

The Mud Hook



Maritime Lodge #239 F. & A. M. of Washington

February Edition 2007

^ From the East

The following excerpt is from the Masonic Service Association (MSA) article entitled, “*It’s About Time-Moving Masonry Into the 21st Century*”. The entire article is available at http://www.msana.com/abouttime_part3.asp and I encourage each of you to carefully consider the question of time posed in the last paragraph. Please bring your ideas and suggestions to our next stated meeting which will include a presentation by the Long Range Planning committee of F. & A.M. of the M.W. Grand Lodge of Washington. *** WB Peifer

~Once we inventory our resources, we need to find ways to manage them. We need systems to monitor our progress. We need ways of recognizing success, encouraging creativity, and rewarding accomplishments. Small actions, kind words, and expressions of concern for others are just a few examples. *Our work on Masonry’s public image begins with work on ourselves*, using our wealth of resources to dislodge the sediment that has encrusted our riches and has diminished the value of our Masonic identity

Our work begins by applying our resources and improving ourselves in the Masonic tradition of body, mind, and spirit. We need only look in the mirror or offer a handshake to crack the encasement of the *Rough Ashlar* that screens the natural beauty of the stone.

Our Masonic resources are great! Our resource management skills are rusty. The tools for honing the *Perfect Ashlar* are at our disposal, but they lie scattered across lodges, hidden in fading relationships, and atrophied by lack of use. We must put them to good use.

We urge each lodge to inventory its tangible and intangible assets, such as people, places, artifacts, relationships, and systems. Although each lodge has an individual and valuable identity within the context of Freemasonry, there is much to learn and share from one another’s lodge-based activities. With more than one and a half million members in North America, Masons are poised to discharge our crews with the newly sharpened tools of our craft to improve ourselves and to fulfill the promise of the stewardship of Freemasonry.

The words from William Preston’s Masonic lecture succinctly inform us of our Masonic identity in terms of action:

By the Rough Ashlar, we are reminded of our rude and imperfect state by nature; by the Perfect Ashlar, of the state of perfection at which we hope to arrive

by a virtuous education, our own endeavors, and the blessings of God.

Masons are unique in their commitment to “virtuous education.” By this we mean appreciating Masonry’s commitment to life-long learning, self-improvement and personal growth. We are reminded that Masonic identity is distinctive because Masons are men of thought and action. (Part 3, Maximizing Our Resources)

Now, we must move forward both individually and fraternally. We encourage you to think carefully about how you invest your time, which is everyone’s most valuable asset, and we ask that you use your time on programs and actions that are uniquely Masonic. As we work together, we must ask each other how a program, a

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meeting, or an event improves and demonstrates our experience of being a Mason. (Part 4, Time to Energize Masonry)~



From the South

Hello Brothers, in our last officer's meeting on January 7th we discussed, among other things, where our Lodge is going aka Long Range Planning (LRP). This is obviously something of a concern for all of us as a Lodge, looking towards the future and trying to figure out what we want to do over the next five years or more. We have been bouncing around some ideas about who might be sitting in a particular chair going forward and it's become painfully obvious that we need more players. Over the last couple of years we have had some great Brothers come on board as active members and have committed to, or are planning on, becoming officers for our Lodge. This is great, but we need more of the same! If we are to continue to fill in the line and keep the Lodge a growing concern over the next few years, we need to find candidates that will potentially become promising active members. If we don't follow through with this effort we could conceivably have to consider consolidating with another Lodge in the future, not my first choice. Fortunately, at our next stated meeting we will have Brian Hardy, as a member of the Grand Lodge LRP committee, come and talk about this very topic. Please be sure to attend this meeting as we'll hopefully get some good info on addressing this concern of ours and take away some good ideas to help us move forward with addressing this issue as a Lodge.

~WB Dan Miller

From Brother Jeff Flood ~

Maritime Lodge #239 is a great organization and I am truly proud and honored to be an active member. In the year since I have joined, I have had the opportunity to meet some great Mason's. My greatest concern is that of membership and attendance.

It is my understanding that we have approximately 120 members. I understand that not all of these gentlemen live close enough or are just not physically capable of attending regular stated meetings. I believe that to remain an active viable lodge we must put forth a purposeful effort to increase our attendance. Each brother that attends the Lodge Meetings brings something positive and meaningful to Maritime Lodge. Therefore, I would like to initiate a program that makes contact with our "Missing Brothers". I believe a letter should be mailed, in the most positive manner, to all brothers stating our desire and need to have them rekindle the active participation with the lodge. This letter should also ask the question as to why they have chosen to stop attending. Furthermore, this letter should be followed up with a personal telephone call. We are a society of brothers, and should be ever willing to talk with each other. I also believe that this needs to be accomplished with some urgency.

My second concern is that of new membership. It is my understanding that we do not have any candidates as of the January Stated Meeting. I believe that to remain an independent and viable lodge we must make greater strides to bring in

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new brothers. If five of us can find one new man this year it would go a long way in changing our lodge for the better. I am not sure as to how we can specifically achieve this goal. Is there "recruiting" literature that exists for us already?

Finally I would like to have these two concerns brought up at our next stated meeting.

Fraternally,
Brother Jeffery A. Flood

~Message from WB Dan Harrity of Doric Lodge #92

Brothers all - it seems we may have a number of initiations this winter and spring, which of course means we'll be performing Fellowcraft and Master Mason conferrals as the year progresses. Consequently, I'd like to tug gently on your cable-tows and request your assistance if you have any experience with conferring degrees. We're in sore need of lecturers, charge-givers, and so forth - and of course we could always use a good amount of help with Third Degree Conferrals, as you well know.

If you would like to assist with degree lectures, working tools lectures, the apron or G Lecture, candidate preparation and mentoring, imparting charges, any part of the Raising ceremony, or indeed anything else, we would be delighted for the assistance. Call Dan, Wayne, Scott or Jeff (our phone and email is listed on page 4, following) and, believe me, we'll gladly put you to work in the quarry!

Dan Harrity, Master

206-234-3218 / dan.harrity@doric92.org

Wayne Rose, Senior Warden

425-745-9883 / wayne.rose@doric92.org

Jeff Harden, Senior Deacon

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Secretary's Desk ~WB Tony Corning

Calendar of Events:

February 3rd, Saturday

Districts 2, 4, and 5 - **Secrets of the Chair Degree**

All newly installed Masters and Past Masters ONLY

Greenwood Masonic Center, Breakfast at 8:00, degree at 9:00

February 10th, Saturday - **OFF-MONTH ACTIVITY**

Walter F. Meier College of Masonic Knowledge

9:00am-12:00am (8:30 refreshments) at Greenwood Masonic Center

February 15th, Thursday – **TRAVELING GAVEL**

Occidental #72 at Ballard Masonic Center at 7:30

When was the last time Maritime held the traveling gavel?

Let's go get it!!!

March 12th, Monday - Maritime Lodge "Stated Communication" the meeting (7:30) will be preceded as usual by a dinner at a local restaurant

March 17th, Saturday (St. Patrick's Day) - Maritime Lodge will host the visitation of Landmark Lodge #128 of Maple Ridge, B.C. who will confer a Fellowcraft Degree in Ancient Free & Accepted Masonic ritual.

The Degree will start precisely at 2 PM and will be followed by a dinner in the Dining Hall appropriate for the day and occasion (St. Patrick's Day, Patrick was a Mason I believe). It is expected that there will be a grand turnout and all Fellowcraft and Master Masons are invited.

The Secretary's comment: This is an opportunity of a magnitude well beyond its appearance. Very few Masons anywhere in the world ever have an opportunity to witness a Degree conferred in work other than their own. This is perhaps the only opportunity that will come your way in a lifetime of Masonry. If you are a Mason, you cannot afford to miss this opportunity!

On April 28th: Maritime will reciprocate by traveling to Maple Ridge to "exemplify a Fellowcraft Degree. Again this will be a Saturday event that will consume much of the day. Look to be contacted by WB Miller, who will be in charge of putting the Degree Team together.

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Health and Welfare:

The Grand Warden of Heaven hailed **Brother Vernon Salonka** to that Celestial Lodge above, the exact date is unknown. Brother Salonka was originally a member of Totem Lodge and was raised on July 30th 1942. He was 81.

VWB Warren Murphy is recuperating from knee surgery at Richmond Beach Rehabilitation Center and I hope to report soon that he has returned home.

The following Brothers were Raised to the Sublime degree during the months of February and March.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BROTHERS!!!

February		March	
Donald J. Carnley	2/26/1987	John R. Battles	3/28/1974
Norman O. Christianson	2/25/1988	Paul J. Bronson	3/29/1990
Carson A. Dorney	2/20/1953	Charles N. Cadmus	3/23/1972
Barry W. Fairfax	2/26/1968	Robert S. Colton	3/5/1962
Nick Lucas	2/17/1960	Richard G. Davenport	3/24/1977
Egil I. Sleveland	2/9/1957	Carl C. Ek	3/27/1980
Robert J. Smart	2/28/1985	Donald R. Foster	3/11/1961
Stuart W. Todd	2/9/1957	John M. Galbraith	3/28/1963
Bruce F. Wakeman	2/25/1963	Genaro Garcia	3/25/1982
Virgil V. Welsh, Jr.	2/26/1981	James Hearn	3/13/2003
Robert M. Winslow	2/28/1945	Paul F. Koester	3/24/1983
		Ian MacDonald	3/22/1965
		Gordon L. Olsen	3/18/1998
		Gregory G. Plumis	3/18/1998
		William D. Searles	3/15/1949
		FH "Skip" Sethmann Jr	3/24/1982
		Floyd M. Skaw	3/7/1949
		Frank H. Swanser	3/23/1978
		Stanley A. Taylor	3/28/1951
		Glen E. Walton	3/13/2003
		James C. Waters	3/28/1998
		Harvey E. Wick, Jr.	3/25/1982
