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# Your lodge secretary

by W Bro. Cyril A. Nelms

The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines the word onerous as "burdensome, causing or requiring trouble, accompanied with obligations." That certainly applies to the work involved in the office of lodge secretary.

It is an office that calls for a high degree of dedication. As the *Lodge Officers Guide* indicates, "You hold an office that requires many skills, zeal for your lodge, and great personal integrity."

When we consider the multifarious requirements of the office, it is easy to realize that because these requirements deal with every facet of lodge business and because the secretary is called upon to receive, record, and report on them, that the secretary acquires knowledge by virtue of his work. Much of this work is not seen by, or required to be communicated to, lodge members.

Acquisition of knowledge in this way (or any other way) is

valuable for, as Francis Bacon wrote in the 16th century "...for knowledge is power" and the secretary's acquisition of power is perhaps the most attractive reward for meeting the challenges of the office. He may quickly become a vital source of information.

It is not surprising therefore that we turn to the secretary for guidance on matters of administration and compliance with Grand Lodge, and other requirements. After all, correspondence not only from Grand Lodge but also from all sources flows through him to the lodge. He is the one who sees every word of such correspondence. It is right and proper therefore that he is consulted on these matters. To a certain extent, and without detracting from the will of the lodge, he may sometimes be seen as the conscience of the lodge.

Small wonder then that, after holding the office for a significant number of years, the



When MW Bro. William O. Walls was in Kamloops for his official visit to District 3, Bro. George Dersch was invested with the United Nations Peace Medal for his service in the Canadian Army in Cypress in 1970, 1974 and 1980. In his capacity as Superintendent of the local RCMP detachment, and the Queen's representative, W Bro. Andrew Murray, Worshipful Master of Kamloops No. 10, presented the medal. (l-r: W Bro. Murray, MW Bro. Walls, RW Bro. Baker, W Bro. Locke, Bro. Dersch, VW Bro. Money.)

secretary may fall into the trap of believing that, indeed he is the conscience of the lodge—that because of the power resulting from the knowledge acquired from the information flowing over his desk that he is the *only* person capable of determining what is right and what is wrong for the lodge. With such belief, and bearing in mind the accumulated power a secretary holds, we should not be surprised when an impression is sometimes given—on occasion, and only on

occasion—that the levers of power are being exercised with little regard for the will of the lodge.

This unfortunate state of affairs is, I submit, an expected result of the concentration of power being vested for too long a time in the hands of only one individual. When such a condition exists—or preferably before it reaches a serious stage—it is essential for the good of the Craft that a

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## Your lodge secretary from page one

change be seriously considered.

Just imagine if you will, that three or four members sitting in the lodge have, at some time in the past, served in the office of lodge secretary. They remember the onerous work they performed, the long hours of dedication to the office, and they contribute to discussion in the lodge with the helpful knowledge gained from having done the secretary's work. With such a dispersal of knowledge, is it not logical to suggest that the level of discussion and education of members generally may be raised?

Conrad Hahn is a well-recognized masonic leader and lecturer who, in the now outdated but still appropriate film, *Breaking Barriers to Communication* said, "In any organization where one man or a small group of men runs the show, there will be little or no communication. Ideas for improvement will be stifled, ignored, or even belittled."

The concentration of information, knowledge and power in the hands of one person for a long number of years is a prerequisite for the development of a state of affairs described by Brother Hahn. But how many members have the ability and available time to do the work of a lodge secretary? It is a sad commentary on the quality of any lodge if the answer to that question is "only one".



It should give pleasure  
to us all  
To aid the weak or those  
who fall.

W Bro. Palmer Cox

A final question which every lodge member may ask himself: am I sufficiently interested in Freemasonry to prove the old adage, that you get out only what you put in, by agreeing to accept the office of lodge secretary? Think about it: you can do it! ■

## We can help

by W Bro. Robert D. Pargee

This past November, **Mount Hope Lodge No. 139** opened its lodge room to the 2001-2002 grade four students of Coquihalla Elementary School for the first ever public graduation ceremony and presentation of *We Can Help* certificates. Once the lodge officers had taken their places, I, as the event organizer, and W Bro. Mike Ozzard, the Master of the lodge, welcomed the children, parents, family and visitors. Our Grand Master, MW Bro. William O. Walls, then wowed all in attendance with his remarks. W Bro. Mike Sharpe, chairman of the We Can Help Program, explained the programme and, as a retired teacher, had some words of inspiration for the graduates. Also in attendance was our District Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro. G. C. (Gerry) Kion who had given me the green light weeks before to organize this event.

The first highlight of the evening was the showing of a 20 minute video—shot by grade four teacher and course instructor, Barry Stewart—demonstrating the students' skills as they progressed through the first-aid course. Copies of the video were presented to our Grand Master and W Bro. Sharpe as a memento of the occasion. The Grand Master is hoping that everyone at our Annual Communication in Dawson Creek will be given the opportunity to view this video.

Mount Hope Lodge No. 139 will try to keep this programme

going in our community and hopes it will expand to other elementary school districts. The second highlight of the evening was a question of who had the most fun, our Grand Master who entertained the students, or the students who entertained our Grand Master. I think it was a toss-up, because everyone had fun.

On a personal note, MW Bro. William O. Walls told me that one of the reasons why he chose to attend this evening was because I had come all the way to his office in Vancouver and asked him personally. He had one free evening in his very busy schedule: November 18 and he gave it to us. I would like to thank him and his good lady, Jackie; our mayor, Gordon Poole and his lady, Ellen; the principal of Coquihalla Elementary School, Ken McDonald (who is now Bro. Ken McDonald, a Fellowcraft of our lodge); Barry Stewart; the parents, families and visitors; W Bro. Stan Crossley for his faithful assistance; and most especially the brethren of Mount Hope Lodge who have helped in facilitating with the refreshments of hot dogs and door prizes for the students and refreshments for the adults. ■

*W Bro. Robert D. Pargee is the We Can Help Area Coördinator and the Immediate Past Master of Mount Hope Lodge No. 139 in Hope.*

## The Bursary Fund

RW Bro. F. Allan Large

### SO YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS!

It is that time of year when thousands of young men and women in BC and Yukon are seriously contemplating their future. The majority have decided what their ultimate goal is, and have prepared themselves to meet the hurdles

encountered along the way. First and foremost are those ever-increasing entrance requirements. For example, a typical university requires not only certain subjects, but an average of 85% for the science faculty and 75% for arts. Simple high school graduation is not enough.

Vocational schools and colleges are also continually increasing entrance requirements. I mention this because I have a mental picture of a very enthusiastic high school graduate arriving at the door of the institution best able to prepare him for his chosen future. All is well—courses and grades; acceptance assured. At that point, a voice says, "OK, now ante-up \$7,000 for first year expenses for fees, books, board and room, etc., and plan on that figure increasing each year over the duration of your tenure at the institution."

For so many well-prepared, enthusiastic students, this is a situation that closes the door to their aspirations and extinguishes the flame of enthusiasm.

What can be done to help these young people? There is the Grand Lodge Bursary Fund. It must be pointed out that a bursary is given on the basis of financial need. Of course, scholastic achievement is taken into consideration, but the main criterion for bursary help is financial need. The only monies available to the Bursary Trustees are those earned by the Capital Fund. It is the Trustees that award the bursaries each year in a fair and equitable way.

Each year, the Trustees are overwhelmed with requests for help, and each year they apportion the available funds to as many applicants as possible. A typical year sees about 100 applicants receive \$750 each. The Trustees would like to have earnings that would permit 100 plus applicants receive \$1,000 each. With your help, we can get the Capital Fund to an

amount that would earn substantially more than it does now. Remember—your donation to the Bursary Fund is tax deductible.

Our *Constitutions* states that the Bursaries are to be awarded to assist young people in their post-secondary education. Note that applicants do not have to be related to a freemason. All that is required is for a lodge to support the application.

Brother freemasons - please make a tax-deductible contribution to the Grand Lodge Bursary Fund. Brother secretaries - please make sure that any worthy applicants that come to your attention, receive the application forms and a supporting letter from the lodge. And above all—remember that applications are to be in the hands of the Grand Secretary no later than May 15, 2003. ■

*RW Bro. F. Allan Large is chairman of the Bursary Fund Board of Trustees*

## Our JGW elect

RW Bro. Isaac Brock Brower-Berkhoven has been elected our Junior Grand Warden by acclamation.

Born in Vancouver on December 18, 1937, RW Bro. Brower-Berkhoven spent his formative years in Britannia Beach, BC, North Vancouver, BC and the family homestead in Harmattan Alberta during the Second World War.

After high school he joined the Royal Canadian Navy as an ordinary seaman electrician's mate and served in mine sweepers, frigates and destroyers, and then joined the Submarine Service in 1961. He remained in the "Silent Service" until 1981 when he retired to civilian life as a Lieutenant (N) submarine weapons electrical officer. He then joined International Submarine Engineering Ltd. as their special projects and production

manager. He is currently employed by Sceptre Marine Ltd. as Production Manager.

While in Edmonton he was initiated in **Evergreen Lodge Lodge No. 166**, shortly afterwards joining the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Edmonton Valley, Lodge of Perfection and Mizpah Chapter Rose Croix, as well as the Alberta Consistory. He has been a member of the **Fiat Lux Lodge of Education and Research** in Alberta since 1980.

Arriving back in BC in 1990, he affiliated with **Westminster Lodge No. 174**, serving as Master in 1995-1996. He has served as lodge secretary since 1997. He also affiliated with the Fraser Valley Scottish Rite bodies and was Thrice Puissant Grand Master in 1998, currently serving in the position of Grand Secretary and Registrar. RW Bro. Brower-Berkhoven is a member of Gizeh Shrine Freemasons and has served as President of the Ritual unit and the Vancouver Clown unit. He chaired the Gizeh Membership Committee for four years and is Director of Shrine Clubs. He was appointed to the Grand Lodge Education Committee and is a member of the Ad Hoc Committee for Building in the Fraser Valley.

RW Bro. Brower-Berkhoven is the Grand Lodge Representative to the State of Israel and is Representative to the Grand Lodge of BC & Yukon for the State of Israel. He and his wife Deidre have two sons, two daughters, and three grandchildren. ■

## Online

To access online pdf versions of our Grand Lodge *Masonic Bulletin*, point your web browser to: [http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/masonic\\_bulletin/index.html](http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/masonic_bulletin/index.html).

When prompted, enter...

User name: user

Password: Ezra

Note the lower case "u" in

"user" and the capital "E" in "Ezra".

Please bookmark the webpage for future reference. Current issues are generally available before the first of the preceding month but your editor makes no promises. ■

## Lodge notes

**Star of the West Lodge No. 61**, Nakusp, has two members who have recently been recognized for their service: VW Bro. Harry Mayson has received the Queen's Jubilee gold medal for community service while RW Bro. Anthony Mallam has received the Canadian Special Service Medal with NATO bar, as has RW Bro. Barney Nunns of **Capilano Lodge 64**.

On Thursday March 20, 2003 thirteen brethren of **Perfection Lodge No. 75**, New Westminster, paid a fraternal visit to the brethren of **Grandview Lodge No. 96**. They all had a very enjoyable evening with the officers of Grandview Lodge conferring the Fellowcraft Degree for Bro. Truman Alan Donnelly.

**Columbia Lodge No. 38**, Invermere, would like to remind all that it will be celebrating its centennial on May 10 and the brethren of the lodge look forward to entertaining a goodly number on this occasion. Contact W Bro. Roy Martin at +1-250-342-6587 or [roymar@cyberlink.bc.ca](mailto:roymar@cyberlink.bc.ca).

This past February our Grand Master MW Bro. William Ord Walls assisted W Bro. Ron Smith and VW Bro. David Varcoe of **Tuscan Lodge No. 138**, Port Coquitlam with the celebration of Mrs. Christine Hodgson's 100th birthday. The late husband of Mrs Hodgson, the only sojourning widow currently assisted by the Vancouver Masonic Service Bureau, was a member of **Royal Sussex Lodge No. 501**, Hong Kong.

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Grand Lodge 132nd  
Annual Communication

June 19-21, 2003  
Dawson Creek

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form can be found at:  
[freemasonry.bcy.ca/gl2003](http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/gl2003)



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Among other presentations, a highlight of the luncheon celebration was the reading of a letter of congratulations from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

VW Bro. Varcoe pointed out that brethren who visit or help fellow freemasons or their widows should take the time to listen to their stories. It can be educational and enriching. One of the sojourning freemasons assisted by the Vancouver Masonic Service Bureau had been a physician in the Yukon with a fabulous knowledge of the area, much of which he traveled by dog sled looking after the sick and infirm. Another was an aircraft designer of such aircraft as the plywood Mosquito and the Lancaster bomber. In peacetime he was employed by AVRO on the ill-fated Arrow. If you choose to get involved with such visits please do so with the Vancouver Masonic Service Bureau's help. ■

## Order of Amaranth

The story of the Order of the Amaranth is a reflection of the story of the masonic fraternity. It demonstrates the love and reverence of all good men for their wives, widows, mothers, stepdaughters, adopted daughters, sisters, half-sisters and granddaughters.

Queen Christina of Sweden created the Order of the Amaranth for the ladies and knights of her court in 1653, building around the character of Lady Amarantha, who was portrayed as being a beautiful, virtuous and talented Lady of the Court. Originally the Order was not connected with Freemasonry, until, in 1860, James B. Taylor, a prominent freemason of New Jersey, adopted and altered its ceremonies and language to make it appropriate to masonic purposes. Subsequently Robert McCoy formally organized the Supreme Council in 1873. The

membership now consists of Master Masons and all female relatives of Master Masons as detailed. One of the original landmarks is the advancement of womanhood.

The objects of the order are fraternal, social and charitable. The charity supported by the Supreme Council is diabetes research, while the charities supported by Grand Courts, at the provincial and state level, will vary according to the wishes of the members—but is often the same charity as the Supreme Council project. The Courts which are subordinate to the Grand Courts may also have their individual charitable projects at the community level.

The Order is very active in Canada, USA, England, Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, Ireland, Hawaii and the Philippines.

The Supreme Council and each Grand Court meet annually, while the Subordinate Courts meet on a monthly basis.

The foundation of the Order is based on the lessons of Truth, Faith, Wisdom and Charity, represented by the four Honoured Ladies of the Square. These lectures exemplify the aspirations of all members of the Amaranth. Other lectures, given by the Sir Knights, are also very inspiring when given to those entering the Order in the Ceremony of Initiation. The Order of the Amaranth is one of the vehicles by which to carry on friendship, love of humanity, patriotism and service to your country and to your fellow man. ■

## Masonic notes

In the *Book of History*, the oldest of the Chinese classics, dating back to 2400 BCE, it is written that "A master mason, in teaching apprentices, makes use of the compasses and square. You who are engaged in the pursuit of wisdom must



### GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY MAY, 2003

1	Thu	Keystone-Lions Gate 115-Loggers Night	Vancouver
2	Fri	Board of General Purposes Meeting,	Vancouver
8	Thu	Joppa Lodge 112 -Crab Night	White Rock
10	Sat	Columbia Lodge 38-100th Anniversary	Invermere
15-	Thu-Sat	Northwest Grotto Association	
26-	Mon-Wed	OES - Grand Chapter	Chilliwack

also make use of the compasses and square." These two words, 'compasses' and 'square,' in the Chinese language represent: order, regularity and propriety.'

*This quotation comes without citation and your editor has some reservations about its historical accuracy.*

## Cuba

Our Grand Master recently received a letter from the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Cuba, MW Bro. Jose Manuel Collera, thanking him for our jurisdiction's donation of Master Mason aprons.

For the last year our Grand Lodge archives and Grand Secretary's office have been collecting unmarked, clean, used Master Mason aprons and forwarding them to Cuban lodges through W Bro. Juan Pedro Mejia of **Acacia Lodge No. 22.**

Brethren who have regalia they wish to donate are asked to deliver it to our Grand Secretary's office. ■

## Grotto

The Grottoes of North America was founded and established on 13 June 1890 in Hamilton, New York.

In 1949 the members of the Supreme Council adopted as their International Humanitarian objective Aid to the Cerebral Child, a charitable trust known

as the Humanitarian Foundation of the Supreme Council MOVPER.

In 1970 the Humanitarian Foundation adopted as their second project Dental Care for Children With Special Needs and in 2001 the Grottoes of North America joined efforts with Special Olympics working with their Special Smiles Program.

The local Grotto in Vancouver, known as Van Zor Grotto, has been very active with their humanitarian projects. In 1960 Van Zor Grotto built the original Lower Fraser Valley Children Treatment Centre—now called the South Fraser Child Development Centre—in Surrey, BC. They have contributed more than \$360,000 to the centre, and also support several local charities.

The Grotto encourages renewed interest in the Craft lodges, their activities and attendance. While it is not and makes no claim to be a part of symbolic Craft Freemasonry we ever bear in mind that our membership is composed entirely of Master Masons in good standing.

Van Zor Grotto meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Marpole Masonic Hall in Vancouver.

For further information on the Mystic Order of MW Prophets of The Enchanted Realm, contact Bro. Robert J. Black, t: +1-604-925-1525. ■