



The Maine Mason

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The MAINE MASON

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by George P. Pulkkinen

Maine Masonry has taken giant steps forward during the past two years, and every Maine Mason has reason to be profoundly thankful for the leadership, tone and vision repeatedly demonstrated by M.W. Brother A. James during his tenure as Grand Master.

When a Grand Master is installed he is charged with many obligations. Grand Master Ross has been a model in all respects. Think for a moment about a few of the charges he heard at his installation, and see if you don't agree he has worn the mantle of leadership with excellence.

He was told he should practice, as an example to the Craft, the cardinal virtues of Fortitude, Prudence, Temperance and Justice. Job well done!

He was told he should cultivate everywhere, and at all times, the golden tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth. Job well done!

He was told he should be devoid of all undue ostentation and haughty overbearing. Job well done!

He was told he must be accessible to all. Job well done!

He was told he should be patient in investigation and hearing, be deliberate in judgment, be prompt in execution. Job well done!

He was told he should be devoid of favoritism and wholly impartial. Job well done!

He was told he should be ready to reward good. Job well done!

He was told he should be watchful over the treasury, having an eagle eye upon every portion of his jurisdiction. Job well done!

So as we consider and nod our approvals for a job well done by Brother Ross, we look ahead to the stewardship of the Craft under the leadership of Brother David Walker who has indicated his support for many of the programs initiated by his predecessor. That is good news indeed, and gives cause for continued belief in a bright future for Maine Masonry.

Page 1 photo shows one of the magnificent murals which dominate three walls in the dining area of Kora Shrine Center, site of our 2014 Annual Communication.

Photo by R.W. Thomas Pulkkinen

From the Grand East

A. James Ross **Grand Master of Masons in Maine**

The season for a new election of a member of the Craft to be our next Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master respectively is here, and the time has actually arrived when your thoughts should be employed in designating those persons who are to be clothed with that important trust. As you think and decide about those who have offered themselves as candidates for elected Grand Lodge offices, may you choose wisely about the course of Maine Masonry for the next two and four years.

The office of Grand Master requires its occupant to be well-versed in the daily operations and administrative business of the Grand Lodge and to have an understanding and appreciation of the constituent Lodges. A Grand Master has great demands placed upon him daily which requires him to have the knowledge of the social and business community in which we live; that knowledge which is essential to the contributions of Freemasonry. He should not be regarded as just a ceremonial figure that travels about the Grand Jurisdiction giving remarks and shaking hands with Brothers while leaving the business of Grand Lodge to his elected administrative officers and committees. His awareness of the ever-changing climate in which we live will contribute dearly to the decisions he must make while in office because Freemasonry is no longer a world only unto its members.

If tradition should be upheld, your Deputy Grand Master will become our next Grand Master. He has been my trusted partner for two years. I have kept him close and informed about every aspect of the business of Grand Lodge and also on matters which were sometimes not pleasant. I have often relied on his advice and counsel. Not once has he left me feeling disappointed or given me cause to question his abilities as Deputy Grand Master and as our next Grand Master. It is time for us to direct our focus and support to R.W. David A. Walker who will need our prayers, our enthusiasm and our candor as he assumes the Grand East on May the 7th.

The office of Deputy Grand Master will require of its candidates similar abilities and the fortitude that is required of a Grand Master. He has two years to organize and prepare for his tenure as Grand Master. The two candidates for Deputy Grand Master are no strangers to the

Craft and have held offices and sat on committees which have contributed to the role of Grand Lodges past and present. The candidate you select for that office should have a solid record of accomplishments; a record that speaks of contributions for the betterment of the Craft. More importantly, he should have a vision and be able to articulate that vision which translates in how he sees Freemasonry in Maine which further translates to how well he will best serve you. We will be electing a

Brother who will serve as Grand Master in just two short years so he should not be looking to the past for guidance, but one who is conversant with the knowledge of the current business of the Grand Lodge and the present needs of its constituent Lodges. Our next Deputy Grand Master must be one who promotes an open culture that is inclusive and encourages ideas and contributions by those who seek to improve their place in and out of Lodge. He must be one who fosters an atmosphere that is conducive to teaching and learning. He must also seek to maintain partnerships with the constituent Lodges to the end that trust and ownership may flourish. In the final analysis,

our next Deputy Grand Master must be a man who has deep conviction in what he says and does, and the belief that his role as Grand Master in two years will be of service to you. He should not be an impediment to your creativity. He must be one who openly promotes and provides tools that benefit your interests. The question you must ask is how will the candidates for Deputy Grand Master best serve your values and speak to your interests as a Mason and for your Lodge. You can only vote for one.

Like you, I am looking forward to the future of Freemasonry in Maine. I have much to be thankful for but the greatest appreciation this short-timer is feeling right now is the gift of your trust placed in me for having served as your Grand Master. You have provided me with opportunities for greater learning and understanding and the reward of having established new relationships. We have done the work together. As we move forward under the leadership of a new Grand Master, may all of you know that you made the difference. You made yourself stronger and we put it in good hands.

Yours in Service to the Craft,
Jim



Around the Grand Lodge Water Cooler...

R.W. Mark E. Rustin, Grand Secretary

Since the decline in Masonic membership was recognized by Lodges and Grand Lodges alike, membership attraction and retention has become the focus of many programs and much angst. As numbers dropped, the need to address the situation rose higher and higher on the “priority” list of the organization. Periodically, people came along with new “silver bullets” which were intended to reverse the trend and make the Craft attractive to Masons and non-masons alike.

As so often happens when circumstances are interpreted to be crisis like, perspective and purpose take a back seat to programs and quick fixes. It becomes conventional wisdom to accept that lower numbers mean a less valuable Fraternity without regard to the meaning of membership.

Years ago, as a shiny new pastor, I had my first meeting with the Deacons Board. They were quick to point out they wanted me to address the declining numbers in the congregation (most losses due to death) and bring more members into the church. I asked them a simple question, “why?” They were stunned. It seemed so obvious to them. As a discussion ensued, they slowly began to comprehend that what they really wanted was additional wallets from which to extract weekly offerings. The people were irrelevant. With that epiphany in hand, we then set about to emphasize the mission and purpose of the church in a visible fashion and welcomed new people who were attracted by what they saw.

Much of our Fraternity bears a striking resemblance to that deacons’ board. We define ourselves by the money and property we control not by the values of the Fraternity. We become fearful as prices go up and numbers go down. We are compelled to believe spending less is the answer yet we know that is not possible. So we are frozen into inaction unless forced to respond. We withdraw into our Halls which, in some cases, are what is holding us hostage.

Revealing and sharing the core values of personal morality and ethical conduct with the brethren and thereby allowing them to grow as men and be visible as “Masonic Men” in the greater society is the way to growth for Freemasonry. No amount of money, prestige within the order, or number of certificates or rewards will replace or stand in for the personal relationships and the common purposes which are Masonry.

I have been privileged to spend their last moments on earth with a number of fine men. When asked if, retrospectively, they would live differently the only ones who responded indicated they would have spent more time enjoying life with family and friends not chasing money, “toys,” and the accolades of others. This notion of time and its value relative to our existence offers a keen insight to those who can hear.

Over and against the number of Master Masons who become inactive, our placing a value on each brother’s time and using it to add value to his life is a membership strategy which has legs. How many times have we heard, “I’m not going to Lodge just to sit around, pay the light bill, listen to complaints about the lack of funds and attendance, and then go home.” That is not what we committed ourselves to in the ritual work. How does boring a Brother into inactivity honor our promise to reveal ways to improve himself and his vision of himself as a man and a Mason?

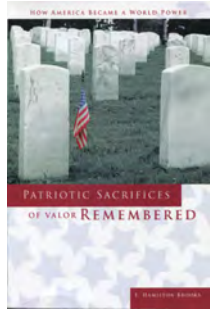
I know or have heard of Lodges who are rediscovering and living the core values of the Craft. There are Masters who direct that the minutes be spread before the Craft for inspection before the meeting rather than being read in Lodge. Others are developing budgets which will eliminate the need for reading and approval routine bills which are approved in budget. In some situations it may take a bylaws change but it can be done. The Lodge meeting then becomes an opportunity for personal learning and growth for the members. Masonic educational programs, group discussions within the brothers in attendance, and, with the Lodge at refreshment, non-Masonic speakers can offer insights and information to enlighten the Lodge.

Some Lodges utilize the pre-meeting meal as a time for fellowship and relationship building; a time to meet and greet prospective petitioners; and a time to invite neighbors, business owners, or local officials to Lodge revealing to them the strength and purpose of the Fraternity; a time to build a personal relationship with potential members which can only enhance the Masonic experience and help insure retention. These relational efforts, supplemented by the program material available, allow us to see membership, not as numbers, but, appropriately as Brothers on a journey together. As non-Mason men see the enthusiasm and commitment modelled in our lives, they will be moved to learn the secrets of Freemasonry by becoming a Brother not a number.



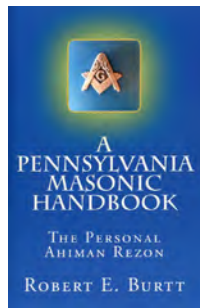
There's a proliferation of Masonic books hitting the shelves today, although most of those shelves are now found online. Books are no longer at publisher's 'list price' and the quality is so much better as well. Despite gaffes in spelling here and there, it's a great time to be(come) a student of Freemasonry...

THE OLD WEBMASTER'S BOOKSHELF



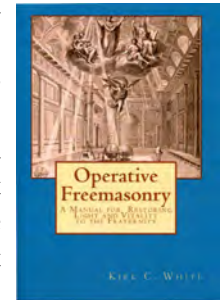
A book by a Maine Mason is always worth noting and this issue we've got a good one for you. **Patriotic Sacrifices of Valor Remembered** by (Bro.) E. Hamilton Brooks is about the Spanish-American War (1898), something we would scarcely remember today were it not for the sinking of the Battleship *USS Maine* in Havana, Cuba. This is a short, personal and very interesting read and could benefit even teens who have a thirst for knowledge. The sub-title says much: "How America Became a World Power" and it tells the story from records and more especially diaries of a Mainer who lived much of his later life in Freeport. It's quite an inspiring story indeed and it's one which will make everyone who reads it feel great pride in their country!

I doubt there's ever been a Mason who has visited a lodge outside of Maine and didn't see something unique and different. Moreover, he'll talk about it at any opportunity. (I know: when you point a finger at someone else, you point four at yourself - and alas, I am more guilty than you all!!!) A **Pennsylvania Masonic Handbook** by (Bro.) Robert E. Burt is an excellent way for you to have such an experience without ever leaving home. Written as a guide for Masons in that state, it helps provide a lot of information for those who love to compare the inter-jurisdictional minutiae of Freemasonry. More than that, it's a compact but important introduction for the new Mason, providing historical grounding and practical advice. If you were to write a book for a new Mason, this is the book you'd want to write. Thanks to the author, we now have multiple copies of this volume in the Grand Lodge Library. Consider taking a peek: you'll be glad you did.

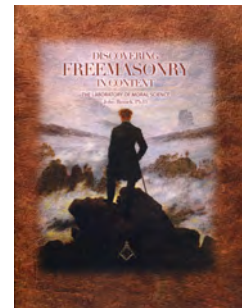


"Pssstttt. This is a book you'll just love!", said the whispered e-mail message from a friend and Brother. Knowing that I tend to be a 'meat and potatoes' kind of guy (and Mason), he was 100% right. In these days where everyone is seeking the 'magic bullet' to increase mem-

bership, a Vermont Mason has, in my opinion, 'hit the nail on the head' with this book of practical ideas and recommendations that are, as the subtitle says, "A Manual for Restoring Light and Vitality to the Fraternity." Masonic writers seem to gush over every new or repackaged idea or concept which, like sands in the hourglass, then pass away quickly and imperceptibly. Kirk C. White in his **Operative Freemasonry** instead offers down-to-earth suggestions and proven actions that have been shown time and time again to work like a charm but which we seem to forget every couple of years. There's nothing fancy here but for those seeking a 'back to the basics' building block guide to lodge improvement, you need look no further. My Brother was right - and some of these ideas will be put into action in my own Masonic life much more often thanks to this book. If you're a Warden or plan to be, you owe it to your lodge to read this.



For so long, I've felt the need to have a book which placed the various actions which involve Freemasonry in the context of history as to time and place. Although it's not exactly what I was seeking, **Freemasonry in Context** by John Bizzack, Ph.D., comes pretty darn close. It's a much larger book than we customarily find today because it's jam-packed with detailed information about all sorts of highlights and sidelights of the Masonic fraternity's passage through time, from the earliest presumed roots on through the most recent times. Footnoted appropriately (something SO rare!) with only a couple of mistakes, it is a work everyone interested in digging further into our history will want to own.



One more thing: ALL of these books can be borrowed either from your local public library or from the Grand Lodge library. Take advantage of all that libraries have to offer!

Although many think Bro. Ed King spends his life online, he's an avid reader and writer as well. He also occasionally publishes essays on the web as "The Old Webmaster". His personal website at www.masonicinfo.com - Anti-Masonry: Points of View had over 3.2 million individual visitors last year. He's (the husband of the) Webmaster for our Grand Lodge and is also our Grand Librarian.

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195th Annual Communication Offers Challenges, Opportunities

When the expected hundreds of brethren gather at Kora Shrine's magnificent Center in Lewiston for the 2014 Annual Session on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 6 and 7 (and for the social on Monday evening) they'll have a most important responsibility. They'll be choosing leaders for the next year, the next two years, and presumably for the next four years.

They'll also be voting on an amendment to Section 84A of the Constitution which would increase the fine for a lodge not being represented at Grand Lodge from \$10 to \$75. This motion was entertained last year and, after discussion, was approved for final consideration at this year's session.

There are also two proposed amendments offered by the Grand Secretary which will have their initial reading this year.

One, proposed as SEC. 92A, would read: "When allowed by its by-laws, a lodge master may, when weather conditions cause reasonable concern for the health and safety of the brethren of his lodge, postpone a stated meeting for up to 48 hours with due notice to the membership."

The second, a housekeeping matter to more clearly define the Grand Secretary's duties, will change Sec. 23, pp 6 to read "He will make available the printed proceedings of the Grand Lodge, blanks for applications for the charity fund, blanks for returns, with a circular stating when they must be returned,"

Later in the last sentence of pp 9 of Sec. 23, concerning the Annual Communications, it would read, "and shall provide copies thereof to each of the Grand Lodges of the United States and such other jurisdictions as are recognized by this Grand Lodge, one copy to each officer and permanent member of this Grand lodge and two copies to each lodge. [1990, p. 87]"

The Grand Lodge will also be asked to give initial approval of the newly organized Constitution which has been worked on over the winter by your Committee on Amendments. This important document has been reorganized in an effort to make it much more user friendly. The Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master have reviewed and approved this work. Every lodge should have received an electronic version of this. If approved on May 6, it will lay over for final approval in 2015.

Maine Day in Florida celebrated at Sahib Shrine Center

RW Jack Lagerquist, PSGW

The 12th Annual Maine Day for Maine Masons was attended by 126 Maine Masons their Ladies and Guests.

It is always interesting to see how many Maine Lodges are actually represented. We had a Special Guest, RW Stan Hudson, the current Junior Grand Warden of Florida, who along with his wife, Joy, were representing the Grand Lodge of Florida.

MW Jim Ross presented a 50 Year Maine Masonic Veterans Medal to Bro. Robert Smithson of Hiram Lodge, and a 55 Year Service Star to Bro. Ernest Ryder. In addition, he presented Special Ladies pins to Helen Smith and Esther Novicka. At the Grand Master's invitation, 16 Maine Masons who had received the 50-year Veterans Medal stood and were applauded for their accomplishments.

Following Lady Gerry's remarks, gave his message and at the conclusion of the Grand Master's commentary he had First Lady Gerry escort RW Pete Forrets and RW Jack Lagerquist to the East, where he presented each of them with a Certificate in Appreciation and naming

them each as an Ambassador of Goodwill and Betterment to the Maine Brothers in Florida.

The 13th Annual Maine Day for Maine Masons will be held once again at Sahib Shrine Center, Sarasota, Florida, on Sunday, February 8, 2015. Please mark your calendars. We hope to see many of you at that time.



Grand Master Ross, his lady Gerry, Joy Hudson and her husband Stan, Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Florida.

What Came We Here To Do?

By RW Thomas E. Pulkkinen

For more than 20 years, I have traveled throughout our Grand Jurisdiction, being warmly welcomed into Lodges in each District. These travels have afforded me the pleasure of meeting many enthusiastic, dedicated, hard-working and caring Masons – both excited new Brethren as well as stalwart veterans. They have shared exciting, heartfelt stories of tending to their Brethren and their families, and of contributing to their communities. They often told of Lodge renewal and successes, although sometimes they also shared concerns over their struggles ... that hopefully would last only for a season.

We might all agree that Charles Dickens' passage in the *Tale of Two Cities* applies over time to most Lodges that experience "the best of times ... the worst of times ... the spring of hope ... the winter of despair..." Perhaps there are spurts of membership growth and then contraction; of Brethren having to wait to join a full officer line or see unfilled officer chairs; of financial strength or budget shortfalls; and of fresh new buildings, or structures in need of tender loving care or more.

Dickens also penned: "... it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness..." When all appears dark, when faith in our Lodge's future ebbs, Brethren often join together to ponder what might be done to turn around their Lodge. Some Brethren consider "giving up the ghost" – giving up their charter. Some actually do with heartfelt, even tearful regrets. But other Lodges rebound.

Sometimes a Lodge's renaissance is due to a few or even just one Brother, a catalyst with new energy and ideas who creates a spark of enthusiasm and renewed hope. Maybe it's a shared introspection of "What came we here to do?" as Masons, what value do we associate with being a Mason and a member of our Lodge. If that desired or perceived value is not being realized, we must probe how to turn things around.

Sometimes an emergency arises that unites Brethren into an aroused band of friends and Brothers who become committed to addressing that particular situation and then continue working together to rejuvenate their Lodge. Sometimes, they ask the Grand Master to visit and help talk them through the issues they are facing as well as possible solutions.

During last fall's District Meetings, Lodge after Lodge told of their renewal; of recommitted officer corps; welcoming numerous new members; undertaking building projects; helping one another; creating a positive presence in their communities; and, taking advantage of the Grand Lodge's leadership, mentoring, membership initiatives, and the Masonic Charitable Foundation's Bikes for Books and other matching grant programs.

Wor. James Witham, Master of Tranquil Lodge in Auburn, recently expressed his feeling that the Dirigo Leadership Training was "very informative and useful, and I hope you will continue to provide this invaluable training in the future."

The response to the new Masonic Rookie Program has been heartening. The value of this initiative is easily quantified: 90% of the new Brethren qualifying for the



Freedom Lodge in Limerick enjoys a rising trajectory.

first Rookie banquet are already Lodge officers. One serves as Master, seven are Wardens, twenty are Deacons and many serve in other officer positions.

Junior Past Master Audie Gould of Lynde Lodge in Herman is a real believer in the Rookie Program; his

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Diversity is Working in Maine

By Wor. Lewis Edward Gordon, Jr

I am a brother of African American heritage and a member of the Beau Tie Society in Maine. I am a member of Orchard Lodge #215 in Old Orchard Beach. I would like to share with all my brothers some insight into the beauty of diversity and acceptance of Masonry in Maine.

A couple of years ago I attended a table lodge for Brother Seth Dube who was my first Worshipful Master and mentor for my journey of brotherhood in the Masonic Blue Lodge. This, I had thought, was impossible for me.

As Seth was being honored I was overwhelmed with thoughts of my father who was Junior Deacon of his Prince Hall Lodge in Torrington, CT. He passed in 1971 from pancreatic cancer. He was only 52.

My mother passed one year ago at age 90. She was multiple times Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star in Poughkeepsie, NY. So I am now continuing my family's Masonic tradition. I am saddened that neither of them lived long enough to see me today.

It is only because of a few changes that were made recently that makes my journey possible. Now, thanks to diversity and tolerance among the brethren, we can all knock and the door shall be opened for all men.

I spoke at that table lodge about how I felt about being accepted. Some brothers who were there probably remember my heartfelt feelings. I am proud to be a Maine Mason and proud and thankful for all the brethren in all the lodges who have watched and encouraged me in my progress.

I am writing this to thank all Masons who approved the diversity process. I recently read in *The Maine Mason* that we have 14 or 15 diversified brothers in Maine lodges. We are all good brothers; we are working hard in our lodges. We are good men. Brother Dube told me in one of the earliest phases of my journey that "one day, if you put in the effort, you could be Master of your lodge." Now it has come to pass. I was installed Master of Orchard #215 on December 21st, one week after my 72nd birthday.

My father had many Masonic brothers, but all could not attend lodge together. Thanks to diversity I can attend lodge with all my brothers. I love Masonry in Maine. It is an important source of light that we all seek.



Wor. Brother Lewis Gordon, Jr.

Thank you Brothers in Maine, those I know, those I don't yet know but shall meet, and those I'll never meet. I thank you all and hope you accept my thanks and gratitude for without your decisions a few years ago, my life would not be as exciting and interesting as it is today. It is said that one gets out of Masonry what he puts into it. That certainly is true. Diversity, acceptance and self application works.

What Came We here to Do?

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Lodge's Junior Warden, Senior and Junior Deacons and Marshal are all Masonic Rookies, and three more are completing the award criteria.

In Village Lodge in Bowdoinham, both Deacons and the Marshal are Masonic Rookies; and in Morningstar Lodge in Litchfield, the Master and Chaplain are Masonic Rookies – the Chaplain also serves as Senior Deacon in Bethlehem Lodge in Augusta.

Freedom Lodge in Limerick

Wor. Chad Humphrey, the first Freedom Lodge-raised Master of the 34-member Lodge in a number of years, reports having two candidates for affiliation and eight for the degrees. With this projected 30% increase in membership, a full-line of officers (with no Past Masters), and a Junior Warden and Senior Deacon that are only twenty

years old, the Lodge's trajectory is definitely shooting upwards. Freedom Lodge is a great example and a reason for hope for other Lodges, several of which are already enjoying similar results.

"What came we here to do?"

For many of us, it was to improve ourselves in Masonry. That can best be achieved in vibrant Lodges where Masons join together in harmony to pursue their Lodge's vision for itself – its chosen blend of fraternal and social relations, charity to Masonic families and others, Masonic education and philosophy, and personal growth. The mix of these attributes will rightly vary among Lodges. But rest assured, Grand Lodge stands ready to offer a helping hand to strengthen our Masonic experience and help us achieve "what we came here to do."

For Auld Lang Syne

**By Bro. Michael P.H. Stanley,
Springvale Lodge #19**

“Hello, my name is Michael Stanley, is James Thompson home?”

“No,” said the little Shetland voice through the phone line, “My husband is out.” Disheartened, I asked if I could leave a message. “If you’d like,” she said.

“Just tell Mr. Thompson that a visiting mason from...

“Oh, he’s in the garden. I’ll fetch him directly!” I could hear her shout out the window for her husband, and in a moment or two she yielded the phone to him,—

“Yes?” he said. Apparently Shetland is not immune to telemarketers, and so when a foreigner like myself calls asking for her husband by “James” (he goes by “Andy”) they get on the defensive.

The matter, though, was cleared up at once, and the secretary from Morton Lodge in Lerwick, Shetland was more than happy to take this weekend and show me around major island of the Shetland Islands, the most northerly cluster of life belonging to Scotland, although the native inhabitants are largely of Viking stock (the islands being given to James III of Scotland as part of the dowry from the princess of Norway). We first stopped at the lodge, which like many in Scotland, have an adjoining bar open in the afternoon and evenings.

The lodge has an impressive collection of curios and artifacts of masonry. Shetlanders are proud sailors, and there were many spread across the globe, especially in New Zealand, nearly Shetland’s antipode. Brethren far, far away, missing their beloved mother lodge, carefully crafted a remembrance plaque inlaid with no less than twenty native woods in intricate designs and symbols both Masonic and Maori (the natives of New Zealand), and sent it home on a return journey from whaling in the southern hemisphere.

Wor. Thompson drove me across the rolling heather, down the single track dirt roads (always a shocker when a large campervan is careering toward you), to the town of Scalloway, where the famous Shetland bus was harbored. The Shetland bus was actually a series of fishing vessels employed during WWII to shuttle supplies and people to and from German occupied Norway. These men risked their lives

across the North Sea, courageous in the face of U-boats and harsh sea storms. We drove to Sullom Voe, the oil town and refinery complex that handles oil and natural gas from the North Sea operations.

Wor. Thompson used to work there, and asked me, “What is unique about all these cars?” I looked. There were many kinds and colors, but nothing seemed unusual in the parking lots. I gave up. “They are all backed into their parking spots. All of them.” The fact suddenly hit me. They were all prepared to make a fast, orderly getaway in case the place explodes!

We drove to Mavis Grind, a strip of land where I could throw a stone to the right into the North Sea, and then throw another one to my left into the Atlantic. We visited many local sights that weekend, and Wor. Thompson’s insight was invaluable. When I left for the islands of Orkney later that week, Thompson had already communicated with Kirkwall Kilwinning Lodge in Kirkwall, and brothers were ready to greet me upon my arrival.

Orkney has a human history reaching as far back as 6000 BC. The ancient stone village of Skara Brae or the burial cairn of Maeshowe, for example, are older than Stonehenge, older than the Great Pyramids. When one approaches Skara Brae, a sequence of pavers (courtesy of the Scottish National Heritage) demarcates important historical events, the construction of King Solomon’s temple being among them.

Maeshowe is a testament to the genius of these ancient people. On the longest day of the year the fading light shines over the hills of isle of Hoy, through the Standing Stones of Stenness (huge monoliths almost

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The Callanish Stones, Isle of Lewis

For Auld Lang Syne

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20 feet high), and the beam stretches through the doorway of the funeral mound and illuminates the tomb door where skulls were kept. They had no GPS or sextants, and yet did their utmost to admire and map the regularity of the heavenly bodies.

Wor. John Craigie drove me along the Churchill Barriers, ocean pylons constructed to protect the harbor of Scapa Flow after the terrible sinking of the British northern fleet harbored there. In low tide, the block ships and a few wrecks of the event are still visible. We also drove to the nearby “Italian Chapel,” a Nissan hut given to the Italian POW camp #30 which Churchill dragged up from North Africa to build the barriers. With nothing but plaster and paint they created the illusion of a Mediterranean church. It looks like mosaic tile; it looks like stain glass; it looks like marble statues. It’s all the illusion of paint.

I was given just as warm a welcome in the Hebrides, the Western Isles of Scotland, as I was in the northern islands by the brethren. Wor. Donnie Oscar of Portrose Lodge on the Isle of Lewis drove me to the Pictish Dunn Broch, a double-walled drystone tower fort built by the Pictish people, as well as to the standing stones of Callanish. These stones are smaller than the ones in Orkney, but far more numerous. Stone rings and promenades that transport one to the ancient rituals, and likely sacrifice and burial. We know, for example, that cow remains found in and about Stonehenge in southwest England likely originated in Orkney almost 800 miles away.

To the South, on the Isle of Harris (which is actually just the other half of the Isle of Lewis, but history and ownership of the isle has kept it forever divided), I had the privilege of observing the weaving of Harris tweed. Like champagne or caviar, the exquisite and highly coveted textile’s value is derived from its local protectionism. To be Harris tweed, the wool must come from Scotland, and it must be woven on a pedal loom in a home or shed, in the Outer Hebrides. Wor. Don John Mackay of St. Clement Lodge welcomed me into his home to see how the process works. Mackay is arguably the finest weaver alive, and he still weaves on his grandparent’s cast iron and wooden loom.

I was lucky to observe all three degrees performed while in Scotland, although I cannot say I have seen every version of them. What? Well, because many of these lodges stretch back to their original stone mason guilds, they precede Grand Lodge. As such, they have won the right to continue their speculative rituals according to their lodge traditions. Additionally, there is no Grand Master of Scotland, there is a Grand Master Mason of Scotland—an important distinction to consid-

er, and one that speaks of a tradition of nominated referreism rather than supremacy in Scottish authority. I was very privileged to attend a lodge meeting in the rooms of Canongate Kilwinning Lodge; they are arguably the oldest purpose-built lodge rooms in the world. At each corner are painted important masons, including Sir Walter Scott and Robert Burns. It is practically unchanged since Robert Burns accepted an award as poet laureate of the lodge, and many paintings and etching copies of that historic day are readily available. The pipe organ is hand-bellows variety, few have survived. I was privileged to play it before the meeting, then readily yielded the duty to the lodge organist, who did a splendid performance during the master mason degree.

The fraternity in Scotland is alive and well, and the



Action at the Braemar Games where Brother Stanley sat as a guest of the Lady Saltoun, Clan Fraser chieftain.

care and welcome I received is a testament to the tradition of ideals that bond Brethren from worlds away. The rituals are familiar, the secrets the same, but it is the ideals that speak no matter the language or the culture or the history. And the role of the fraternity has influenced and enriched every culture it has allowed to support: Burns’s poetry, Kipling’s stories, our Founding Father’s resolutions.

As I prepare for my next adventures, to South Africa, to Australia, and to New Zealand, these histories blend and wind. In each of these countries, multiple Masonic constitutions operate, some vestiges of old colonial ties, some representing new free states. There are many tools to build an understanding of our travels through this world, and Masonry for me has been an important cornerstone in better understanding it, not as stranger to stranger or foreigner to domestic, but Brother to Brother.

A look into the thinking of the Two Brethren who would be Grand Master

Ranking only behind the Grand Master himself, the office of Deputy Grand Master is one of the two next-most-important offices to which a Maine Freemason may be elected. (The other being Grand Secretary, who serves as Chief Operating Officer of our Grand Lodge.)

Because of the importance of choosing wisely the presumed next leader of our Craft, we have submitted eight questions to the two brethren who have offered themselves as candidates for the office of R.W. Deputy Grand Master at our 195th Annual Communication to be held at Kora Shrine Center in Lewiston on Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

We invite you lodge Masters, Wardens and other voting members to study well their answers, and cast your ballots based on how their thoughts and ideas correspond with your ideas, goals and objectives for the management of our beloved Craft in the years ahead.

The candidate responses follow, complete and unedited. --*Editor*

THE QUESTIONS

1. Why are you running for the office of Deputy Grand Master?

2. What is your vision for your brethren and for the Grand Lodge of Maine?

3. If elected, what specific skills and experience would you bring to the office that would help prepare you to wisely lead the Craft as Grand Master?

4. Membership is the lifeblood of any organization. Attracting the right men to our lodges, involving current membership in worthwhile activities, retaining our ranks and seeking ways to restore inactive Masons to active roles in the fraternity must be

priorities for Masonry to flourish. What would you do to address these four areas of membership that are arguably so critical?

5. The Grand Lodge has introduced or expanded several programs in the past two years. Are you supportive of these efforts? Do you think they are effective and, if not, how would you improve them? Please give your opinion on each of the four listed here:

- the Rookie Program which has encouraged lodge participation by newly-raised Masons
- the Dirigo Leadership Program
- the activities and courses offered by the Maine Masonic College
- the Mentoring Program

6. What do you see as the three biggest challenges facing our Grand Lodge, and how you would meet those challenges?

7. Our Grand Lodge will be celebrating its 200th Anniversary in 2020. Planning for this can be expected to occur during the next four years. What are your thoughts on how we should celebrate our Masonic bicentennial? Should our bicentennial be tied in with the State of Maine bicentennial inasmuch as they occur concurrently? And if so, how might that be done?

8. Good stewardship of the Craft's finances must be a priority and practice of every Grand Master. If elected DGM, what steps would you adopt in your planning to be GM to insure sound fiscal policy and practice? What priorities would your budget reflect?

R.W. JOHN IROVANDO

1. Why are you running for the office of Deputy Grand Master?

I have offered myself as a candidate for the office of Deputy Grand Master because I feel duty bound to return the benefit of the experience I gained serving this Grand Jurisdiction as a Grand Lodge officer and Charitable Foundation trustee for the past six years. The Deputy Grand Master must provide researched, accurate, and relevant information to the Grand Master on a number of important issues empowering the Grand Master to make informed decisions.

As Grand Marshal I was directly involved in one of the most important issues to effect this jurisdiction in many years – moving the Grand Lodge Office from Portland to Holden. The experience gained during that period is invaluable to the Craft.

When elected Grand Senior Warden I was given the opportunity to assist our Grand Master as he concentrated his efforts on moving the Craft forward unhampered by administrative or legal matters which had overshadowed the efforts of many Past Grand Masters. During that year I watched, shared, and learned the nuances of effective leadership and administration.

As an elected Trustee of the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation I had the opportunity to gain even greater experience in matters relating to our members. On every occasion I endeavored to educate and inform the Craft about the Foundation and many ways it can serve Craft each day.

As I look at the list of Past Deputy Grand Masters, one striking attribute stands out. Each brought a depth of service and experience to the position which indicated their potential to serve the Craft well in the future. I offer the Craft my experience to continue that Maine tradition of men who have served as Grand Lodge of Maine Officers, gaining experience and wisdom, who become laudable leaders of the Grand Lodge of Maine in the future.

2. What is your vision for your brethren and for the Grand Lodge of Maine?

I see a future where the values of Freemasonry are revealed by exemplification across this Grand Jurisdiction by all members of the Craft and Grand Lodge. I will continue to work with any and all in the Craft — regardless of geographical location, urban or rural, large Lodge or small — who share that fundamental Masonic principle becoming better men thus providing a better world for all to live within. Building upon that principle, each Lodge will find a variety of ways to make that real in the lives of the Brethren. Building fraternity – relationships – should the



constant goal of this Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge of Maine should continue to encourage the Lodges and the Craft to innovate in ways that promote a solid understanding of Masonry. With the Constitution as our guide, we should continue to say yes to evolving programs, meeting styles, encouraging public awareness, and membership enrichment. When we encourage and uplift the Lodges, we become the embodiment of Freemasonry in this Grand Jurisdiction.

3. If elected, what specific skills and experience would you bring to the office that would help prepare you to wisely lead the Craft as Grand Master?

In addition to what I stated in my answer to “Question 1,” I offer the skills and experience acquired during my life and career. During my many years in law enforcement, many in supervisory and command positions, I have not only been taught the Principles of Leadership, but also instructed others on them. I follow them as a compass in leadership roles I have today. Of those Principles, the highest standards of honesty and integrity are the most important of all. Team work – there is no “I” in team — is a main concern at all times. I believe DIRIGO in Freemasonry is best translated as, “We lead”. Communication of ideas, goals and visions is vital. However, I learned a long time ago that listening is the basis of effective communication. A wise leader recognizes that answers to pressing matters are best found in the interaction of people communicating with one another.

4. Membership is the lifeblood of any organization.

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THE MAINE MASON

R.W. THOMAS PULKKINEN

1. Why are you running for the office of Deputy Grand Master?

The Craft has just experienced a period of new ideas, priorities and enthusiasm; of Grand Lodge and the Charitable Foundation helping Lodges to grow, prosper and serve their members and communities. There's been renewed attention to Freemasonry's core values – our underlying tenets, teachings and protocols. As Deputy Grand Master, I would hope to further advance and build upon these initiatives, share the many exciting Lodge success stories, and prepare to move, as Grand Master, on a path where Brethren might more robustly experience all Freemasonry has to offer.

2. What is your vision for your brethren and for the Grand Lodge of Maine?

My vision is "A Healthy Fraternity of Engaged Brethren of Character." Bro. Red Skelton once explained each word of the Pledge of Allegiance to emphasize their meaning. This vision statement warrants similar elaboration. I think of "healthy" in terms of strong leadership, full officer corps, good ritual, engaged candidates, fulfilled member expectations, stimulating educational programs and strong finances. "Fraternity" conveys building friendships; knowing and helping one another. "Engaged" is having active member participation in Masonic activities, including social, family and community programs, and helping on member and widow assistance initiatives. "Character" assumes accepting candidates who demonstrate attributes consistent with our tenets, and instilling Masonic values through our actions and Masonic education.

3. If elected, what specific skills and experience would you bring to the office that would help prepare you to wisely lead the Craft as Grand Master?

My background includes 40 years with the Federal Reserve System in a variety of analytical and leadership positions; 11 years as a town selectman and school committee member, actively addressing facility and financial management needs; and 25 years as a Mason engaged in education, communication, leadership development and other roles.

These positions have afforded me an opportunity to gain important perspectives on building leadership abilities; pursuing financial, marketing and organizational needs and opportunities; caring for people; and engaging associates on important initiatives. These perspectives, as well as four years on the Grand Lodge Finance Committee (three as chairman), and years leading our Grand Lodge membership, leadership, mentoring and strategic planning initiatives are essential attributes that I would bring to the office of Grand Master.



4. Membership is the lifeblood of any organization. Attracting the right men to our lodges, involving current membership in worthwhile activities, retaining our ranks and seeking ways to restore inactive Masons to active roles in the fraternity must be priorities for Masonry to flourish. What would you do to address these four areas of membership that are arguably so critical?

These four membership issues have been important to me as co-chairman of the Membership Committee and would receive my considerable attention as Grand Master. As chairman of the Finance Committee, I have strongly advocated for adequate funding the membership initiatives of our Grand Master, including money for messaging to the public, supporting open houses, purchasing banners for Lodges, recognizing our Masonic Rookies and holding membership related seminars. One Dirigo seminar module emphasizes the Committee of Inquiry's importance as a sentinel at our membership door. The rookie and mentoring programs engage new Brethren and activate Masonic veterans as well. I would work with Lodges to reach out to Brethren who have moved away from their mother Lodges (possible affiliations and therefore reactivation), demitted or have been suspended from membership, or who did not complete their degrees. Our lives change, including our family commitments, finances and time availability; many of these Brethren might respond positively to being approached by the fraternity as others have in the past.

5. The Grand Lodge has introduced or expanded several programs in the past two years. Are you supportive of these efforts? Do you think they are effective and, if not, how would you improve them? Please give your opinions on each of the four listed below:

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Attracting the right men to our lodges, involving current membership in worthwhile activities, retaining our ranks and seeking ways to restore inactive Masons to active roles in the fraternity must be priorities for Masonry to flourish. What would you do to address these four areas of membership that are arguably so critical?

Membership is without question the life blood of any organization. However, properly defined, membership is about human relationships among people with intersecting interests and goals. Think about the ties that bind our families together. Love, mutual respect, empathy, and commitment do not need to be taught to family members. They are a part of the fabric of life.

Likewise in Masonry, if we emphasize human, brother-to-brother relationships we will establish a viable approach to all the concerns raised in this question. Brothers want to be among brothers. Brothers will make sure they value the time of brothers. Brothers want to assist brothers to succeed in life.

Under my leadership I will make fraternal relationships uppermost among my goals. With proper emphasis on this aspect of fraternity, other membership related issues will be addressed inherently.

5. The Grand Lodge has introduced or expanded several programs in the past two years. Are you supportive of these efforts? Do you think that they are effective and, if not, how would you improve them?

These programs all provide support for Lodges in fleshing out the membership priorities mentioned above. When a Lodge desires to build a lifelong relationship with a new brother the Rookie Program, along with its supportive program Mentoring, offers a tool box of ideas by which the goals of membership may be realized. These programmatic lists provide a justification for spending time together which is the cauldron within which relationship is formed.

The Dirigo Leadership Program has been effective in restating leadership principles to a new generation of Lodge officers. It has also allowed for them to be introduced to new tools such as the MORI system.

All three of these programs have served us well and needed to have the individual emphasis they have received this far. Depending upon the situation going forward, it may be appropriate to return this educational and membership emphasis to the MEALS Committee for implementation going forward. Such a move would free Grand Lodge resources to develop new prerogatives to support the Lodges and the Craft.

The Maine Masonic College provides a valuable service to the Craft. For those brethren who desire an academic investigation into the Craft. The College is a treasure trove. I would encourage greater interaction between the College and the MEALS Committee. I believe that would allow for more and comprehensive teaching of leadership, organizational skills, and interpersonal skills and reduce duplication of effort.

6. What do you see as the three biggest challenges facing our Grand Lodge, and how would you meet those challenges?

If one looks at the Annual Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Maine for at least the past 20-30 years you will find that one of the greatest challenges facing our elected leaders was and is declining membership. I believe the ideas briefly outlined above will effectively address this challenge. By making membership about people and not numbers we will meet this challenge and overcome it.

A challenge which is becoming more evident is the number of Lodges which are struggling economically. Much of the struggle is grounded in the burdens inherent in trying to maintain an aging structure. I believe we need to initiate discussions which will open new visions of Lodge vitality going forward. Must we have our own building? Can we share space (and expenses) with other Lodges and still feel like a Lodge? What can Grand Lodge do to provide advisory leadership working toward a bright future? These are but some of the topics of discussion possible.

Another great challenge that I see is one that maybe very difficult to accomplish, but must be undertaken. I believe that the recycled thinking in use in many of our Grand Lodge programs and activities must be injected with new and untested ideas which I would hope to find among newer members and or free thinking older brothers. Just because this is the way we did it then may not fit what we should be doing today. The Grand Jurisdiction of Maine is unlike any other Grand Jurisdiction I have found. We are big in land size and extremely different in social economic makeup. It is only human nature to think well if it works here it works everywhere. We must get back to thinking as a fraternity in which what helps the many is better than what helps only the few. We must applaud ourselves for our accomplishments, but also realize and correct our failures. Every Maine Mason should feel that their Grand Lodge has but one main purpose. To help, aid, and assist.

7. Our Grand Lodge will be celebrating its 200 Anniversary in 2020. Planning for this can be expected to occur during the next four years. What are your thoughts on how we should celebrate our Masonic

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* the Rookie Program which has encouraged lodge participation by newly-raised masons

The Rookie Program has been very successful. Many new Masons are currently pursuing the award and 90% of the 2013 rookies are already Lodge officers. Going forward, each District Deputy and Mentoring Coordinator needs to advance the Rookie Award following each Entered Apprentice Degree conferral and encourage mentors to help new Masons fulfill the award criteria.

* the Dirigo Leadership Program

This essential program, which helps officers strengthen Masonry by undertaking self-assessments of their Lodges, has been well received and well attended by 240 Brethren from 98 Lodges over its first 18 months. Many of the Lodges that have not yet attended are clustered in certain Districts. Bringing the seminar to locations near them and engaging District officers in further promoting the seminar should increase participation and therefore its benefits.

* the activities and courses offered by The Maine Masonic College

The Maine Masonic College courses stimulate our Masonic curiosity and are an exceptional yet underutilized resource. Opportunities exist to further promote the courses to both Masons and the public. For instance, while courses are now highlighted in the Mentoring Newsletter, invitations to this year's thought-provoking course on Music might have been sent to music teachers across Maine. This would be a good way for the College to contribute to our communities while publicly demonstrating how Freemasonry makes good men better.

* the Mentoring Program

I strongly support this initiative as we all benefit from mentoring and being mentored. I helped organize the highly regarded mentoring seminars in Auburn and Bangor featuring Bro. John Jenkins, and published two mentoring handbooks as well as the mentoring newsletters that are emailed monthly to Maine Masons (and may be accessed on the Grand Lodge website). Many Lodges are effectively using these tools. New mentoring seminars and additional communication and feedback efforts with District leaders and Lodges are needed.

6. What do you see as the three biggest challenges facing our Grand Lodge, and how would you meet those challenges?

To me, the three greatest challenges are **relevancy**,

leadership and communication.

Our Masonic tenets and values, as well as the personal improvement opportunities available within Freemasonry are both **relevant** and essential in today's society. But are they dynamically present throughout our Craft? Put another way, do each of us feel that our expectations of Masonry are being fulfilled; do we clearly realize value from being a Mason and a member of our Lodges? If the answers are not "definitely yes," then our Masonic leaders and Brethren need to assess how we can become more relevant to our members, their families and society?

Selecting and empowering willing, able and inspirational Grand Lodge **leaders** is crucial, as is enhancing our Grand Lodge leadership and officer preparation process.

Effective **communication** is always crucial. Using email and new technologies as well as person-to-person contacts where appropriate should be pursued to enhance communication among Grand Lodge, District and Lodge leaders, and with our Brethren and prospective members. Involving the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens in a statewide communications initiative could prove beneficial.

7. Our Grand lodge will be celebrating its 200th Anniversary in 2020. Planning for this can be expected to occur during the next four years. What are your thoughts on how we should celebrate our Masonic bicentennial? Should our bicentennial be tied in with the State of Maine bicentennial inasmuch as they occur simultaneously? And if so, how might that be done?

The opportunities to celebrate our 200th Anniversary are limited only by our imagination, and they need not be costly. I would want to celebrate the anniversary throughout the jurisdiction and across our family of Masonic organizations for the benefit of all. Special anniversary candidate classes might be held by Masonic bodies; perhaps we could host the world renowned Oklahoma Indian or Royal Canadian Mounted Police degree team. Leaders might consider having at least one St. John's Sunday religious service in each District and a Commandery Easter sunrise service on Cadillac Mountain or another location. The Scottish Rite ladies weekends are great events open to all Masons and perhaps Maine could host the 2019 biennial Supreme Council session. The Merrill Auditorium in Portland might host a tribute to Masonic composers and recording artists. As the first Governor of Maine was also our first Grand Master, it makes sense to link the celebratory events through our website and media messaging, by recognizing public officials at events and by asking them to join in a Maine Shrine parade.

I would suggest striking a handsome anniversary coin within the next year for sale to financially support other anniversary activities. A special medallion or pin might be

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designed for Lodge masters and candidates during the anniversary year that spans 2019 and 2020. I propose publishing a book celebrating 200 years of Maine Masonry – not a historical tabulation of events but instead a fascinating presentation of Masonry’s core values and those Maine Masons who best exemplify those values; such as Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain for character, Simon Greenleaf for justice, Harold Alfond for charity, LL Bean for integrity (standing behind his products) and Black Bear Coach John Winkin for self-improvement / mentoring.

8. Good stewardship of the craft’s finances must be a

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bicentennial? Should our bicentennial be tied in with the State of Maine bicentennial inasmuch as they occur simultaneously? And if so, how might that be done?

RW David Walker informed a recent Finance Committee meeting of his plan to appoint an ad hoc committee to discuss and return to the Craft an outline of how this milestone should be recognized. I support his position and eagerly await the opportunity to review that committee’s initial report. We have adequate time to plan a suitable celebration of that momentous event.

8. Good stewardship of the craft’s finances must be a priority and practice of every Grand Master. If elected Deputy Grand Master, what steps would you adopt in your planning to be Grand Master to insure fiscal policy and practice? What priorities would your budget reflect?

In checking with our Grand Treasurer I found that in the past 3 years alone there has been a surplus in our Grand Lodge budgets which has resulted in a total amount of approximately \$82,000 of funds not required. We also have approximately \$166,000 in the self-insurance fund, paid by the craft, which is not needed. These overpayments by the craft along with the sound policies, research, and actions undertaken by our Grand Treasurer, if managed properly, should result in no per-capita increase required for many years to come without a reduction in services; this barring any emergency event. I support the suggestion of our Grand Treasurer and subsequent adoption of the Grand Lodge Finance Committee to include a

priority and practice of every Grand Master. If elected DGM, what steps would you adopt in your planning to be GM to insure sound fiscal policy and practice? What priorities would your budget reflect?

My financial priorities as Grand Master would parallel those I have pursued as chairman of the Finance Committee – to prudentially use the Craft’s money, provide for the long-term health and needs of the Craft, and invest in the future of our Lodges and Brethren while scrutinizing administrative costs. Following these guidelines over the past three years has allowed us to avoid increasing the per capita tax; triple Grand Lodge investments thereby upping earnings available to support the Craft, and boost funding of Lodge related initiatives from 3% to 17% of the net Grand Lodge budget.

line item in the budget where any possible shortage of income in a purposed budget would be made up by funds from our Grand Lodge Investment Account and or surplus rather than imposing members with increased dues. I feel that this action will not only benefit the craft in these hard times, but should aid in future membership development and member retention. I support the actions of the craft along with the cost saving actions of our Grand Secretary in the administration of the Grand Lodge business office. I support and would continue the policy of what I consider unnecessary travel by Grand Lodge officers out-of-state. I have seen many unselfish Maine masons spend their own funds in conducting Grand Lodge business within the state and see no reason why they should be called upon to support travel that does not directly benefit the craft. As stated before, I see no reason why we are paying twice for the same education services. I would pursue discussions with the Directors of the Maine Masonic College, who already are financially supported by the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation, in providing training in line with Leadership, Mentoring, and like subjects. This would eliminate the cost factor in the Grand Lodge of Maine budget and give exposure to the College. A “Training the Trainer” program should be explored which would give every lodge a chance in receiving education in their own district. I feel that the District Education Representatives could fill this void supervised by the MEALS Committee. I feel that not only the proven, but also the untested should be examined to control Grand Lodge of Maine costs while providing services to all.

Five Brethren offer their Candidacy for Grand Warden

Among the officers to be elected at Grand Lodge on May 6th are R.W. Brothers Chris DiSotto and Jeffry Simonton who have offered themselves as candidates to serve our Grand Lodge as Senior Grand Warden for the ensuing year, and Wor. Brother Michael Kimball, R.W. Brother Brian Messing and Wor. Steve Zimmerman who seek the position as Junior Grand Warden.

Each of the candidates for Grand Warden was asked the same four questions in an effort to assist voting members of Grand Lodge as they decide who will fill out the Grand Lodge leadership team.

R.W. Christopher DiSotto



1. What do you see as the role of a Grand Warden in our Grand Lodge?

The Wardens are an integral part of the team supporting our Grand Master and his direction for the Grand Lodge. Depending on the situation, they are called upon to represent him, advise him, offer suggestions and ultimately be in the field with the Craft to bring feedback and help him chart a course for our Grand Jurisdiction. In addition they have an important role as Trustees of our Charitable Foundation and of the DeMolay Association.

2. Why are you seeking the office of Grand Warden?

Masonry and Maine Masons have given me much over the last 12 years. In an effort to give back to an organization giving so much to others, it is my desire to continue my service as Senior Grand Warden. I would like to help shape the future of our Grand Lodge and continue to safeguard our sacred foundation including, but not limited to, the Constitution, ritual, finances and charitable work. I firmly believe I can make a difference in all these areas if elected to this most honorable office.

3. What experience would you bring to the Grand Warden's position that would be of value to the Grand Master and our Grand Lodge?

As most everyone knows, I have served in a variety of positions that have sharpened my skillset and increased my desire to apply these for the betterment of the Craft. Most importantly, I have traveled extensively throughout each District during the past several years. Not only did I visit Lodges for official business, but also attended many as a Brother on the level wanting to share in fraternal fellowship. These evenings spent sitting in Lodges with my Brothers allowed me to hear their struggles, see first-hand what challenges they face on a regular basis and, most notably, share in their successes. It is truly this time spent in the "trenches" that has helped me build a strong relationship with many of our Brothers across this state and help them be heard. If one does not know what is going on from Kittery to Fort Kent, how can they bring value to our Grand Master and the Craft as a whole? It is my sincere hope that my care and concern for others and my desire to act in a manner always beneficial to the Craft will be of great value to our Grand Master and our Grand Lodge.

4. To do the Grand Warden's job properly a brother must expect to be available at many and various times throughout every month of the year. Will you have the time and make the effort to support the Grand Master whenever and however he requests it?

As Grand Marshal, whenever the Grand Master has called upon me I have been there to give him 100%. Although I am active in other aspects of Masonry, Blue Lodge Masonry has come first because Masonry and this Grand Lodge are, and will continue to be, the highest priority in my Masonic life. This is all possible because I own my own business, set my own schedule and am blessed with a very supportive family who sees the value in Masonry.

R.W. Jeffry Simonton

1. What do you see as the role of a Grand Warden in our Grand Lodge?

My view of the role as a Grand Warden is that of a support person to the Grand Master and to the Grand Lodge of Maine. While serving on committees, I would be compelled to keep the best interests of the membership in mind at all times. On the occasions where a Grand Warden is expected to represent the Grand Master and Masonry in Maine, I would expect myself to do so with honor and always keep their reputations in mind.

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Five Brethren offer their Candidacy for Grand Warden



R.W. Jeff Simonton

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2. Why are you seeking the office of Grand Warden?

It is with a desire to serve that I have offered myself as a candidate for the office of Sr. Grand Warden this year. I have enjoyed my interactions with the Deputy Grand Master and would enjoy a chance to labor along side him in support of his endeavors. I also believe there is some very important work going on within the Finance committee and the Charitable foundation which I am hoping to become involved in. To represent the Grand Lodge of Maine in this capacity would be a thrill for me and it would give me a chance to have an impact on the many important decisions of the Grand Lodge for years to come.

3. What experience would you bring to the Grand Warden's position that would be of value to the Grand Master and our Grand Lodge?

We all have a skill set. My strong points, I believe, are contained in an ability to be genuine with the people that I interact with. To possess a warm personality isn't something that anyone can purchase, and if it can be combined with an outgoing and smart sense of humor, that person can do well in social environments. To know what is important and have an ability to focus on tasks is a trait of a good leader. In the past I have spearheaded and planned many large events. I have served on committees and attended seminars that have given me leadership tools, but above these opportunities, I like to think that most of my experience has come from watching, and interacting with many great men that I have admired over the years. I have had the great pleasure to meet and work with a variety of talented men, and I have made it my

mission to learn their best qualities and try to employ those for my own self improvement. Such is the gift of Masonry.

4. To do the Grand Warden's job properly a brother must expect to be available at many and various times throughout every month of the year. Will you have the time and make the effort to support the Grand Master whenever and however he requests it?

With the support of my children and my beautiful Stacey, I feel that the time is excellent for this year to allow for me to give focus to the Grand Master, and that is why I have entered into this. It is my belief that you do not take a job if you cannot do it. I do not believe in padding a resume, and that is not what I am about. I believe in doing your job and earning the right to feel good about what you have accomplished. If the Grand Master succeeds, then I would feel a part of that success, and if he were not properly supported, likewise I would feel that failure. We should not hide behind our dictate, to first be true to our family, when we have entered into an important position. Clearly unforeseen events can cause problems for anyone's schedule, but this is a one-year position and a maximum effort should be expected. I have taken advantage of an ability to travel the State over the last two years and have visited many lodges. I have not yet seen them all, but I am looking forward to having the chance to do so in the future.

Wor. Michael Kimball



1. What do you see as the role of a Grand Warden in our Grand Lodge?

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Five Brethren offer their Candidacy for Grand Warden

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I see the role of Grand Warden as being much the same as Wardens in the constituent lodges. Specifically, the Junior Grand Warden is the superintendent of the work being done by the craft during his tenure. It is his job to attend all of the committee meetings that he is assigned to by the Grand Master, and to participate in the proceedings of said committees. He must also attend all of the communications of the Grand Lodge, as well as be prepared to assist in the opening and closing of the Grand Lodge, be at the disposal of the Grand Master and the constituent lodges to help them in any way possible. Whether it be by offering himself to help with the appropriate uses of the material offered to the Lodges, the work of making new Brothers, helping to educate the brotherhood, or just being present to show support.

2. Why are you seeking the office of Grand Warden?

The reasons I am seeking the office of Junior Grand Warden are that I want to help the Grand Jurisdiction of Maine continue to have the close knit relationship between the Blue lodges and the appendant bodies. I also want to be able to pass on the education that I received through time and experience, and with the help of my brothers, as well as to be a part of securing the future of our fraternity as a member of the leadership team of the Grand lodge of Maine.

3. What experience would you bring to the Grand Warden's position that would be of value to the Grand Master and our Grand Lodge?

As a Past Master of this Fraternity, I have learned what it takes to lead a Lodge, I also have a business management background; and as a business owner and employee of a taxi company over the last nearly fifteen years, I learned how to make something from nothing, how to listen to what people are saying and what they are not saying. I also bring a fresh perspective of what it is going to take to keep this fraternity safe and growing in the future years.

4. To do the Grand Warden's job properly a brother must expect to be available at many and various times throughout every month of the year. Will you have the time and make the effort to support the Grand Master whenever and however he requests it?

As is the case with most people my age, I do hold a full-time job. I have the blessing of my employer, as well as the support of the crew of people that I work with to make it possible for me to offer myself for this position. To answer the second part of the question, yes, I will have the time and I will support the Grand Master in any way possible at any time.

R.W. Brian Messing



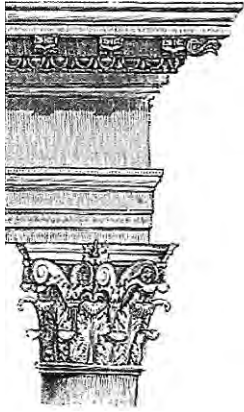
1. What do you see as the role of a Grand Warden in our Grand Lodge?

The role of a Grand Warden is to support the Grand Lodge and the efforts of the Grand Master. Moreso than at the constituent Lodge level, it is his task to carry out the directions of the Master and be as involved as possible assisting the constituent Lodges. It is a position of high visibility to the Craft, therefore, either of the Wardens must act as a role model – in comportment, service to others and providing leadership and guidance. While not in a position to set the course of where the Grand Lodge is headed or what it should be focused on, a Warden, with circumspection, is in a position to influence both the Lodge and Grand and Deputy Grand Masters.

2. Why are you seeking the office of Grand Warden?

I'm not sure if seeking is the right word – offering myself probably fits better. I have attended every session of the Grand Lodge and all special meetings called since I was raised. I find them interesting to say the least. I'd like to learn more about the inner workings of Grand Lodge, particularly how our finances are managed, how the Charity funds operate, and its general operation. Learning and serving others excites me and this seems to be the best way to do this at this time. I hope to be able to bring that understanding back to the Lodges of our Districts.

Continued on Page 22



An **entablature** refers to the superstructure of moldings and bands which lie horizontally above columns, resting on their capitals.



Let's Do It Again...

The presentations and discussions at Convocation 2013, held at the Sable Oaks Marriott Hotel in South Portland on July 27th, were so enthusiastically received that we have decided to present essentially the same program at Convocation 2014. You will recall that the theme of the 2013 Convocation was "Polishing the Stone" in which we traced the development of Freemasonry in Maine from about the time of World War I up to the present and even looked at what might lie ahead for us.

Our Convocations are still a work in progress. We have experimented with various combinations of Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday and, in 2013, went to a one-day format. In an effort to be more inclusive of the Masons in Southern Maine, we moved the site of the event from the Bangor area to South Portland, with mixed results.

In 2014 we propose to hold the Convocation on Saturday, October 18, rather than in July as in past years. Vacations seem to be at a low level at that time and the hunting season will not be a distraction. We are hopeful that there will be no snow on the ground, but who knows?

These Convocations offer a great opportunity to listen to knowledgeable Masons—and sometimes non-Masons—and to swap thoughts with other Masons who are equally fired up about the Fraternity and its lessons. And, to be perfectly honest, the food is always outstanding. Think about rounding up a carload of your best Masonic buddies and making a day of it. You will not regret it. No one ever does.

The College Briefly...

Our name inspires us to a 'higher educational calling.' We are not a bricks and mortar school but a "Temple of Knowledge," offering a growing variety of learning opportunities in various modalities

We believe that Freemasonry is relevant in society today, helping to create a continuum of knowledge for those who are interested in personal enrichment.

Masonic ritual exhorts us to broaden our knowledge of the seven liberal arts and sciences. Thus, our programs include topics of interest to anyone with an inquisitive mind: ethics, astronomy, logic, public speaking and more. We have molded the Maine Masonic College on the best features of not only traditional and modern Masonic-oriented education but also "senior college" and lifelong learning endeavors.

In addition, we are developing audio and video material along with reading lists and more. At the Maine Masonic College, we encourage your input, your recommendations and - most of all - your....

INVOLVEMENT!

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Maine Masonic College Course Schedule 2014

April 5 **Ethics**, Sam McKeeman, Instructor, will repeat his interesting and stimulating class on ethics in our civil and Masonic lives. Lygonia Lodge, Ellsworth, 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Lunch \$5.00. Open. Diploma credit.

April 12 **Seminar for Chaplains**, R.W. Mark Rustin and Wor. Douglas Drawn, Leaders and Instructors. Meridian Splendor Lodge, Newport. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. This offering was originally intended for lodge chaplains but is now open to all. It will focus on how we may better serve each other in love and faith. Open

May 17 **Tenets and Cardinal Virtues**, R.W. Reginald Wing, Instructor, Deering Lodge, Portland, 9 am-2 pm. Lunch \$5.00. Open. Diploma credit. Notes: "Open" indicates: open to both masons and non-masons; "Diploma credit" indicates that this course is one of the basic courses required for those seeking a Maine Masonic College diploma.

Policy on registration for course and events: The College does not require that one register for its classes and events. However, to be assured of a place at lunch or to be notified of any changes in schedules, please do register. For information on registration, please contact Steve Nichols 207-727-3368, George Macdougall 207-634-3353, or the Grand Lodge office 207-843-1086.

The Story of Hiram Abiff

Like many Masonic teachings, the story of Hiram Abiff is told as an allegory. From its beginnings in the 1100's the Craft has used allegorical stories to teach ideas, concepts, and moral principles.

As such, the second part of the MM Degree tells a story of a man, Hiram Abiff, who had given his word that he would not reveal the secrets of a Master Mason. He gave his life rather than break his word given to Solomon King of Israel and Hiram King of Tyre. It is written in the form of an allegory but not in complete, literal, historical fact. This second part intends to teach the value of integrity, moral principles, and honor. Hiram is referenced as Hiram in the New King James Edition but nowhere in biblical accounts is he called Abiff. In the original Hebrew there is "abi" which has been translated as "Father". More recent translations have been as "Master" or "Counselor". Apparently "Abiff" is an addition within our Masonic Ritual. Neither in Biblical accounts nor in Josephus's "Antiquities of the Jews", is he referred to as the overall supervisor nor is he killed. In those accounts, he finishes all the metal work for Solomon and goes back home. The following includes some of the available references about Hiram Abiff. Biblical references and the account by Josephus have been included. The other quotes are random excerpts which may prove interesting.

"Hiram is the name of the slain builder from the third Masonic degree. While his biblical counterpart returned to his native Tyre, his death is only allegorical in Masonry. Sadly many Freemasons are unaware of this" -: **Masonicdictionary.com**

Abif: A Hebrew word signifying "his father." Pocket Lexicon of Freemasonry
Mackey lists it as "Father"

As many Masonic sources point out, we do not always make it clear to candidates that the second part of the MM Degree is an allegorical story of honor and integrity based on a Historical Figure but that it is not literal historical fact. Candidates leave thinking that "Abiff" was Hiram's last name and that his mother was "Mrs. Abiff". Rather than understanding that his name was "Hiram" with "father", "master", or "builder" added to distinguish him from Hiram "King of Tyre".

Abundant criticism can be found such as: "Hiram Abiff - the false christ of Freemasonry"



Hiram Abiff

1 Kings 5:1-10 King James

⁵ And Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants unto Solomon; ...

² And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, ³ Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the LORD. ⁵ And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, ⁶ Now therefore command thou that they hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon; ... ⁸ And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, ⁹ My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon unto the sea: and I will convey them by sea in floats unto the place that thou shalt appoint me, ...

¹⁰ So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees....

1 Kings 7:13-14 New King James

¹³ Now King Solomon sent and brought Hiram^[a] from Tyre.

¹⁴ He *was* the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father *was* a man of Tyre, a bronze worker; he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill in working with all kinds of bronze work. ...

1 Kings 7:40-46

⁴⁰ So Hiram made an end of all the work that he made King Solomon for the house of the Lord

2 Chronicles 2:13-14 New King James

¹³ And now I have sent a skillful man ... Hiram^[a] my master *craftsman* ¹⁴ The son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre, skilful to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, in iron ...

2 Chronicles 2:13 Spelled *Hiram* in 1 Kings 7:13

It is evident that the figure of Hiram Abiff has a long and fascinating history; yet, as in all Masonic matters, there is a great deal more. What does Hiram Abiff with all his resolution and principle have to say to us in our world where the threat of destruction by the "ruffians" still lurks in the shadows?

Five Brethren offer their Candidacy for Grand Warden

Continued from Page 19

3. What experience would you bring to the Grand Warden's position that would be of value to the Grand Master and our Grand Lodge?

Quite a bit! I don't need to run through everything that I've done, but a brief recap might help. I've been in the East of every York Rite body for at least two years, been in the Grand Chapter as Principal Sojourner and Assistant Lecturer, and served the Grand Commandery in various roles including that of Grand Commander. In that role, I lived and breathed Commandery every waking moment – I'd expect to bring that same dedication to the Warden's position. Although less active at present, I have supported a number of Scottish Rite degrees as well when called upon. I'm also a member of the Shrine and an assortment of other Masonic organizations. This background will help in the inter-relationships between the Blue Lodge and Appendant bodies.

In the Lodge, in addition to serving two terms as Master (one for our 200th anniversary), I've served as the District Educational Representative and District Deputy Grand Master for several years each, and have now served as Secretary of my Lodge for over 7 years. As a Ritualist, I take pride in knowing all the roles in all the degrees, along with all of the lectures and charges and presenting them with some flair! I'm often called upon to help in local Lodges in some degree or memorial service somehow. I act as our Lodge Mentor and am currently serving as the 9th District Mentor Coordinator. This background has direct bearing on the support of anything that the Grand Lodge could become involved with in the Lodges.

In the community, I've volunteered and served as Blackbeard at the Maine Lobster Festival for 13 years, helping raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for many worthy causes. I've served as a member of my local School Board for just under 8 years in the positions of vice-Chair, and Chairman of the Finance, Personnel and Negotiations Committees. Any of these roles brings a wealth of experience to Grand Lodge. As an engineer, I love solving problems and coming up with solutions. I think that this also could serve to enhance the Grand Lodge.

4. To do the Grand Warden's job properly a brother must expect to be available at many and various times throughout every month of the year. Will you have the time and make the effort to support the Grand Master whenever and however he requests it?

Of course! In each of the major roles I've filled in the Lodge, in other Appendant bodies or the Boards I've serve on, I've given all that I can give. I would do no less than that, it is not part of my nature. To make sure that nothing would interfere with the Warden's role, I have stepped back from a leadership role in everything else (although I am still Secretary and Treasurer in a few). My job is such that I can generally travel anywhere in the State whenever needed. I like what I've seen over the last few years and where our current and immediate future Grand Masters are taking us. I'd like to be part of that which by definition means that I'd be available and active in supporting that cause. I ask each of you to support me in that endeavor.

Wor. Steve Zimmerman



1. What do you see as the role of a Grand Warden in our Grand Lodge?

I see the role of the Junior Grand Warden, first and foremost to promote the initiatives of the Grand Master to constituent lodges that I travel to throughout this jurisdiction. Also to be on the ready to represent the Grand Master and this Grand Lodge as the Grand Master directs. As well as to promote what we as masons have been taught in our degree work, especially to "spread the cement of brotherly love and affection." And to be a sounding board for the local lodges so the Grand Master knows what is working and not working.

Continued on Following Page

Five Brethren offer their Candidacy for Grand Warden

Continued from Preceding Page

2. Why are you seeking the office of Grand Warden?

As one who enjoys the fellowship of Masonry this would give me the chance to promote such fellowship. Because I have been given the opportunity to travel this Grand Jurisdiction the past 2 years as a Grand Steward and have met many brethren, I would be a familiar face to promote initiatives of the Grand Master.

3. What experience would you bring to the Grand Warden's position that would be of value to the Grand Master and our Grand Lodge?

My experience started at a young age being brought up in a Masonic family. I was taught the Masonic principles and values before I even knew what masonry was. My journey after being raised has brought me through the officers line of two separate lodges at the same time. Being involved with many Masonic and community projects as a leader or a supporter have given me the chance to work with committees and groups to come to a common goal. The projects have been as small as a wheelchair ramp for an ailing brother and larger project

such as a raptor cage for a wild animal rehab center.

Also being a member of the Kittery Masonic Association when it came to the decision to sell the old Masonic Building and purchase a new building to be remodeled for the use of Naval Lodge. I have also been a member of Naval Lodges finance committee and I am currently the treasurer of the Kittery Masonic Association. Along the way I have been able to participate in "fun" degrees of Masonry. Being one who has worked with the serious as well as the fun aspects of Masonry I feel I would bring much value to the Grand Master and our Grand Lodge.

4. To do the Grand Warden's job properly a brother must expect to be available as many and various times throughout every month of the year. Will you have the time and make the effort to support the Grand Master whenever and however he requests it?

Yes. Where I am self employed and I can set my schedule to support the Grand Master. I realize it takes dedication to be in this position, and to be available to the Grand Master at a moment's notice. I also have a wife that supports and understands the time and effort that is bestowed on the office of Junior Grand Warden.

Casting a Line as Freemasons



Masons are always casting lines...to reach a potential candidate, to teach portions of our ritual.

But two brothers are interested in joining with other Masons to cast a line with the hope of catching fish. They would like to arrange an inaugural Masonic Fishing Adventure.

They have been tossing around the idea of a Masonic fly fishing trip since early winter. They are looking for a few fly fishing brethren to extend the bonds of friendship and tie one on (a fly that is) in Masonic fun and fellowship. Cupsuptic Lake Campground in the Rangeley Lakes Region has been selected as the location with a firm date in late June to be determined if there is sufficient interest.

For more information, please contact joseph.r.saunders@gmail.com or wildcatcreekguide@gmail.com.

Maine Scottish Rite Gives \$12,000 to Area Food Banks



Dixie Shaw, Director of Catholic Charities of Aroostook County, receives a \$2,000 check from Derik Smith, TPM, and Milt Smith, 33°, Secretary of the Valley of Aroostook.

Photo by Kathy McCarty, Presque Isle Star-Herald



Left to right: George Grey, Thrice Potent Master of Rockland Lodge of Perfection; Julie McQuillan, Donor Relations and Research Manager of the Good Shepard Food Bank; WB Elwood Doran, Most Wise Master of Gen. Knox Chapter of Rose Croix.



Left to right: Wor. Newell Farrington; Bro. Laurence Perkins, Deputy's Representative for the Valley of Augusta; Dean Lachance, Executive Director of Bread of Life Ministries; Ill. & RW John Lord, 33°.



Valley of the Androscoggin. Left to right: RW Marcel Morin, DDGM/23; Beverly Robbins; John Robbins; Ill. and WB James Witham, 33° and Deputy's Representative for the Valley of the Androscoggin; Ill. & Wor. George Herrick, Jr., 33°; Wor. Richard Nadeau, JW of Auburn Council Princes of Jerusalem and Orator of H.H. Dickey Chapter of Rose Croix.

A Mason's Lady says Thank You

I am but a Mason's lady who looks forward to *The Maine Mason* arriving in our mailbox. I love getting my hands on the magazine and reading it from front to cover and back again. I write little notes in it if I get it first pointing out things to my Mason. If he gets it first then I have to impatiently wait for him to finish reading it. You have to wonder how many ladies read it too.

Each article is so well written and easy for me to understand and I sometimes find the articles cross over to Eastern Star which my Mason and I also belong to.

We keep a year's worth of the magazines close by with the latest one on the table for visitors wishing to cruise through it at their leisure.

I have come to enjoy going to the open sessions and meeting so many of the Brethren. When I am introduced to someone that has contributed I remember to tell them how much I have enjoyed their contribution. It's like the EF Hutton commercial, "when EF Hutton speaks everyone listens," when everyone goes silent and I first get the funny look and then the question "you read *The Maine Mason*?" I do love responding with a hearty "YES." Then everyone who has overheard the conversation laughs. It has proven to be a great ice-breaker and conversation starter.

Reading *The Maine Mason*. I have to say, has enriched my life. I am amazed at how much I have learned about Freemasonry even though my father was a Mason as was my grandfather and uncles. But I was never a Rainbow Girl or Job's Daughter.

My Mason's father was a Mason, Scottish Rite and Shriner. And his brother and his brother-in-law are Masons. He is currently a District Deputy Grand Master and prior to that was the District's Educational Representative. Before that, he served as Master of his lodge and an affiliated member of Arundel Lodge in Kennebunkport where he grew up. When a recent health scare put me in the hospital, I could not believe how many Maine brothers reached out to us along with Maine Order of the Eastern Star members. It brought me to tears and as I tell everyone who called, emailed or sent a note, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. It meant so very much to us. Even though we attempted to keep it low keyed we should have realized that among the Maine Masonic family there are no secrets...except for giving out the recipe for Arundel Lodge's Table Lodge dessert. Sorry everyone.

We enjoy seeing everyone when they come for a visit to the 10th District or when we go visiting others (when

Touched by a True Mason

To the Editor:

Most good stories have a beginning, a middle and an end. Therefore, I'll start at the beginning of this trilogy by saying that I was raised by my father and became a Master Mason at Meridian Splendor Lodge No. 49 on April 24, 1958. Shortly after demonstrating my proficiency in that degree, I reported to what became a 27-year career in the Navy.

The purpose of this letter is to explain what happened in the middle of this story, which spans more than 50 years. Two years into my first tour aboard a Destroyer Escort in the North Pacific, I was called to the Comm Shack and given a Ham radio message from Errald Turner, Secretary, Meridian Splendor Lodge. The message merely wished me a happy birthday from my brothers in Newport, Maine. This simple gesture warmed me knowing someone cared where I was.

Errald and I grew up in the same town, but half a dozen years apart. So rather than close friends, we were acquaintances very busy accomplishing our own agendas. Our relationship was about to change because no matter where I was in the world, however remote, Errald found me with a birthday greeting.

More recently he sent me my 50-year lapel pin and a Life Member certificate. Further proof that this story has no end, my 2014 membership card is signed, "Errald Turner, Sec'y, Meridian Splendor Lodge No. 49."

I look forward to reading every issue of *The Maine Mason*, and the Winter 2013 copy featured an article titled "Happy Birthday to the Maine Mason." This article was the spark for me to tell Maine Masons about another man and brother who has devoted a large part of his life holding our lodge together and cementing relationships. I am but one of many in our lodge of brothers who have been touched by this true Mason. Therein, I hope you may find others who have had similar experiences and ask them to enlarge my story.

Fraternally yours,

Captain David W. Farnham, USN (ret.)
Murfreesboro, N.C.

I am allowed). We love our extended family and enjoy when we can get together with them. I look forward to the coming months and all the events that will allow us to see old friends and meet new.

Just keep writing those wonderful literary pieces.
Thank you.

RW Chuck Billings' Lady Paulla

To the
Editor

DIRIGO Leadership Seminars Continue

by R.W. Jeff Sukeforth

Nearly everyone in these parts knows the meaning of DIRIGO which is I Lead; and as we all are aware the master of any lodge needs to be a strong leader. The reason for this is simple, if you are strong in leadership than others will undoubtedly follow. Of course leadership comes in many forms;

1. Authoritarian leaders, also known as autocratic leaders, provide clear expectations for what needs to be done, when it should be done, and how it should be done.

2. Participative leadership, also known as democratic leaders, generally demonstrates the most effective leadership style. Democratic leaders offer guidance to group members, but they also participate in the group and allow input from other members.

3. Delegative leadership, also known as laissez fair leadership, is the least productive of all three groups. People in this group make more demands on the leader, show little cooperation and are unable to work independently.

What is the definition of a good leader when it pertains solely to our lodges? If you ask a group of 10 brothers this question you most likely may receive 10 different answers and who is to say any of them are incorrect.

Of course there are some who might feel the Latin phrase, *nos inducas*, better pertains to the leadership branch in a Masonic lodge. *We Lead*.

Perhaps lodge leadership is better served when it

is a collaborative effort between the Master and Wardens. Who is to say, not I; because anytime you have a group of like-minded people together there will be differences surface, however, they will most likely come to a consensus for the betterment of the group.

The DIRIGO Leadership Seminars do not pretend to have the perfect answer for those who might be seeking it on how to best provide leadership to members of a lodge. However, the seminar will provide current and prospective leaders with some thoughts and tools to better prepare themselves for their leadership positions within the lodge atmosphere.

Many Masons have already discovered these tools and thoughts as 229 brothers from 90 lodges have attended at least one leadership seminar. Now it is your turn to discover what these seminars can offer you. The Grand Lodge leadership committee is presenting seminars in three upcoming locations so check the attached registration form for an event close to you and get you and your lodge mates signed up.

I am very pleased to announce that we will have the pleasure of having RW Tim Martel joining us to present a portion on Masonic Protocol which the MEALS committee has done a lot of great work on.

The amount of info packed into a short time is astounding and where else can you be greeted with a warm cup of coffee and donuts in the morning and a free lunch in the afternoon? Don't wait -- get signed up today. See you soon Brothers!



County Time

Recent activity at Trinity Lodge in Presque Isle. L-R RW Robert Hancock, MW A. James Ross, Bro. Christopher Morton, RW Elwood Doran, Wor. Kenneth Stewart and mentor Wor. Derik Smith. Bro. Morton was raised Nov. 19. RW Doran and the GM traveled to the county to be present for Chris's big night. Bro. Doran was making the trip because Elwood and Chris had been work associates and the GM went along to keep his brother-in-law company on the trip.

Dirigo Masonic Leadership Seminar

Kennebunk, May 17th ~ Hermon, September 6th

What core physical, educational and personal fulfillment needs of your brethren does your lodge satisfy? What is the image of your lodge, as viewed by your brethren and the community? What do you want your lodge to emphasize in terms of: being a close, warm fraternal body; having fun; involving families; helping members; widows and the community; and, instilling in our daily lives the values and teachings of our ritual? Does your lodge have the resources it needs to fulfill the expectations of your brethren?

These are but a few of the questions to be raised in the Dirigo Leadership Seminars for officers of our Masonic lodges and appendant bodies, or any brother interested in pursuing new perspectives on how to renew our lodges and other Masonic organizations.

The seminars are held at multiple locations statewide each year, with offerings in seven locations in the past year. 217 Masons from 90 lodges have attended the seminar so far or have registered for the upcoming seminars, and the reviews have been very encouraging for Maine Freemasonry. If your lodge would like to host a future offering of this seminar, please contact RW Jeff Sukeforth, the seminar chairman, at 207-691-2270 or jandc79@myfairpoint.net

The Dirigo Masonic Leadership Seminar modules cover a variety of topics, including:

- Envisioning Our Future
- Setting the Craft at Work
- Grand Lodge Support of Lodges
- Lodge Governance
- Program Budgeting
- Sharing the Gift of Freemasonry
- Mentoring

The seminar begins with registration, coffee and donuts at 8:00 a.m., with the seminar starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending by 3:00 p.m. A light lunch will be provided. There is no cost to attend the seminar that will definitely benefit your lodge and your role as a Masonic leader.

To ensure that we have sufficient food and program materials, all lodge officers and other Masons interested in attending one of the seminars are asked to return the following form to the program leader or send the requested information to him by email as specified below.

Dirigo Leadership Seminar Registration			
Name:		Office Held:	
Lodge Name/#:		Located At:	
Preferred Tel.		Email:	
Please check which seminar location you will be attending:			
	May 10	York Lodge, West Kennebunk	159 Alfred Road
	September 6	Lynde Lodge, Hermon	Route 2
	THIS COULD	BE YOUR LODGE! DO YOU	WANT TO SPONSOR ONE?
Please return this completed form to Jeff Sukeforth, 47 Rawson Ave., Camden, ME 04843, or email the information to jandc79@myfairpoint.net at least one week before the date of the seminar to be attended. WALK-INS ARE WELCOME , but it is emphasized that pre-registrations help ensure that we have sufficient food and handouts.			

What Is My Masonic Purpose?

Br. Seth Silverton, JW
King David's Lodge #62

I receive emails periodically entitled “What is My Masonic Purpose?” from a group I subscribe to. It's a great question. I read the email the morning it shows up in my inbox and these questions echo through my head the rest of the week, showing up at the oddest times. What is my Masonic purpose with my kids? What is my Masonic purpose with my wife? With my community? What have I done by becoming a Mason? Why did I do this?

I'm a grown man, forty-eight years old. I'm not from the town I joined our craft in; I was born in Brooklyn, New York. In many ways I've always felt like an outsider here. However, I have been blessed with many great friends, one of whom joined King David's Lodge #62 in Lincolnville. I was so moved by his experience I had to investigate. Then, I was accepted into this great fraternity.

Now, what do I do? Do I bring my work skills to bear on what it is the lodge does? What does this lodge do? Certainly we're not like the Rotary or Kiwanis. We're not like any organization I've ever seen before. I was curious why this was, so I figured that I'd sit and listen. I followed some advice that I received in an early sales-training class, to paraphrase: ‘The supreme architect has given you two ears and one mouth, apply that ratio to their use.’

I sat in lodge and listened. I volunteered at lodge-sponsored events and organized events. Then, I was offered a chair. I spent my first year as a mason in this way, loving every minute of it.

It was after some time that the WM came to me with an idea. He knew that I work in the field of local food security: my business, The Wood Chop School, is dedicated to encouraging individuals and organizations to develop strategic plans, relationships and installations that assure

food security on local and organizational levels. He also knew that I engaged in volunteer work providing local food to at-risk single mothers and the elderly. His suggestion was that we have a lodge-sponsored program to do roughly the same but on a much larger scale. I volunteered to run this within the lodge.

Through the strategic partnerships we have developed, we have been able, over the past seven months, to donate over \$35,000 (retail value) of highest quality foods to our local soup kitchens and food pantries. It has cost our lodge a total of \$400 to do this.

Late last year, I was given the Rookie Award from Grand Lodge. This was quite an unexpected honor for me. Some months earlier, I had received an invitation in the mail inviting me to a banquet in my honor, where I would be able to meet with all the other recipients of this award from across the state and with the officers from Grand Lodge. As I sat there next to my wife, eating a magnificent meal, I heard the stories of other brothers from around our state and what their life has been like since joining the craft. This was so important to me. This was exactly where I needed to be, listening to all these brothers, my brothers, telling each other what their Masonic purpose was. Then, it clicked.

I understand now that every Mason's Masonic purpose is his own version of what the symbols and rituals of our craft mean to him. We all build a better self through our fraternity. Our craft is so sublimely flexible that it allows an infinite number of iterations of this process--each as different as the man who joins.

Many men join us and enjoy the craft for its ritual. Others for the company of old friends. Still others to reach out and help their community. I joined because my worldview is informed by the unstoppable and fantastic change that is happening around us each day. It is through our fraternity that I am able to help respond to it. And what a blessing it has been.

Marsh River Lodge Bikes for Books



As one can readily see from the expressions on the faces of these proud new bike owners, Marsh River Lodge's 2013 Bikes for Books Program was a huge success. 68 boys and girls from pre-school through fifth grade participated.

As Lodge Secretary Greg Parks explains, "When we approached Morse Memorial School in Brooks the principal and staff were so excited it was easy getting them on board." As soon as the bikes arrived the lodge took a girl's bike and a boy's bike to display at school along with a B4B Banner and poster board. The students have

a reading program they were tracking on the wall of the gym and every teacher reported that reading skills and interest steadily went up after the program was introduced. Each winner received a helmet and bright tee shirt along with the bike.

For 2014 the lodge will expand the program to include Monroe Elementary School. Plans are to provide 14 bikes at each school.

Brother Parks says the program is so rewarding, "I can't explain it. If it wasn't for this program some of those children may not ever get a bike."



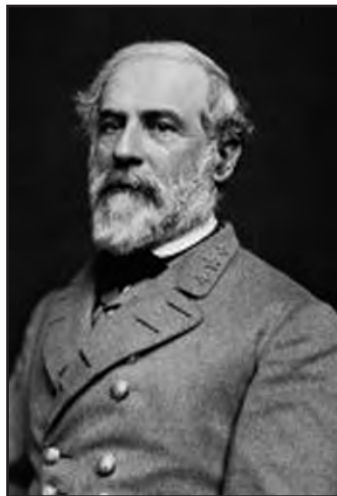
Important Leadership Lessons that can

By. R.W. Charles W. Plummer

The three-day battle of Gettysburg was fought on July 1, 2 and 3 in 1863 at the small crossroads town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, population 2,500. After three days of intense fighting, the Union Army of the Potomac under the command of Gen. George G. Meade defeated the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia commanded by Gen. Robert E. Lee forcing Lee and his army to retreat back to Virginia. This engagement, which has been described as “a bodacious battle of nerve and strategy,” pitted not only friends and West Point classmates against each other, but Freemasons as well.

When the sound of battle ended on July 3rd and the dust and smoke had finally settled over the battlefield, about 53,000 of the 170,000 combatants were dead, wounded, taken prisoner of war, or unaccounted for. When the two armies vacated Gettysburg, Lee on July 5th and Meade a few days later, they left behind a field of carnage and death. The bodies of 5,000 horses and 8,000 Union and Confederate soldiers left bloated and decaying in the hot sun created a disagreeable effluvia which the citizens of Gettysburg found almost unbearable.

Although the Battle of Gettysburg didn't bring an end to the Civil War, it did dispel the southern myth that Union soldiers were no match for the Confederates when it came to fighting. Some historians believe that the Battle of Gettysburg was a turning point in the war for the North because the Confederacy never attempted another invasion of the North. Others believe that Pres. Lincoln's reelection in 1864 was the turning point and had a Democrat been elected, the Democrats would have initiated peace talks with the Confederacy and let it become an independent nation. I like to think that a major outcome of the Battle of Gettysburg was Pres. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address which he delivered at the dedication of Gettysburg National Cemetery on November 19, 1863. In his speech, which lasted less than three minutes, he redefined the kind of nation the United States would be after the war; that we would not only be a nation in



Gen. Robert E. Lee

which citizens were entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, but we would also be a nation in which all men are created equal.

As a result of the victories at Fredericksburg, Virginia in December of 1862 and Chancellorsville, Virginia in May of 1863, Gen. Lee had established a reputation as a brilliant military strategist, tactician, and savior of the Confederacy. But there are some historians who believe that his overwhelming victory at Chancellorsville a month before Gettysburg might have led to Lee's overconfidence regarding his decision to once again wage war on Northern soil. Although Lee did have a clear vision of how a victory in the North would boost the morale of the people in the South, it appears he may have lacked a well-thought-out battle plan or, if he did, it wasn't one that he was firmly committed to and comfortable with.

We do know that at Gettysburg Lee kept his plans pretty much to himself until it was time for their execution. We know, too, that he had the habit of giving orders to subordinates that were open-ended and lacked specificity. He also disregarded the views of his closest and most able subordinate, Gen. James Longstreet, who he had nicknamed his “Old Warhorse.” Gen. Longstreet not only questioned Lee's wisdom of invading the North but opposed Lee's decision to order the frontal attack at Gettysburg on July 3rd. There are some who believe that Lee's autonomous approach, coupled with lack of a well-thought-out and understood battle plan, may have been factors in the defeat of his army at Gettysburg. It would appear that he lost sight of two important leadership qualities: (1) that a good leader recognizes that those who are expected to carry out the plans must have a sense of ownership in the end result; and (2) while recognizing that ultimate responsibility and accountability rests with the leader, a good leader draws upon the opinions and ideas of subordinates.

By comparison, Union Maj. Gen. George Meade used a consensus-building approach and took into consideration the ideas and views of the field commanders who served under him. This approach paid off for the North, especially as it relates to preparations for the third day's battle when Confederate forces made their failed frontal assault against Union troops on Cemetery Ridge.

Many in leadership positions today recognize the so called “wisdom of the crowd” and that no one of us is as smart as all of us. The blending of diverse views and talents can lead to what has been defined as “team synergy

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be learned from the Battle of Gettysburg

and enhanced organizational performance.” Thus we can see that Meade clearly understood that a good leader recognizes that those expected to carry out plans must have a sense of ownership in the end result and be empowered to manage the process through which organizational goals will be achieved.

Without question Lee deserves accolades for being a great strategist and tactician, but his communication skills left something to be desired. Some Civil War historians believe that “his loose and somewhat ambiguous language” proved to be his “Achilles heel” during the Gettysburg campaign. We can find an example of this in his July 1st order to Lt. Gen. Richard Ewell to attack Union forces on Cemetery Ridge. He directed Ewell to attack “if practicable” but Ewell, believing his men were too exhausted to continue the fight, decided that it was not practicable to attack. Ewell’s decision gave Union forces time to reinforce their stronghold thereby becoming better able to defend the ridge which was very important to the success of Meade and his army.

Another example of Lee’s inability to give clear and direct orders that came back to haunt him involved Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart who commanded the Confederate cavalry. Stuart was supposed to be Lee’s “eyes and ears” in carrying out reconnaissance of enemy forces. But Lee gave him too much latitude in choosing his route to Gettysburg. Stuart opted for an indirect route which delayed his arrival and thus deprived Lee of much needed intelligence regarding the strength and positions of the Union army. From these examples we see that Lee lost recognition that a good leader not only communicates clearly and precisely, but also ensures that the message reached all intended recipients.

When Stuart did arrive at Lee’s headquarters on July 2nd he was met with criticism for his delay but then Lee quickly forgave him. Lee recognized Stuart’s skills as a cavalryman, praised him for his fortitude and contributions to the army. Stuart rode off both encouraged and motivated by Lee’s parting words. We can see that while



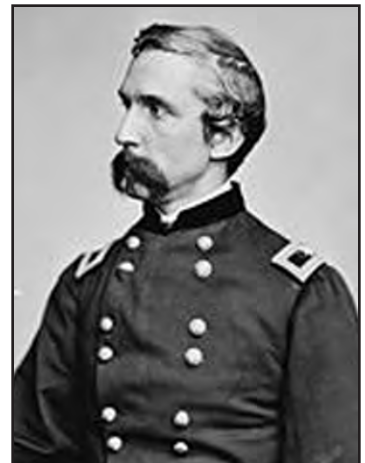
Gen. George Meade

Lee reprimanded Stuart, he did recognize that a good leader empathizes with and shows concern, respect and compassion for subordinates. Today’s so-called “motivational gurus” like to say, “an effective leader fixes the problem rather than affixes the blame.”

One individual who gained stardom as an effective leader at the Battle of Gettysburg was Union Col. Joshua L. Chamberlain, a member of United Masonic Lodge No.8 in Brunswick. His bravery, human relations skills, commitment to a plan of action, and quick thinking as Commander of the 20th Maine Infantry Regiment played an important part in securing the Union victory at Gettysburg.

Just a few days before the battle began, Chamberlain was given custody of 120 mutineers from the 2nd Maine Infantry Regiment. The 2nd Maine was a two-year regiment whose term of service had ended and whose members had been mustered out of service with the exception of these 120 men who had signed three-year papers with the understanding that they would be mustered out with the two-year volunteers. When they were held to their three-year enlistments they felt they had been wronged. They laid down their arms and refused to fight any more.

Chamberlain met with the men, listened to their grievances, acknowledged their ill treatment but explained that he was not in any position to correct the injustice that had befallen them. Having been badly treated as mutineers which included being deprived of adequate food and clothing, Chamberlain immediately took action to see that these basic human needs were met. As a result of his actions, Chamberlain won their trust, and was able to persuade all but three of them to pick up arms and join the 20th Maine.



Col. Joshua Chamberlain

Under Col. Chamberlain’s command these former mutineers joined with other members of the regiment to fight heroically on the afternoon of July 2nd defending their position on Little Round Top against repeated assaults by the enemy. Their efforts preserved the strategic position protecting the left flank of the Union army.

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Gettysburg Leadership Lessons

Continued from Preceding Page

The men of Chamberlain's command understood the importance of their mission to prevent a flanking attack. They displayed such loyalty to him that when the ammunition was exhausted, the men followed his orders to make a bayonet charge which drove the attackers back into the lower woods. Many Confederates were captured in the process. On that afternoon Col. Chamberlain demonstrated that a good leader ensures that his or her subordinates understand the importance of the mission and how it fits into the organization's vision and strategy.

It is well known that leadership is often accompanied by risk. In both the work environment and organizations of today, the actions of a leader must not only inspire but must show the way for those in subordinate positions. This is especially true when the challenge is great. The Battle of Gettysburg provides us with several examples of how leadership involves risk taking. The first is the example of Maj. Gen. John Reynolds whose Union 1st Corps made a rapid advance on July 1st to come to the aid of Union troops under attack on McPherson Ridge, just west of Gettysburg. Gen. Reynolds displayed bold leadership and his men entered the fight with fervency and zeal in spite of being outnumbered by the enemy. Gen. Reynolds was killed shortly after leading his men into battle.

Another example of bold leadership is that of Brig. Gen. Lewis Armistead, a member of Alexandria Washington Masonic Lodge in Virginia. During Pickett's Charge Gen. Armistead, his hat held high in the air upon his sword so his men could see him as they advanced, led his men on a frontal assault against Union lines on Cemetery Ridge.

About a hundred of his Confederate soldiers, including Armistead himself, managed to break through Union lines for a brief time before being turned back. Armistead was wounded just after he penetrated Union lines and died shortly after from his wound. Although their gain



Gen. Lewis Armistead

was short-lived, Armistead's example of a leader willing to take a risk did give Confederates a flicker of hope during that ill-fated charge. Both Gen. Reynolds and Gen. Armistead lost their lives while leading their men into battle, and although it is wise to bear in mind that discretion is sometimes the better part of valor, a good leader models the way for subordinates, remains visible to them, and is willing to accept the risk associated with leadership responsibilities.

It is well known that a leader's enthusiasm and optimism can inspire subordinates. It is also known that apprehension and a lack of enthusiasm can have a negative effect. An example of this might be seen in Gen. Longstreet's opposition to the frontal attack at Gettysburg. This has led to the belief by some analysts of the battle that Longstreet's demeanor conveyed a reluctance and pessimism that his troops picked up on and that air of pessimism affected their fighting zeal. Today such an occurrence would be viewed as self-fulfilling prophecy. A good leader, then, is one who pursues the organization's goals and vision with enthusiasm and optimism and in so doing inspires subordinates to do the same.

I think it is safe to say that to a notable degree, Gen. Lee's decision to use his army in an aggressive manner at Gettysburg was based on a sense of false optimism following his previous victories. As present-day wisdom tells us, it can be both naïve and risky to believe one's own press clippings. A good leader knows that past successes are not absolute guarantees of future success.

When Pickett's Charge ended in failure, Lee quickly accepted accountability and blame and said to some of his subordinates, "It was all my fault," thus demonstrating that a good leader recognizes and accepts responsibility for all that happens within purview of the leader's authority. Lee also submitted his resignation to Jefferson Davis who would not accept it.

One of the themes that we often hear in Freemasonry today is the importance of leadership effectiveness at the grand lodge, district and individual lodge levels. The Grand Lodge of Maine, and other grand jurisdictions, continually sponsor leadership seminars for both lodge and grand lodge officers. Effective leadership is the life's blood of any organization including our Masonic fraternity. Without it decline in the organization is inevitable.

Many examples of effective leadership practices were demonstrated at the Battle of Gettysburg. I believe there is much we can learn from them, both as individual Masons and as men who hold leadership positions in the fraternity.

Wor. Brother Leroy Kingsbury Honored for 75 Years a Mason

96-year-old Wor. Brother Leroy Flanders was honored recently when he was presented his fifth star representing 75 years as a member of the Rising Star Lodge #71 in Orland. Grand Master A. James Ross made the presentation noting brother Flanders' reputation as a "man of great integrity... revered by so many in town as a good, true and thoughtful person."

Brother Flanders was pleased by the surprise celebratory luncheon although he admitted the event made him feel old. Bro. Flanders, who served the lodge as Master in 1990, said he valued the feeling of companionship he got from being a Mason, adding, "it's interesting and there's a lot to it if you pay attention and get into it."



Pictured here, L-R, front row: Barbara Black and Brother Kingsbury. rear row: V.W. Sheldon Heath, DER/4; Wor. Brother Jason Craig; Grand Master A. James Ross who made the presentation; William Fuller, DDGM/4; and R.W. John Baggett.

Star in the West Lodge Presents Scholarship



On January 7, 2014, Star In The West Lodge #85 in Unity presented their \$500 scholarship award during a ceremony at the lodge. The recipient, Kaytlyn Porter of Unity, is a 2013 graduate of Mt View High School in Thorndike. Kaytlyn attends the University of Maine at Machias, where she majors in Secondary Education with a concentration in English. She also has a second major in English with a concentration in Literature. Her career objective is to become a high school

teacher and writer. Kaytlyn comes from a long line of Masons. Her father and paternal grandfather are both members of Star In The West Lodge #85. Her paternal great-grandfather, great-great-grandfather, and maternal great-great-grandfathers were all members of the craft. Pictured here with Katlyn are, l-r: R.W. Brother James Maloy, DDGM/12; Brother James Porter, Katlyn's father; and Wor. Brother Peter Quimby, Master of Star in the West Lodge.

Maine's "Sunshine Ambassadors" Present More Veterans Medals



Bro. Pete Forrest congratulates Bro. Lee W. Reilly after presenting his 50-Year Veterans Medal.

By: RW Jack Lagerquist, PSGW

On a overcast and rainy early March day, RW Pete Forrest, PSGW, and I traveled from our homes in Florida's Saint Lucie County, a total of 460 miles (round trip for the day) to Hudson, to meet with Brother Lee W. Reilly, a member of Bristol Lodge #74, for the purpose of presenting him with his Grand Lodge of Maine 50 Year Veterans Medal.

Brother Lee had been a commercial fisherman for most of his life. He and his wife have a beautiful home there in Hudson, which Lee had built with the intention of re-selling it. However, his wife liked it so much they stayed right there. In the attached picture is a replica model of Bro. Lee's commercial fishing boat.

As the attached picture will show, Lee was pleased to receive this honor from the Grand Lodge of Maine.

From Hudson, we traveled to the City of Largo, FL. My trusty GPS Unit took us right to the home of Brother Charles H. Weaver, a member of Bethel Lodge, Augusta, Maine. Brother Charles had an interesting story. He was at Maine Day in Sarasota, last month, when his good friend, Bro. Robert Smithson, was presented with his 50 year medal by Grand Master A. James Ross. Afterwards he approached RW Pete to inquire why he did not have a 50-year medal too. It turned out he was more than three years late receiving his medal. He had left Maine and went to work in Mass. He was active there and was Potentate of Melha Shrine in 1997. We were pleased to perform the presentation ceremony and we departed knowing we had made a brother very happy.

We then proceeded to Parrish, FL, where we met



Bro. Pete Forrest congratulates Bro. Thomas Hennessey after presenting his 50-Year Veterans Medal.



Bro. Pete Forrest congratulates Bro. Charles Weaver after presenting his 50-Year Veterans Medal.

Brother Thomas L. Hennessey, a member of Oxford Lodge #18 in Norway. Like all the other presentations we are privileged to do, Bro. Hennessey was very happy when we departed his home.

We then went about 7 miles south to Bradenton, FL, and picked up FL Route 70, which is a straight shot across the state of Florida, to Fort Pierce, and home. We had spent 12 hours making these rounds, but, once again, we were pleased to have had the opportunity to meet these brethren and make Veterans Medal presentations to them.

THE MAINE MASON



Tranquil Lodge #29 of Auburn, hosted its annual CHIPS Program on Saturday, Dec, 7, 2013. 65 children were processed during the event held at St. Dominic Regional High School. In the top left photo are R.W. Brother George Herrick and



Brother Harris Bradeen at the registration table. In the photo top right are, left to right: Wor. Pat Penley, event chairman, volunteer Kristen Cloutier and Wor. William Littlefield, CHIPS coordinator.

Keeping Warm on a Cold Maine Night



The chips were flying in Brunswick on a cold February night as 14 hearty Brothers and one feisty female took their turns swinging at beautiful white birch logs. RW Frank Theriault took his Woodchoppers Degree show on the road from his home lodge in Lubec at the behest of Brother Senior Steward Ed Caron of United Lodge #8. A meal worthy of hungry lumberjacks was served prior to the degree work courtesy of United Lodge and the family of Brother Ed Caron. Woodchopper Degrees pins were bestowed to Brothers from Village Lodge #26, United Lodge #8, Solar Star Lodge #14 and Ancient York Lodge #155. Fun and festivities aside, RW Theriault brought the message home that all proceeds from his Woodchopper Degree efforts go to support the scholarship fund of his home Lodge, Washington #37. RW Theriault has offered to travel anywhere to offer this degree and at the same time invited all to visit Lubec and take part in their weekly summer barbecue.

Photo by Brother Steve Edmondson

An Update on the Portland Masonic Temple Activities

This is a good time to communicate to the Craft on progress made by the Masonic Trustees of Portland (MTP) and the new Masonic Temple Foundation (MTF). [The MTF was created as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization to allow donors to make tax-deductible contributions to the Masonic Temple of Portland.] The MTP and MTF Boards are working together toward restoration and life safety upgrades to the Masonic Temple while maintaining Masonic ownership of the building. The following statements and opinions are consistent with the work of the MTP and the MTF, but individual perspectives may differ.

As with most things Masonic, there is an interesting history to the Masonic Temple which varies depending on who is doing the telling. At its inception, I'm sure the spirit was overwhelmingly positive with grand aspirations for the future of Maine Masonry and the role this building would play for generations. Today, the future of the Masonic Temple of Portland is far from certain. There are those within the Craft who think the Temple is not worth the effort, or that preservation of the Masonic Temple is not the business of Masonry. Recently, both the MTP and MTF have made, and continue to make, positive steps forward to keep this Masonic Temple in Masonic hands. This goal is achievable, with the continuing good work of Masons and interested members of the public. However, it is important to understand that Masons must show leadership. From the public's point of view the question is clear, "Why should we support the restoration of this building, financially or otherwise, if the Masons do not?"

First, let us clear our minds of the past twenty years or so when the Temple found itself wrapped up in unhappy issues due to, from what I understand, conflicting goals, uninformed opinions and mismanagement. Begin thinking about the Temple today, free from past influences, misleading information and assumptions, as if you were standing on a Maine shore looking east on a fall morning, the tourists gone and an evening flood tide has swept the beach fresh of debris. So with a clear unbiased mind:

The Masonic Temple of Portland was a gift to posterity from some of our most notable Masons, renowned citizens of Maine. This impressive tribute to Maine Masonry is a significant part of our history and heritage. The Temple is integrated into the social and commercial fabric of Maine's largest city. There are Masons who realize it is our legacy and civic duty to proudly, responsibly and vigorously care for it by righting decades of indifference, and mend past internal injustices by properly

managing this magnificent resource. If a Mason believes these values are worth his time and interest in ritual, then he should believe that supporting the Masonic Temple is also worth his time and interest.

As Masons, the rejuvenation of the Temple is not beyond our finances, technical skills, and preservation resources – if we have the will. The endeavor to restore the Masonic Temple speaks, by our actions, outside ourselves to the local community, our state, our region, and beyond. Continuing to work with the Greater Portland community, we will restore and upgrade our spaces for Masons and non-Masons to use as the Masonic Temple was originally intended.

The MTP understands the importance of managing the Temple efficiently and economically so that the current Masonic tenants can afford to remain in their home and other Masonic organizations will consider tenancy in the future. A refreshed website will benefit both Masons and Masonry to the general public. Included in the business plan is the Temple's caterer, *Blue Elephant Events and Catering*. They have established an event venue in our building that is highly sought after and has won national recognition as a top performer in Greater Portland.

The Temple must support itself in the commercially real world of Greater Portland. To do that for its best and highest use, the building must be restored and brought up to life safety codes. To that end, fundraising within and outside of Masonry is necessary. If Masons do not show financial leadership, raising funds in the community at large will be difficult.

So what has changed today that could cause Masons to reconsider or strengthen their outlook toward the Masonic Temple of Portland?

The Masonic Temple of Portland is listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*. In 2009 it was listed on Maine Preservation's annual list of *Ten Most Endangered Structures* and in 2012 the Temple was listed on Greater Portland Landmarks first annual list of *Places in Peril*. Both are mixed distinctions, as this shows serious need as well as commitment from venerable preservation organizations. Support from these preservation organizations is invaluable to success in winning grants and public support.

The Temple continues to engage the public's fascination and awe once inside. Two Open House events during October 2013 brought over two hundred participants to each event. Men who attended these Open Houses have become interested in what Masonry has to offer

Continued on Next Page



Grand Master Helps Waldoboro Fire Dept. Celebrate 175th Birthday

Grand Master Ross, King Solomon's Lodge Master Alfred McKay, Jr. and several Grand Lodge officers visited Waldoboro on August 10 as the Waldoboro Fire Department celebrated 175 years of protecting life and property in that mid-

coast community. Brother Ross rode on the float built by members of King Solomon's Lodge and later drew names of the lucky winners of the Books for Bikes Program sponsored by the lodge.

Portland Masonic Temple

Continued from Preceding Page

them, based on the experience of seeing and feeling the presence of our spaces. At these events they are informed that their travel in Masonry can begin at lodges in their communities or locations of their choosing.

A wonderful example of the Temple's relevance, fascination and connection to the past for the public was in the fall of 2012, when the great-great granddaughter of Josiah H. Drummond held her wedding reception at the Temple. A portrait of Josiah Drummond in the Reading Room looked down on the joyous activities.

For the public, interest in the Temple may be preservation, but for Masons, interest should be deeper. We should remember those Masons who, like Brother Drummond, were prominent citizens in Maine's affairs; some were past Trustees and others built the Temple. They placed their word, trust, honor and financial resources into their mutual belief that this endeavor would speak clearly and positively about Masons and about Maine in perpetuity. It is within our capabilities

and resources to keep the Temple functioning to serve Masons and the public; by doing so we honor these men and carry their spirit into the future. Yes, the building is in want of repair and upgrades due to decades of neglect, but it is important to understand that the Temple is not failing; we are failing the Temple.

The MTP and MTF are committed to stabilizing and upgrading the Masonic Temple of Portland for use within the larger community so that it may again be a significant inspirational presence in a rejuvenated downtown. The successful completion of our goals can only elevate Masonic relevance to us and to the society in which Masonry continues to live and breathe. Whether we wish to exist in a central position of public life or on the periphery is our question to answer.

We are unsure what more should be communicated at this time, except that we are interested to know what the Craft thinks. MTP meetings are open for your questions and comments. Please join us. Your support is wanted and needed.

Thank you,

Robert H. Kahn, Chairman Tim Libby, Vice Chairman
Masonic Trustees of Portland www.portlandmasons.com



**Run to Benefit
Masonic Youth Charities**

Sponsored by York Lodge #22

Saturday May 17, 2014

(Rain Date May 18)

Reg. Fee \$20.00 per bike (Includes t-shirt)

8:00 AM Sign-Up

Optional Breakfast Buffet Available

10:00 AM On The Road

Stop for refreshment

**Return to Bentley's for a Raffle,
Live Music & Dancing**



Sponsoring many
Youth Programs



Maine CHIP
Child Identification Program



Scholarships

1601 Portland Rd, ARUNDEL ME 04046

(207) 985-8966

**For Registration and Additional Information:
Call Mike (207) 252-0183 or (207) 370-1557**

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE BANQUETS

Hilton Garden Inn 14 Great Falls Plaza Auburn, ME

2014 MEAL RESERVATION FORM

All functions are open to all Masons and their Ladies

Monday, May 5th Grand Lodge Social 6:00 PM Hilton Garden Inn

Dress: Men and Ladies: Business Casual

Grand Lodge Mini Buffet (Assorted Pizzas, Caesar Salad, Potato Salad, Fruit Salad)

Tickets Requested _____ \$15.00 per person

Tuesday, May 6th Buffet Breakfast 6:30 AM Tickets Requested _____ \$12.00 per person

Tuesday, May 6th Ladies Luncheon 11:30 AM at Hilton Garden Inn Dress: Casual

Grand Lodge Ladies Program and Buffet Tickets Requested _____ \$16.00 per person

Tuesday, May 6th Grand Master's Banquet 7:00 PM Hilton Garden Inn

Dress: Formal. Entertainment: Dancing to 40s and early 50s (period attire is encouraged).

Choice of: Chicken Cordon Bleu

Ticket Requested _____ \$19.00 per person

Petite 6 oz. Montreal New York Sirloin

Ticket Requested _____ \$23.00 per person

Wednesday, May 7th Buffet Breakfast 6:30 AM

Tickets Requested _____ \$12.00 per person

TOTAL amount from lines above \$ _____

Name and Title in Full: _____

Spouse Name and Title: _____ Daytime Telephone _____

MEAL RESERVATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 1, 2014

Please write check total to **Grand Lodge of Maine**, enclose it with this form and mail to:

Kenneth L. Richardson, 21 Allen Avenue, Lewiston, Maine 04240

You may pick up your prepaid reserved tickets at the reservation table at Hilton Garden Inn..

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

Overnight accommodations must be made on your own. The following are a few choices.

Hilton Garden Inn, Auburn. 207-784-4433. Price \$159.00 Plus tax

Americas Best Value Inn, 170 Center St., Auburn, just up the street from the Hilton. 207-784-1331. \$93-\$125.

Fireside Inn, at the Auburn T'pike exit, 1777 Washington Street. Tel. 207-777-1777. \$93-\$105.

Residence Inn, next to Auburn Masonic Hall, 670 Turner Street. Tel. 207-777-3400. \$116-\$125.

Ramada Inn, just off the Lewiston T'pike exit, 490 Pleasant St.. Tel. 207-784-2331. \$84-\$90.

The --- MAINE MASON ---

Grand Lodge of Maine
PO Box 430
Holden, ME 04429

Nonprofit Organization
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Portland, Maine
Permit No. 256

If undeliverable, please do not return.

**The 195th Annual Communication of the
Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Maine
will meet at Kora Shrine Center, Lewiston, ME May 6 and 7, 2014**

Credentials Committee members will be at their stations at 7 a.m. Every brother will need to show a valid 2014 Dues card to gain admission to the session.

Parking is very limited at Kora Center; therefore a bus will be available to the Brethren at no charge to take them to and from Kora Shrine. The bus will pick Brethren up at the Auburn Masonic Hall, located at 1021 Turner Street in Auburn 04210, at 7:15 AM and 8:00 AM (two time slots).

Parking is also available at the public parking garage located at the corner of Park and Oak Streets in Lewiston 04240

(1 Oak Street to be exact) which is within walking distance of Kora Shrine Center.

Questions about the information on the Meals Reservation Form (*inside this back cover*) or any questions about the Annual Session of Grand Lodge should be directed to the Grand Secretary's office grandsecretary@mainemason.org or at 207-843-1086.

Fraternally,

A. James Ross
Grand Master