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# Grand Masters Conference 2015

The Conference of Grand Masters of North America will be hosted by the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon in the City of Vancouver from 15 to 17 February 2015.

The host hotel and event location will be the Hyatt Regency at Burrard and Georgia Streets.

Grand Master, MW Bro. William R. Cave has appointed W Bro. Michael Landsfried of Langley Lodge No. 184 to be the chairman of the Host Committee for the event.

W Bro. Landsfried and his committee members, yet to be appointed, will work closely with RW Bro. Philip Durell—whom we expect to be the Grand Master of this jurisdiction in February 2015—to ensure a well organized and most successful conference.

This conference is typically attended by Freemasons from all over the world and provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase Freemasonry here in

British Columbia and Yukon.

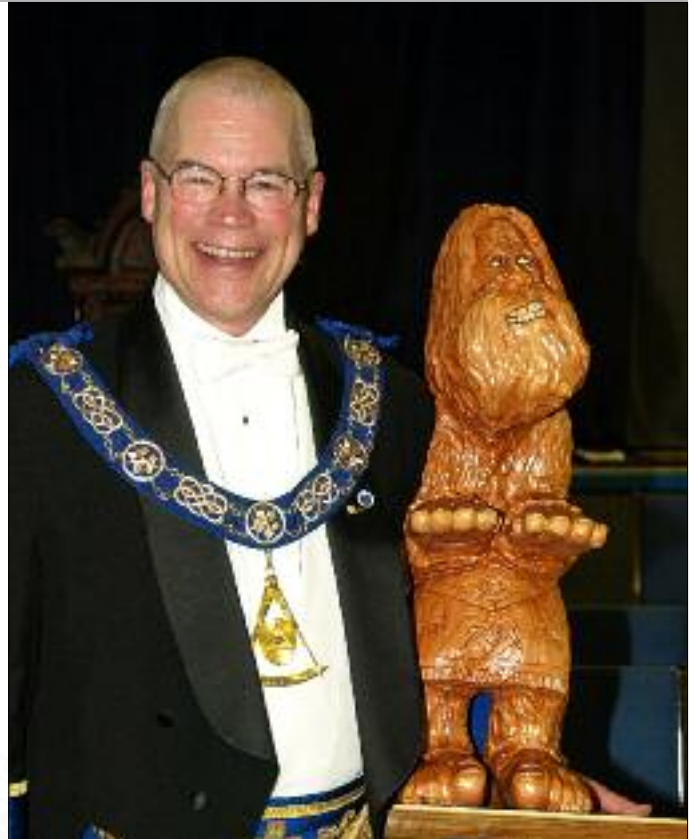
We ask that you embrace the event in the spirit with which it was solicited and offer every assistance to W Bro. Landsfried and RW Bro. Durell as they work to provide a conference that we as hosts can all be proud of. ■

*Excerpted from a memo by the Grand Secretary, RW Bro. George Moore.*

## Long term planning

An exciting long-term planning workshop is about to take place which will enable you to have your voice heard in deciding how we proceed with education, leadership and research in our jurisdiction.

On 26 May, at North Star Lodge No. 167 in Surrey, there will be a workshop facilitated by MW Bro. William R. Cave and chaired by W Bro. Ron Cawthra.



This carving of Brother Hiram Bigfoot by Mr. Randy Swope was presented to MW Bro. William R. Cave by District 18 during his official visit.

If you are a District Deputy Grand Master,—past, present or elect—or a Regional Representative, District Education Officer, Lodge Education Officer, or a brother truly interested in making a contribution to the future of education, leadership and research in British Columbia and Yukon, then you should plan to attend.

Maybe the status quo is good enough for you. We would like to know why. Maybe you have an idea that has not been considered within the fraternity but is working in other endeavours in your day-to-day life. Are you satisfied

with the current state of these topics within British Columbia and Yukon?

Is “this is the way we have always done it” okay for you? Are our leaders truly leading or are they good managers, and do you want one, both or something else? Does the education programme within your district and lodge meet your expectations? Do you have access to resources to support you in your research work? When thinking about these things please consider them within the context of the Grand Lodge Five Pillar Plan.

If you will be attending the **continued on page 2**



## Long term planning

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workshop, please contact W. Bro. Ronald W. Cawthra at ron.cawthra@telus.net or (778)678-7755.

## Grand Lodge

Nominations for elective Grand Lodge office closed on 1 March and the Grand Secretary reports that there are three candidates for the office of Junior Grand Warden: RW Bro. Ian J. Bowman, RW Bro. Douglas C. Collins and W Bro. Ronald W. Yates. Elected by acclamation are RW Bro. G. Murray Webster as Grand Master, RW Bro. Donald E. Stutt as Deputy Grand Master and RW Bro. Phillip Durell as Senior Grand Master.

Biographies and an overview of the Junior Grand Warden candidates' goals and objectives will appear in the next number of this publication.

## Danger line

by MW Bro. Dewey H. Wollstein

There is a danger line in every Freemason's life. That is the point at which we cease to be the candidate. It is when we become the audience of Freemasonry instead of remaining the participant. It is the point at which we lose the viewpoint of the candidate and no longer seek a new light.

We must witness the conferring of every degree through the eyes of one who has just knocked at the door of Freemasonry, and every word spoken to the candidate should strike a responsive note with us. It is in this way only can one hope to be progressive in Freemasonry, and to catch again and again the inspiration that he received when he was really the candidate. Any Freemason who truly seeks light will find something new in

Freemasonry every time a degree is conferred. But he must be the candidate. He must have the freshness of mind, the eager seeking for light, that was his when he first entered Freemasonry.

If we look upon the degrees of Masonry in an impersonal way, and consider the ceremonies only as cold repetitions, then we can gain nothing from them. If we attain a small spiritual insight and refuse to grow in vision and wisdom, then even that first light becomes extinguished. We cease to grow when we no longer seek the source that inspired us at the beginning.

Forever we must have an open mind, the courage, the desire to advance, the longing for more light, all that we had when we first offered ourselves as candidates for the Mysteries of Freemasonry.

Forever and ever we must be the candidate.

## Lodge notes

The brethren of **Malahat Lodge No. 107** are justifiably proud of one their own. Early this past February, off-duty RCMP officer, Constable, and Brother, Aaron Jabs pulled a two-year-old girl from car that

### I went to lodge

This night I'll lay aside my pipe and easy chair,  
Books, tv and everything, It's lodge night—I'll be there.  
There I'll find a quiet peace, as I sit among my brothers,  
And feel a keen contentment that exceeds all others.  
I'll hear again familiar words, and receive my share of light,  
With courage I'll face tomorrow  
because I went to lodge last night.

MW Bro. Dewey H Wollstein

The February number of this publication included a series of short pieces, all left uncredited. They were excerpted from MW Bro. Dewey H. Wollstein's *Rays of Masonry* (Macoy Pub. and Masonic Supply Co., 1953). MW Bro. Wollstein was Worshipful Master of Cherokee Lodge No. 66 in 1933 and a member of Goldon Fleece Lodge No. 6, both in Georgia where he served as Grand Master in 1944. He later edited the California Freemason.

had overturned and was submerged on Highway 17 in Delta.

On 17 February, the brethren of **Rainbow Lodge No. 180** in Port Hardy sponsored a Ladies *Diamond Dinner* at the local golf course, the diamond being a women's ring used as first prize for one of several draws. This community-oriented event was obviously popular. Before the end of the evening, tickets were sold for next year.

The "Cranbrook Masons' Robert Burns Night" this past January attracted a good crowd and garnered considerable attention for **Cranbrook Lodge No. 34** with a write-up and photo spread in the local press.

Five brethren from **Concord Lodge No. 79** and **Discovery Lodge No. 149** recently made the long trek from Parksville to Burns Lake to attend the Grand Master's Official Visit to District 4N where W Bro. Ronald W. Yates presented over \$1,600 to the Burns Lake Relief fund and RW Bro. Mark S. Donaldson presented their food bank with somewhere between 300 and 400 pounds of food. District 3 sent a cheque for \$600 and Grand Lodge presented a cheque for \$2000, making a total of over \$4200.

A special graveside

ceremony was conducted by **Orion Lodge No. 51** at the Fairview Cemetery in Penticton on 25 March to recognize our fallen brother, Provincial Constable Geoffrey H. Aston of **Greenwood Lodge No. 28**, shot and killed in the line of duty, 28 March 1912.

## On stage

The author of *Trestleboard Without a Trace: C-S-I Solomon's Temple*, W Bro. Elliot Chikofsky of Massachusetts, attended Victoria's Haida Lodge No. 166 in February, when the eight lodge players mounted a production of his play, an investigation of a "well-known murder case", being handled in a manner similar to the TV show, "CSI".

The play, running just over two hours, received a standing ovation from the Grand Master, MW Bro. William R. Cave and the more than forty brethren present.

## Morality and health

by Bro. Ayron Howey

Living by a system of morality that permeates our being daily is the joy and strength we find in our brotherhood. We strive to be better men and so it should be physically as well. My last article was on some basic exercises to assist my brothers. I'll now touch on my own opinions on nutrition and health. Consult your doctor before making major lifestyle changes. Here's the thing about proper diet, it's simple. Don't overcomplicate things. Eat whole foods as much as possible. Eat greens, meaning veggies as much as possible. Eat beans and fruit. Eat lean protein sources such as chicken and beef. Stay away from processed foods, sugar, refined flour. I ask myself; would my grandfather have eaten this? That keeps things in perspective respecting our

modern availability of fast foods, and how they are recent additions to our eating choices. ■

## The west gate

by W Bro. Robert Prince

### Guarding the west gate

One of the regular concerns from brethren is the number of new members who come into the Craft, only to disappear after a matter of months or a couple of years.

The surest way to eliminate this problem is to get to know the men seeking membership before they're admitted to the lodge. Sponsors are supposed to be able to vouch for the quality of the man they're sponsoring. A single conversation with a stranger is not "getting to know someone."

Over at Landmark Lodge I had a fellow contact me through our newspaper ad last April. I explained to him that I would not sponsor him until I'd had a chance to get to know him.

We met a few times for conversation, I invited him to our festive boards, summer barbecue and Christmas party, all of which he attended. He got to know the brethren, they got to know him, and in December he signed an application. He was initiated in January.

At this point in our relationship, I have no doubt that this brother will be a long time member of our fraternity, and I have no qualms today about sponsoring him.

He has already shown commitment and enthusiasm; his attendance record is better than that of many of our members; he is known to the members of the lodge; he has a much better understanding of the Craft today than he did when he first contacted me last spring.

All of this means there is

every reason to believe that this brother has made an informed decision about joining Freemasonry, and that he will therefore continue to be a member for many years.

If someone asks you about Freemasonry, get to know him thoroughly before you let him petition, and give him a chance to become fully informed before he asks for an application. This will save us all a lot of grief in the long run. ■

## Lex non scripta

*Lex non scripta* is a Latin expression that means 'law not written' or 'unwritten law'. It is a term that embraces all the laws which do not come under the definition of written law or "lex scripta" and it is composed, principally, of the law of nature, the law of nations, the common law, and customs.

And what are the *Lex non scripta* or unwritten laws of Freemasonry? Look to the landmarks. ■

## Square & compasses

On 3 August 1994 the Masonic Foundation of Ontario officially registered the Grand Lodge logo, the square and compasses with the letter G, with Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Canada, as published in Trade Marks Journal, Volume 41, Number 2075. This restricted the usage of the mark in Canada to regular Grand Lodges.

The square and compasses emblem is a trademark intended to be displayed only by freemasons for the promotion of Freemasonry. It should be considered our most visible promotion tool.

Within its jurisdiction, the Grand Lodge of British Columbia restricts the use of the masonic square and

compasses emblem to the promotion of Freemasonry by this Grand Lodge and its constituent lodges, and for the personal use of its members.

While brethren are free to use the square and compasses for the promotion of Freemasonry and to identify themselves as Freemasons—commercial or business usage is prohibited. Membership in the Craft should never be conceived to carry any claim to preferment in business or under the law. No Freemason is required to do business with another, no Freemason has the right to assume or expect that the custom of other Freemasons will fall to him.

The masonic square and compasses emblem—in any of its various forms—is not to appear conjoint or in association with any commercial, professional or trade logo, mark or representation in any form, especially but not limited to business cards, newsletters, sales promotions, websites or other commercial advertising media, unless expressly endorsed by Grand Lodge.

A distinction should be made between selling products displaying the square and compasses, and displaying the square and compasses to sell products. The first is providing a service to Freemasons while the second is improper commercial use.

The use of the masonic square and compasses emblem in any commercial offering will be considered a masonic offence to be dealt with under sections 40 and R81 of the *Book of Constitutions*. ■

## Family day

Looking ahead, 18 February 2013 will be the first Family Day in BC.

Since Freemasonry is family based, it would appear obvious that we should take this opportunity to promote our masonic family in the community. Lodges are asked

# 141st Annual COMMUNICATION



**Vancouver Island Conference Centre**  
13 - 15 June 2012  
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## Turn over a new leaf

Books, tapes and videos; Masonic education at its best. Open for your convenience second and fourth Friday evenings; 5:00 'til 10:00 pm.

*The Library at Grand Lodge*



to start planning now. ■

## It's about time

Business organization consultant Michael Hammer said: "One thing that tells me a company is in trouble is when they tell me how good they were in the past. Same with countries. You don't want to forget your identity. But that was then and this is now. When memories exceed dreams, the end is near."

Our masonic memories are to be treasured, but our masonic dreams have faltered. Simply put, we have forgotten our masonic identity. It is about time we brought our actions in line with our aspirations.

Since the end of World War II, population figures in North America have soared. Masonic membership increased also until 1959. Since that time, while the general population has had dramatic increases, masonic membership has dropped.

Joining is no longer fashionable. Volunteering has become almost nonexistent. Every fraternal organization has suffered membership declines.

Our fraternity has suffered a loss of masonic identity as an observable way of life, and our lack of energy invested in Freemasonry no longer makes the fraternity relevant to our busy contemporary lifestyles.

The Masonic Information Center proposes that freemasons must first take ownership of an identity that distinguishes Freemasonry from other men's organizations. That is a complex but exciting challenge. It is time to face it; Freemasonry is not an off-the-shelf product whose value can be assessed only in

quantifiable terms.

Freemasonry is a process of life-long learning and discovery that delivers a way of living a principled life, observable in the simplest behaviors, whether at lodge, at home, or in the workplace. ■

*Excerpted from hiram.net/webs/MASONIC/ewmasons/ItsAboutTime.pdf*

## Looking to the future

by RW Bro. Thomas W. Jackson

With all of the changes that we have made in North America to alter the image of the Craft and to change the direction that we have been traveling, we have done precious little to educate our membership and thus we remain the most ignorant Freemasons in the world.

There is no one factor upon which to place the blame for the ongoing decline of the interest in Freemasonry in North America but there can be no question concerning the lack of an educational commitment as being a major contributing factor. How can we possibly expect there to be an interest in an organization in which so few of the membership itself even knows what we are, or our purpose? For the last 25 years very few major programmes conducted by the leadership in North American Freemasonry have been created other than to increase numbers or to raise monies to give away to charity.

One glaring feature about the Freemasonry as it is practiced in most of the rest of the world is that their members are required to learn. The acquisition of knowledge as has



## GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY APRIL 2012

2	M	Mine Whistle Night	Nanaimo No. 110	Nanaimo
13-15	F-Su	Masonic Leadership and Ladies Conference		Penticton
13	F	Grand Lodge Principal Officers' Meeting		Penticton
21	S	District 4S	Cariboo No. 4	Barkerville
26	Th	District 13	Vancouver No. 68	Vancouver
28	S	International Day	Creston No. 54	Creston

been universally professed in our Craft has not become a lost art as we have made it in North America.

I find nothing in our Freemasonry to compare with the stimulus for intellectual discussion that tends to permeate Freemasonry in most of the world. Sadly, this lack of challenge to our members tends to diminish the intellectual quality for which Freemasonry has been historically known. As a result, we have lost much of our allure to a segment of society that once structured and gave Freemasonry its societal image.

Regretfully, today only a relative small percentage of our members truly understand the significance of the purpose of the Craft. They may understand the words, but words are simply words. Understanding must transcend the words and today this may be the greatest failure on the part of North American Freemasonry. Unless we understand the meaning of the words how can we possibly understand the purpose for which we exist?

We live in a society that desperately needs a stimulus to excel beyond the norm. We live in a society that needs an infusion of civility and logic.

Of what value is an organization that made this world what it is if it has lost its capacity to do so?

The future of Freemasonry in North America may very well be dependent upon the leadership's realization that Masonic education is a vital component for our survival. After all, how can we possibly convince society of how significant we are if we ourselves do not even know what we are or were? We live in a society that needs the Freemasonry with the characteristics of our past.

These young men who are showing an interest in Freemasonry today are seeking much more than we are providing. What they know, however, is what they have learned about the Freemasonry of the past. It is now up to us to provide for them that for which they search. Each one of them and each one of us wishes to be affiliated with a quality organization and that is what Freemasonry must be.

This world truly needs an organization based upon a foundation of the philosophical purposes of Freemasonry. If we are deserving of our heritage then we must undertake a programme of educating ourselves and our membership. The legacy of our past brethren deserves that respect given to the Craft will be proportional to the educational requirements of the Craft. ■

*Excerpted from a paper presented at the Conference of Grand Secretaries in North America, February, 2012.*

## Nota bene

### Lodge Officers Guide

"In an effort to be friendly, brethren sometimes lay aside the use of proper titles and surnames in the lodge room. The practice of using nicknames, given names, or diminutives, conflicts with formality and ancient usages and customs."