responsible for. Yes, it has been 162 years, but during *our* years have we been striving? Surviving? Building? Rebuilding? Static? Even worst, wasted?

Now while you have that picture in mind, meditate on what you didn't do, on what you did, and what you could have done better.....

Trust me when I tell you I'm doing that exercise and something for sure, I'll be working hard, and I believe that I'm not alone, so that the majority if not all future anniversary dinners are for a Lodge that has been and is going to be striving for the next 162 years no matter what obstacles are thrown before us, for a Freemason obstacles are just another opportunity.

Scouting in the US



Freemasonry's relationship with the Boy Scouts started nearly with the founding of Scouting in the United States in 1903. While the founder of Scouting was not a Mason, his brother and his great friend Rudyard Kipling were. Over time, they influenced the growth of the Boy Scouts of America. Masons have long been strong supporters of Scouting by supporting the development of Scouting units, serving as volunteers, and assisting their Masonic Lodges in forming and sponsoring Scout units. The relationship between individual Masons and Scouting, which has existed since the founding of Scouting in America, has resulted in great benefits for both Freemasonry and Scouting.

Join us for our September Masonic Education Series at 7pm on Wednesday, September 7, 2022.

JULY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

- Day
- 3 Bernard G. Yperman
- 6 Aaron D. Holt
- 7 James R. Odom
- 15 Edgar H. Carthell, Jr.
- 22 Kurt W. Lavrinc
- 22 Allan B. Pinch
- 23 Kenneth C. Marable
- 24 Thomas R. Everts
- 29 George S. Serpanos



LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER

Our Masonic journey is a search for enlightenment; and the path for that journey is education. Keep it coming. But, the social interaction we have with our Brothers is an important part of what our fraternity is. We don't want our organization to be all joking and no substance; we mustn't exclude it. All work and no play makes Hiram a dull boy.



BLASPHEMY - We are More than Masonic Education

by *Midnight Freemason Contributor*

Steven L. Harrison, 33°, FMLR

Masonic education is all the rage with the crowd I run with; and this is, by the way, a good thing. I seem to hear more about Masonic education now than ever before (“ever before” being defined as since I joined the Craft 19 years ago).

We may not always stop to think that “Masonic education” is a broad term that can take many forms. It can be a deep, spiritual, esoteric subject that, frankly, sometimes winds up being over my head. Or it can be something lightweight – maybe an account of something a Brother did or even a funny anecdote. Usually the subject falls somewhere in between. Doesn't matter. Whatever form it takes, Masonic education is the hot topic du jour. Hallelujah. When we are new to the degrees and are asked what it is we want, we respond that we want light, and progressively more of it. In other words, our Masonic journey is a search for enlightenment; and the path for that journey is education. Keep it coming.

However, I hear a lot of dissent about some of the other things we do: “Oh, man, not another bean dinner,” or “what's with all the service projects, what are we, the Rotary?” (No offense meant to the Rotary, a fine organization, but different than the Freemasons).

See, I like those things, too. The bean dinners, the meals before the meetings and all the social events give me a chance to get together with my Brothers and informally kick things around. Those conversations usually aren't very heavy but they're enjoyable. The social interaction we have with our Brothers is an important part of what our fraternity is. We don't want our organization to be all joking and no substance but I also wouldn't want to exclude it. All work and no play makes Hiram a dull boy.

Also, there are the service projects. In my area we help with the Child Identification Program (MoCHIP) which, in the past decade has helped return at least eight missing or abducted children to their homes, out of about a quarter million registered. We've assisted with disaster recovery and are currently helping my city build a playground for disabled kids. We are, by the way, way over our heads financially on that one, but we'll figure something out. All of these projects give the Brothers a sense of fulfillment. You know, it's the old, “it is better to

give than receive” thing. Community service – let's have more of that, too.

So, recapping, when we get together as Brothers, we're doing a broad range of things: We have social interaction at our events; we help make our communities better places through our service projects; and we seek enlightenment.

Freemasonry needs all of these. In fact, couldn't we call our social interaction Brotherly Love, our community service Relief and our quest for enlightenment a search for Truth? Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Where have I heard that before?

We are more than Masonic education, and that is outright blasphemy to some. It shouldn't be. I suspect the emphasis behind Masonic education derives from the fact we sometimes make it the stepchild of our other activities. We have plenty of bean dinners and service projects but seem to

fall short on Masonic education. Still, in a perfect world, we should clamor for social events and service projects just as loudly as for Masonic education. It's “Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth,” not “Truth and whatever.”

Maybe if our quest for Masonic Education is successful enough we can get to the point where we have to start emphasizing the other tenets: “More bean dinners!” Now that sounds like the ultimate blasphemy, doesn't it?

***Bro. Steve Harrison, 33°**, is Past Master of Liberty Lodge #31, Liberty, Missouri. He is also a Fellow and Past Master of the Missouri Lodge of Research. Among his other Masonic memberships are the St. Joseph Missouri Valley of the Scottish Rite, Liberty York Rite bodies, and Moila Shrine. He is also a member and Past Dean of the DeMolay Legion of Honor. Brother Harrison is a regular contributor to the Midnight Freemasons blog as well as several other Masonic publications Brother Steve was Editor of the Missouri Freemason magazine for a decade and is a regular contributor to the Whence Came You podcast. Born in Indiana, he has a Master's Degree from Indiana University and is retired from a 35-year career in information technology. Steve and his wife Carolyn reside in northwest Missouri. He is the author of dozens of magazine articles and three books: Freemasonry Crosses the Mississippi, Freemasons — Tales From the Craft and Freemasons at Oak Island.*

Action at 2022 Grand Lodge Annual Communication

Failed resolutions at 2022 annual communication: To eliminate “held over” resolutions as a form of business at the Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge; also that held over (carry-over) resolutions be required to use the same majorities for passage as first introduced. **Carry-over** to 2023: To add a statement to Section 18.09 B.L. to require background checks for all Lodge Petitioners.

WE ARE MORE

St. John's Helps Spread Civility

During our June stated communication, MWBro. Sam Roberts introduced the subject of "Civility," placing emphasis on the Civility Task Force as introduced at the Grand Masters Conference a few years ago. Civility is a big part of what Freemasonry is all about. He asked each of us to look inside our heart to ask and answer what Freemasonry is to us.

MW Roberts introduced the www.civilitycouncil.org broad agenda to promote civility – the seal of approval for those organizations that pledge to conduct their business and relationships civilly, Ambassadors of Civility (goodwill ambassadors), and many other diverse approaches to bring improved harmony to our society. The Civility Project hopes to bring the many civility programs available onto one platform for improved communication. St. John's Lodge contributed \$10,000 toward this effort.

As Freemasons, we already have the tools and resources to help make the world a better place. As Freemasons, it is our duty to shine a light on the darker places of society with our moral and social virtues. Through the tenets of brotherly love, relief, and truth, we can move past prejudices and injustice, and treat others with respect and compassion.

The language and the values of Freemasonry were vital to the development of democracy in America. This is a country that was absolutely founded on Masonic principles. It is possible to return to those principles again. Yes, it will take the example and leadership of every Mason out there.

Too often we see road rage, angry meetings, backstabbing and general unpleasantness in life. Let's see what we can do to make a difference. Here are a few thoughts to get us started:

- Pay Attention and Listen. Listen intently when others are speaking. Inhibit the "inner voice" from interrupting with comments such as "The problem is.....", or "We've always done it this way."
- Be Inclusive. Civility knows no ethnicity, no level of leadership, no forum, no religion, no generation, and no bounds. Being inclusive includes everyone. It is about leading and serving for the betterment of mankind.
- No Gossiping. Gossiping is one of the most hurtful behaviors and accomplishes nothing.
- Be Respectful. Respect has nothing to do with liking or disliking someone. Respect means you can disagree without being disagreeable. Civility is "Respectful Behavior." Respect is "Honorable Behavior."
- Build Relationships. Leadership is about building relationships. Therefore, being civil is especially helpful in this process.
- Use Constructive Language. Be mindful of the words you use, when you use them, and also of the words you speak through your non-verbal communications.
- Take Responsibility. Don't shift responsibility or place blame on other people. Hold yourself accountable, accept your own faults, speak positively, and respect everyone. You be the example. You be the example, so that others will say, "I want to be like him."

Volume of the Sacred Law

The Holy Book must be opened upon the altar before a Masonic Lodge may be opened. Freemasonry is not concerned with doctrine or dogma or sect or denomination, but only with "that natural religion in which all men agree." Therefore, the Holy Book is called the V.S.L. or Volume of Sacred Law or the Book of the Law. If the members of a Lodge are Christian, Moslem, Jewish or Buddhist, the V.S.L. of their particular belief is opened upon their altar. The V.S.L. is, therefore, a symbol of the revealed will and teachings of the Great Architect of the Universe - a name under which any Freemason can worship that Deity in Whom he puts his faith and trust.

Visit Our District 5 Brethren

District 5 Lodges	Next Meeting	Time
St. John's 9	Wednesday, July 20, 2022	7:30pm
Eureka 20	Monday, September 12, 2022	7:30pm
University 141	Monday, September 9, 2022	7:30pm
Daylight 232*	Saturday, July 23, 2022	10am
Lafayette 241	Thursday, September 1, 2022	7pm
Queen Anne 242	Thursday, September 8, 2022	7:30pm
Esoterika 316	Tuesday, October 24, 2022	7:30pm

* Installation of officers

Open Air Degree 2022

By WB Mike Dulaney. 32°

Summertime is once again upon us. That means many of our Lodges are Dark. But that does not end the search for Light due to a lack of Masonic events to attend. Where can you find that Light over the summer with Brothers from around the Western Washington? Simply put, the Master Mason (third degree) Open Air Degree event at the Masonic Family Park will be in Granite Falls on August 6, 2022.

On this day, Daylight Lodge 232 of Seattle will be conferring the Master Mason or Third Degree at the Masonic Family Park in Granite Falls. The Lodge will open at 10 am, so please allow enough time to be parked and sign in the Tyler's Register. The cost for entry at the Masonic Park is \$5.00 and will be collected at the gate.

Prior to the Open Air Degree, Damascus Lodge 199 is hosting their annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser at their Temple in Granite Falls.

Brethren, the only restriction for this event is that you must be Master Mason in good standing to attend the accrual degree. So, break out a lawn chair and come out to the Masonic Family Park and enjoy a summer day with your Brothers.

Didyknow?

During the years that Spain was under the control of General Franco, Freemasonry was a "crime" and Masons were imprisoned for a term of years equal to the number of Masonic degrees possessed by the "guilty one."

Grand Master Ed Woods Message

Brethren,

GNOTHI SEAUTON The Ancient Greek aphorism “know thyself” (Greek: γνῶθι σεαυτόν), is one of the Delphic maxims and was inscribed in the pronaos (forecourt) of the Temple of Apollo at Delphi. Socrates expounded the aphorism, by the phrase: “The unexamined life is not worth living.”

We as Masons constantly work on our rough ashlar. Striving to attain the perfect ashlar. This process however is a lifelong endeavor, not a one and done. It not as simple as receiving the degrees, putting on a ring and magically expecting that we are without our faults as we move about in our profane world. We are human and every day brings challenges to our humanity. Given what you see in our social media and on the news; we Masons have much work that must be done.

What is the purpose of Masonry? Often times we stop short at simply stating it is, “taking a good man and making him better.” I feel this (is) only telling a small part of the complete purpose. The reality is that we as Masons seek to make the world a better place.

To further clarify, the purpose of Masonry is to improve society through the work of good men, equipped with the tools, knowledge and skills to make the world a better place through our daily interactions, exemplifying to all how mankind should conduct themselves in a civil society.

Know Thyself – To improve oneself, is to know what we need to work on or improve on in ourselves; we need to know and understand our current state. The foundation we build upon must be appropriate for the placement of the cornerstone of our Temples.

Do you consider yourselves a good man; what improvements do you need to make in yourself? What improvements can you make as a Husband, Father, Employee or Mason. Do you exemplify through your daily actions how a Mason should walk and act?

Know our Lodge – To improve our Lodge, we must examine its current state.

When our Lodges became chartered it was with an expectation that they remain viable and contribute to (the) good of Masonry. Lodges are expected to make Masons.

Is your Lodge making Masons? How well is your ritual done when you open and close Lodge? How well did you perform the last degree for that new Brother?

Is your Lodge well attended? Are you keeping those new Masons engaged? Are you mentoring those new Brothers? Do they keep coming back?

Is your Lodge a good neighbor? Is the building in good repair? If you lived next door to your Lodge and wanted to sell your house, would you get a good price for it based on what the Lodge or its grounds looked like?

Is your Lodge participating in community events? Do you interact with the communities’ civic leaders, police, fire, mayor, or council members?

Masonry is not about doing one or two things well. It is doing many if not all things well; each having a nexus to the other. I am asking that we examine ourselves and where we find our faults to charge ourselves in amending them.

We must continue to guard the west gate, investigating and only admitting the best men into our great fraternity. Investigations must be thorough and complete; and we must understand that saying NO is OK.

We must make the Masonic experience the absolute priority. Starting with degrees that are well practiced and exemplified with perfection. This is the foundation of the new Mason’s Masonic life, and he deserves the very best. I have heard many people say, “it is not about the ritual.” I beg to differ; it has everything and more to do with the ritual.

We must mentor and coach our new Masons in Masonry and keep them engaged in purpose. Purpose must be established in our Lodges; without purpose what is Masonry? Each Lodge must find something that keeps (its) members engaged beyond simply reading the minutes, paying the bills. Provide a space in your Lodge for activities that can be enjoyed by all. This can be within or without the Lodge.

We must frequently engage in Masonic education. Be it a lecture from

a guest speaker, community leader or by shrinking our Lodge and having a discussion on the level. We have an abundance of Masonic educational material available to us; to say there is nothing that can be found worthy of our time is nonsense. Try harder.

In closing, gaining new members does not equate to more money for the Lodge; this is done through raising your dues to an appropriate level that is proper to support your ... Lodge’s activities and to pay the bills that maintain your buildings. Do what is best for the Lodge and the Fraternity, not what is best for yourself.

We are Freemasons and we are members of the greatest and oldest fraternity in the world. I ask you to “Know Yourself” and do what is best for Masonry in everything you do.

“Gnothi Seauton” – Know Thyself.

Fraternally yours,
MW Edward C. Woods
Grand Master



MW Edward C. Woods
Grand Master 2022-2023

MODERN MASONIC LIFE AND PRACTICE

(Dr.) H. Svoboda, PM, GR (AS)

Freemasons are proud of their rituals. They are familiar and repetitive, and the words foster a general background and feeling of knowing what they are about, and that we are doing these things, if not perfectly, at least with the best of our intentions for our Labor.

At one time, the Masonic ideal was captured in the word “humanity” by referring to being “humane,” by saying that we strive at all times to do something for (purely) humanitarian reasons. One of the best examples of this conviction is the high point in Mozart’s opera “The Magic Flute,” namely the famous Sarastro aria. Another expression is that we are fighters for humanitarian matters at least in spirit, if not in actions. Such concepts are great and challenging, but also quite general and vague.

With the French Revolution, three political and ideological slogans became powerful words: Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. They found their way into Freemasonry. The French ideal of “*laïcité*” was made into a fourth principle of “tolerance.” A better word may have been “secularism.”

The Masonic foursome of Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Charity is abstract which means it can be applied to many situations and personalities, and that we have to ask ourselves time and again what it is that we are doing and why and how to connect to concrete situations. Some people don’t like that charity comes last in this valuation.

In the following lines, the Writer proposes a new version of Masonic Practice and Life. “Practice” has been chosen because it stands opposite to “theory” which is not being propounded here. He is influenced by his experiences and by what he may have learned in life. A few statements will be presented.

* Prove yourself a true and lasting friend to your Brothers and to those who depend on you. Do not think that you are dependable or will be so someday. Do it now.

* Thoroughly study people, matters, proposals and act in prudence and circumspection. The opposite would be to “smart talk” in faked education or “with concerns.” As to emotions, they are not facts and cannot change facts, no matter what newsreaders say on TV or radio.

* Don’t leave somebody in a lurch.

* Do not let pass unstated anything that needs to be said. There are people whose presence or influence must be suffered silently. Aggressives should be allowed to meet their destiny sooner. But try clearing up any misunderstanding, error or apprehension. An adverse reaction to your attempt is not your doing. Furthermore, bring any open matter, be it personal, business or legal, to its natural or agreed-upon conclusion. Long simmering resentments, especially justified ones, poison most relationships.

* Beauty, truth and wisdom are conditions of living we cannot do without.

* Let the Masonic Ritual grow on you to be your spiritual home.

The foregoing is for the readers’ contemplation and discussion. It will need improvement.

Grand View – Access to Masonic Information

You are able to 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 by clicking on the CREATE A MEMBER PORTAL ACCOUNT link below and following the steps to assign a 31 CASE SENSITIVE username and password. Your old Grand Lodge Credentials does NOT work on the new Grand View Member Portal. There are different levels of access such as member, secretary, Lodge officer, District Deputy, and various levels of Grand Lodge.

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 sign 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

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 meetings.

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, Lodge Finances.

MASTER MASONS RAISED IN JULY

Date Raised:

7/27/1957	Charles B. Claus, Jr.
7/30/1983	Jarrold ‘Jerry’ Schuh
7/24/1999	Jason R. Moore
7/15/2010	K. Eric Koteles
7/15/2010	Ronald A. Woodall, Jr.



FREEMASONRY AND THE CIVIL WAR

A HOUSE UNDIVIDED

The Battle of Gettysburg was fought July 1–3, 1863, in and around the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, by Union and Confederate forces during the American Civil War. The battle involved the largest number of casualties of the entire war and is often described as the war's turning point.

One of the most famous events that occurred at Gettysburg was the huge Confederate infantry push known as Pickett's Charge. On 3 July, Pickett (a member of Dove Lodge No. 51, Richmond, VA) led nearly 12,000 men on a long rush across open fields towards the center of the Union line on Cemetery Ridge. It has been called the last and greatest infantry charge in military history.

One of the men leading that charge was Brigadier General Lewis Addison Armistead, CSA. He was a member of Alexandria-Washington Masonic Lodge No. 22 in Alexandria. Originally from North Carolina, he had attended West Point, and fought with the US Army for a number of years before resigning his commission to fight for the Confederacy. During that time, he had occasion to serve with now Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, USA (Charity Lodge No. 190, Norristown, Pa.) while both men were in the west. The two had become good friends. However, with Armistead's resignation, it had been nearly two and a half years since the two men had had any contact. Until Gettysburg, that is.

It was Hancock who had taken command of the fragmented Union troops on Cemetery Ridge on 1 July, and organized them into a strong front that had withstood three days of pounding from the Confederate guns. And it was his position, in the center of the Union line, that was the focus of Pickett's Charge. During the action, both men were wounded. Armistead was shot from his horse, mortally wounded. Hancock's saddle took a hit, driving nails and pieces of wood into his thigh.

As the battle waned, it became clear that Armistead's injuries were fatal. Knowing that his old friend was somewhere behind the Union lines, Armistead exhibited the Masonic sign of distress. This was seen by Captain Henry Harrison Bingham, the Judge-Advocate of Hancock's Second Corps (Chartiers Lodge No. 297, Canonsburg, Pa.). He came to the fallen Armistead, and declared that he was a fellow Mason.

The two men spoke for a time, and when Armistead realized that Bingham had direct access to Hancock, he entrusted some of his personal effects to him. Among them were his Masonic watch, the Bible upon which he had taken his obligations, and a number of other items. Bingham said his farewells, and then returned to the Union camp to deliver the items. Armistead died two days later.

The fact that Armistead chose to use the Masonic sign of distress signified that his war was over, and that there was another, more pressing matter on his mind, even on the field at Gettysburg. What could lead one of the highest ranking and most intelligent officers in the Confederacy to lay aside all of the ideology of the war and call for a brother of the Craft from the other side? It is this question which I will now address.

During the war, and in the years just prior to it, the questions of secession, slavery, and states' rights were as much on the minds of Masons in this country as anyone. There was almost no way of escaping the thoughts of imminent warfare between the states. The following is taken from a letter, drafted in June of 1861, from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, sent in response to a communication received from the Grand Lodge of Tennessee decriing the situation that the country was in.

“As to the present deplorable state of this country, Masons cannot fail to have opinions as to the cause that produced it. It is to be feared that some of our brethren are in arms



"Friend to Friend" Masonic memorial in the Gettysburg National Cemetery, Gettysburg, Pa

against the union of the States; others are in the ranks of its defenders. Taught by the history of the Order. . . they have carried these principles into the formation of opinions on the present crisis in our national history. But while Masons, as individuals, have been thus influenced and are acting in harmony with such views, Freemasonry is a silent, unimpassioned, abstracted observer of events. . . “Brethren -- We, with you, deplore the present unnatural and deeply distressing condition of our national affairs. . . But if this whirlwind threatens to overwhelm us, yet in this last extremity, the still small voice of Masonic faith will be uttered and heard, saying, Brethren, there is help at hand in this time of need.

“Surely your God is our God; your faith our faith; your landmarks our landmarks; your joy our joy; your prosperity our satisfaction.” Then let us unitedly work together for the preservation and perpetuity of a common inheritance. . . [W]e will aid in maintaining unity, peace and concord, among the brethren and citizens of united sovereign States in our glorious Union. If all bonds should be broken, all ties rent asunder; if discord, dissension, and disruption, shall mark the decline and fall of the most wise and wonderful of the governments of mankind, let the Masonic temple, in all States, kingdoms, lands, peoples or confederacies, be common refuge of an indestructible Masonic fraternity.”

These sentiments were echoed by virtually all of the other Grand Lodges at one point or another during this time period. Nobody wanted war. Negotiation was the overwhelmingly favored option. However, if war occurred, everyone hoped and believed that the Fraternity would be able to survive the conflict.

From: **freemasonry and the civil war - a house undivided by Justin Love**