

ANNUAL ADDRESS

of the

GRAND MASTER

CRAIG A. SIPP

The Grand Lodge of Ancient  
Free and Accepted Masons  
of Oregon

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

One Hundred and Seventy-Fourth  
Annual Communication  
June 6 & 7, 2024

PENDLETON, OREGON

Reports received prior to the Grand Lodge Session, which are printed in this booklet, are all for your review. Those reports which do not require adoption by the delegates assembled will not be read and may be found on pages 19-75.

The Grand Master has ordered that all reports printed in this booklet be received.

Those reports requiring action by the Grand Lodge will be presented for discussion and adoption or rejection and can be found on pages 76-87.



Craig A. Sipp

GRAND MASTER  
2023-2024

## **GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS - Thursday, June 6, 2024**

### **To the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Oregon**

Brethren:

Welcome to the 174th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon. The Grand Lodge Officers, District Deputies, Committeemen, and I are honored to have you here today. Thank you for attending and thank you for allowing me to serve as your Grand Master for the 2023-2024 Grand Lodge year.

As outlined in Paragraph 6 of Section 107 of the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon requires the Grand Master "To present at each Annual Communication a written address, setting his official acts, the general condition of Masonry within this Jurisdiction, and to make such recommendations as he may deem necessary."

#### **OFFICIAL ACTS**

A list of approved By-Law Amendments, Dispensations granted, Proxies and Edicts issued, and other decisions made are included in the following pages.

#### **SPECIAL ACTS**

The Grand Lodge Officers and I had the honor of participating in the following Lodge anniversary events:

- Molalla Lodge No. 178 – 100th Anniversary celebration on July 8, 2023
- Seaport Lodge No. 7 – Centennial building rededication on September 9, 2023
- Tillamook Lodge No. 57 – 150th Anniversary celebration on September 15, 2023
- Grande Ronde Valley No. 56 – 150th Anniversary celebration on September 29, 2023
- McKenzie River No. 195 – Centennial Anniversary of the construction of the McKenzie River Lodge building on May 24, 2024

We also held three Occasional Grand Lodges which provided the opportunity to engage with the Grand Lodge officers, have some Masonic education, and a lot of fun and fellowship.

- Medford on December 30, 2023
- Salem on March 2, 2024
- La Grande on March 30, 2024

## **MILESTONES CELEBRATED**

I also had the great pleasure to present the following milestones to Brothers who have long been devoted to the ideals of our Institution.

### **Fifty-Year Jewels**

I had the honor of presenting Brother Wayne Hein with his 50-year jewel at Kennewick Lodge No. 153 on October 18, 2023, in Kennewick, Wash. assisted by his stepson W.B. Carl Thompson and grandson Hunter Thompson along with other Brothers from Bend Lodge. Special thanks to the Brothers of Kennewick Lodge for graciously allowing us to present this distinguished award to an Oregon Brother. The Grand Master of Washington, M.W.B. Steve C. Martin and Deputy Grand Master, James C. Norton Jr. were also in attendance.

I had the honor of presenting Brother Steve Craig with his 50-year jewel at my Official Visit to Hiram Lodge No. 65 on December 13, 2023. This was a special event for me as W.B. Steve and I both worked for ODOT and worked together on some memorable bridge inspections.

I had honor of presenting M.W.B. Donald F. Stapleton, P.G.M. with his 50-year jewel at my Official Visit to Washington Lodge No. 46 on January 10, 2024. This was a very special event for me as M.W.B. Don and I were Junior Grand Steward and Senior Grand Steward respectively for M.W.B. L.L. "Vern" Beito, P.G.M. 2003-2004 and we have continued our strong friendship ever since.

I had the honor of presenting Brother Richard Ragsdale with his 50-year jewel at my Official Visit to Rickreall No. 110 on March 6, 2024. It was a great evening of fellowship and fun as it was their Past Master night.

I had the honor of presenting Brother Sam Wade with his 50-year jewel at my Official Visit to Joseph Lodge No. 81 on May 8, 2024. He is a Past Master of Veasy Lodge No. 82 that was located in Enterprise.

I had the honor of presenting Brother Dennis Dorsett with his 50-year jewel at my Official Visit to Bend Lodge No. 139 on May 9, 2024. He is a Past Master of Redmond Lodge No. 154 and was very active in other Masonic bodies.

### **Sixty-Year Jewels**

I had the honor of presenting Brother Mike Hanely with his 60-year jewel at the Malheur Cave Degree on August 26, 2023, assisted by W.M. Gary Faw and other Brothers from Acacia Lodge No. 118. Brother Mike is a fourth generation Eastern Oregonian, and it was only fitting that he was presented with his 60-year jewel at the Malheur Cave.

I had the honor of presenting Worshipful Brother Elvin Taylor with his 60-year jewel at my Official Visit to Wildhorse Lodge No. 65 on December 12, 2023. W.B. Elvin is still very active in his Lodge as both Secretary and Treasurer.

I had the honor of presenting Worshipful Brother William Best with his 50-year jewel at Medford Lodge No. 103 on May 16, 2024. He started his Masonic journey in California.

I had the honor of presenting Worshipful Brother Floyd McHargue with his 60-year jewel at Medford Lodge No. 103 on May 16, 2024. W.B. McHargue was master of Medford Lodge in 1972.

I had the honor of presenting Brother William Shrader with his 60-year jewel at Medford Lodge No. 103 on May 16, 2024. It was a great evening of fellowship with the Worshipful Master, Brothers, and family.

### **Seventy-Year Jewels**

Seventy-year Jewels are rarely awarded in this Masonic Jurisdiction. I had the honor and pleasure to award Brother Ron Graves with his 70-year jewel at Jennings McCall on October 7, 2023, along with the rest of the Grand Lodge Trustees, M.W.B. Don Stapleton, P.G.M. and other Brothers from Washington Lodge No. 46.

I had the honor to present Brother John Compton with his 70-year jewel at his home on May 16, 2024, along with the Worshipful Master and several Brothers from Union Lodge No. 3.

I had the honor to present Brother Leslie Lawrence, who just turned 103 years old with a 74-year certificate at Medford Lodge No. 103. It was a great celebration with the Worshipful Master, Brothers, and family.

## **TRAVEL AND VISITATIONS**

Life is a highway, and I made the best of it in my travels this year. I had the opportunity to visit many of our Lodges in Oregon and to visit the Grand Communications in other Jurisdictions. During this Masonic year, I had the pleasure and honor to make 64 official visits to Oregon Lodges. Each one of my visits provided lasting memories of fellowship. I cherished the time spent with Brothers across the state, making new friendships, and providing a grateful thank you to the Worshipful Masters and members of their Lodges for making each visit a wonderful experience.

Outdoor Degrees are always special. I attended the Turner Ranch Outdoor Degree, an open air 3rd Degree in Granite Falls, Wash., and Malheur Cave Degree. All of these were outstanding events with a great opportunity for a lot of fun and fellowship.

I attended the following Lodge installations and had the honor and pleasure to be the Installing Officer:

- Pendleton No. 52 – Open Installation – December 4, 2023
- La Grande No. 41 – Open Installation – December 5, 2023
- Cove No. 91 – Open Installation – December 6, 2023
- Mt. Moriah No. 95 – Open Installation – December 7, 2023
- Heppner No. 69 – Open Installation – December 7, 2023
- Tuscan No. 136 – Closed Installation – December 11, 2023
- Wildhorse No. 65 – Closed Installation – December 12, 2023
- Hiram No. 67 – Open Installation – December 13, 2023
- Silverton No. 45 – Open Installation – December 15, 2023
- Woodburn No. 106 – Open Installation – December 15, 2023
- Eugene No. 11 – Open Installation – December 16, 2023
- Milton No. 96 – Open Installation – December 19, 2023
- Grande Ronde Valley No. 56 – Open Installation – December 20, 2023

I was able to attend the Annual Communications of nine other Grand Lodge Jurisdictions

- GL of Washington Jun. 8-10, 2023
- GL of Montana Jun. 23-24, 2023
- GL of Missouri Sep. 17-19, 2023
- GL of Idaho Sep. 21-23, 2023
- GL of Kentucky Oct. 15-17, 2023
- GL of California Oct. 27-29, 2023
- GL of Nevada Nov. 12-14, 2023
- GL of Alaska Feb. 1-2, 2024
- GL of Hawaii Apr. 19-20, 2024

Yearly, the Grand Lodge Trustees and Grand Secretary attend the Conference of Grand Masters of North America and the Western Conference of Grand Masters. It is a great opportunity to discuss the challenges other Grand Lodges are facing and share information. This year it was held in Seattle, Wash. from February 16-21, 2024.

I enjoyed supporting our Masonic Family by attending several concordant and appendant events. It started with attending the Grand Chapter of Oregon Eastern Star in Pendleton. I had the honor of escorting the Masonic Flag during opening ceremonies. I also had the privilege along with Past Grand Matron Kathy McClain to open Tuesday's afternoon session. I then attended the Masonic Family Picnic in Cottage Grove on July 23, 2023.

I attended an Al Kader Shrine meeting in Wilsonville on June 26, 2023, and was honored to receive my Grand Master Fez. This followed with

attending Imperial Shrine in Charlotte, N.C. from July 2-6, 2023, where Potentate Terry Griffith was the best host for Sherri and me. The next Shrine event was the East-West Shrine Football game in Baker City at the end of July. There was a good turnout with many Grand Lodge Officers, District Deputies, and Past Grand Masters that helped with the BBQs, walked in the parade, and attended the game in support of our Portland Shrine Hospital. It was a special year for my Grand Orator, Myron Miles as it was his 50th year helping and supporting the steer auction at halftime – “50 years and 50 steers”.

I attended the Scottish Rite Supreme Council, Biennial Session in Washington, D.C. August 20-22, 2023. I was able to participate in the Baker Valley Reunions October 19-21 and April 25-26. I was honored at Scottish Rite Honors night on November 4, 2023, and received Knights Commander of the Court of Honor. I attended Portland Scottish Rite Honor night on October 10, 2023; Salem Scottish Rite Honor night on January 4, 2024; and Medford Scottish Rite Honor night on January 15, 2024. I enjoyed a very special event at Portland Scottish Rite when Grand Commander Illustrious Brother James Cole made a visit to Oregon.

I participated in the Knights Templar Christmas Observance at Grande Ronde Valley Lodge in Union on December 10, 2023. I also attend Grand York Rite held in North Bend, April 4-6, 2024.

I attended the public opening of the Grand Court of Oregon, Order of the Amaranth on March 7, 2024. This was a special event for me to support a very close and dear friend and Brother Sir Knight, Doug Nielsen, Grand Royal Patron. I also attended the installation of the 2024-2025 Grand Court Officers on March 9, 2024.

I attended Daughters of the Nile installation on March 17, 2024.

These wonderful organizations support our Masonic principles and spread the word of who we are and what we do. Thank you for all your efforts.

The youth groups have always been important to me, and I enjoyed attending their events.

I was unable to attend Job's Daughters Grand Bethel held in Salem on June 23-24, 2023. I did have the good fortune to share some memories along the Masonic Trail with Grand Bethel Honored Queen, Hanah Clark at several events this year.

I attended the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Grand Worthy Advisor, Maleah Hill reception in Salem on February 10, 2024.

I had the opportunity to attend the DeMolay University on February 24, 2024, and the DeMolay Hall of Fame held April 13, 2024. I finished



by attending the DeMolay Convention held in Welches, May 24-27, 2024, which concluded a great year for State Master Councilor, Caleb Bryan. This included the Grand Master's class where several new members were initiated.

Our youth leaders did an outstanding job this year, traveling around the state representing their organizations. I am always impressed with their leadership and promoting the values that are so important for our youth today.

### **CONDITION OF FREEMASONRY IN THIS GRAND JURISDICTION**

The state of Freemasonry in Oregon is strong. Yes, some Lodges may be struggling with the typical challenges of membership or finances, but overall, I felt the energy and excitement to Pioneer Masonry Forward. In my many travels and visits to Lodges throughout the state it is easy to see the passion and commitment to our great Fraternity. We continue to see a lot of interest and inquiries about Masonry. Our Lodges are busy with Degree work. It is encouraging to see how our Lodges are engaged with their communities from school events to supporting our first responders. I was saddened to see several Lodge consolidations this year. Masonry has so much to offer to our communities with our charitable work.

As Freemasons, we stepped up this year and hit a benchmark of over \$1 million in charitable support provided to our Masonic Family and communities. My focus this year was on Home Endowment and the Oregon Masonic Charitable Foundation (OMCF). I continue to encourage Brothers to set up a monthly donation to these Masonic charities. I am very pleased to announce that during my visits to Lodges this year more than \$6,000 was donated to Home Endowment and OMCF.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Continue to set that bar high, with the upmost respect and integrity. Always remember your Masonic Obligations and practice Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. And, bring a Dusty Mason to Lodge!

Interest in Masonry is strong, and we continue to receive a lot of inquiries through Grand View. These inquiries need to be followed up on in a timely fashion. Have a Brother in your Lodge assigned to reach out and respond to these as they come in.

The duties of the Grand Master, all Officers, and District Deputies are to make the information and training readily available to you so you will have a successful year in your Lodge. Implementation takes all of us to

do our part. Take advantage of the Statewide Lodge event and Secretary trainings. We should always be looking to increase our Masonic knowledge, find opportunities to pass on what we learn, and be supportive and give guidance to those that follow.

Strive to be active in your community by supporting your local schools with programs like Bikes for Books, Kindles for Books, Robotics, and other after school programs. I encourage you to award scholarships to high school students in your communities. Support a community function such as local Easter egg hunt or have a booth at the county fair.

Continue to support our youth organizations. By doing so we are helping set the foundation for the future. Become active in supporting Rainbow, Job's Daughters, and DeMolay in your area. If there is not a local youth group, think about starting one. I have had this experience, and it is very rewarding.

I pass the hat to the very capable hands of Deputy Grand Master Tim Best and know that Oregon Masonry is and will continue to grow along with all the support of the Trustees.

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

### **GRAND LODGE OFFICERS AND DISTRICT DEPUTIES**

Special thanks to M.W.B. Ron Eggers, P.G.M. for appointing me to the position of Senior Grand Deacon. It has been an interesting and, at times, challenging journey. I earnestly hope that I have fulfilled your hopes and aspirations as I have made my journey to the Grand East.

We have a great team with the Grand Lodge Trustees: R.W.B. Tim Best, DGM; R.W.B. Marc Strong, SGW; R.W.B. Dick Varner, JGW and our non-voting member W.B. Greg Hinkelman, SGD. I appreciated all your support throughout the year.

The work of the Grand Lodge Officers and District Deputies is essential to the success of our Fraternity. Your dedication and devotion to duty as an Officer or District Deputy is critical to our mission. You have demonstrated your commitment to the Craft all year long. I always enjoyed seeing you when you were able to join me on my visitations. I have truly enjoyed serving with you this year.

I would also like to thank the Past Grand Masters who have helped and encouraged me through the last year. Your guidance and wise counsel were always welcomed.

A hearty thanks, and appreciation to M.W.B. Jim Morgan, Grand Secretary and R.W.B. Gary Ball, Grand Treasurer – it has been a real pleasure working with you this last year. Along with all the staff that do so much behind the

scenes. A big THANK YOU to Tiffany, Marissa, Amy, Danielle, Courtney, Kyli, Heidi, Holly, Julie, and Molly.

All of you did an outstanding job of Pioneering Masonry Forward!

Along this journey, I had by my side, to help support and assist me in more ways than I can count or even imagine, my loving wife Sherri. I could not have made this journey without her and the support of my daughters, Amber and Casi, and my son Kenneth. Thanks for all you have done and for always being there for me.

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Freemasons of Oregon for their support this year. Without it, none of this would have been possible. I appreciate the opportunity to have served as your Grand Master this year. I look forward to seeing you down the Masonic trail.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Sipp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig A. Sipp  
Grand Master of A.F. & A.M. of Oregon

**AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS APPROVED**

**2023**

- June 16 EAST LINN LODGE NO. 44 – ARTICLE 7  
Annual dues raised from \$50 to \$65 per year.
- June 16 EAST LINN LODGE NO. 44 – ARTICLE 11  
No officer or member of East Linn Lodge No. 44 shall be allowed to make any changes, structure or otherwise and or repairs inside or outside of East Linn No. 44 or spend any monies for repairs for functions without the majority vote of the members, in good standing at a Stated Communication. In the case of an Emergency need, the Elected Officers, shall address the issue at a special called Executive Meeting, and may approve such expenditure with a majority vote of those Elected Officers. Minutes of this meeting will be recorded and read to Lodge Members at the next Stated Communication.
- Aug. 24 GRANTS PASS LODGE NO. 84 – ARTICLE 7-A  
Life Membership fees decreased according to age bracket. Memorial Life Membership to remain the same.
- Nov. 29 SANTIAM LODGE NO. 25 – ARTICLE 3  
Stated Communication time changed from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**2024**

- Feb. 8 ST. HELENS MASONIC LODGE NO. 32 – ARTICLE 5  
Change in management of investment funds.
- Feb. 21 BEAVERTON MASONIC LODGE NO. 100  
New set of By-Laws.
- Feb. 26 BANDON LODGE NO. 130 – ARTICLE 3  
Stated Communication time changed from Third Tuesday to First Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
- Apr. 8 OAKLAND LODGE NO. 16  
New set of By-Laws.

- Apr. 8 ROBERT BURNS LODGE NO. 97 – ARTICLE 5  
Change in management of investment funds.
- Apr. 8 ROBERT BURNS LODGE NO. 97 – ARTICLE 6  
Fees for conferring the Degrees changed from \$90 to \$150.  
Amount to accompany petition was changed from \$30 to \$50. Amount paid before conferring the Fellowcraft Degree changed from \$30 to \$50. Amount paid before conferring the Master Mason Degree changed from \$30 to \$50.
- Apr. 8 ROBERT BURNS LODGE NO. 97 – ARTICLE 7  
Annual dues raised from \$25 to \$100 per year.
- Apr. 8 ROBERT BURNS LODGE NO. 97 – ARTICLE 7-A  
Life Membership fees changed according to age bracket.  
Memorial Life Membership increased.
- Apr. 8 ROBERT BURNS LODGE NO. 97 – ARTICLE 8  
The amount that can be drawn from the Treasury increased from \$100 to \$500.
- Apr. 8 ROBERT BURNS LODGE NO. 97 – ARTICLE 11  
Section removed.
- Apr. 12 WARREN LODGE NO. 10 – ARTICLE 3  
Stated Communication time changed from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Apr. 12 NORTH BEND LODGE NO. 140  
New set of By-Laws.
- May 30 JENNINGS LODGE NO. 9  
New set of By-Laws.
- May 30 PACIFIC LODGE NO. 50 – ARTICLE 5-B  
Increased dollar amount for Life Membership or other incentive provided to Immediate Past Master.
- May 30 PACIFIC LODGE NO. 50 – ARTICLE 7  
Increased annual dues from \$25 to \$120 per year.

## **DISPENSATIONS GRANTED**

### **2023**

- June 20 RICKREALL LODGE NO. 110 — to move the date of the July 5, 2023, Stated Communication to July 12, 2023.
- June 20 HERMISTON LODGE NO. 138 — to move the time of the July Stated Communication from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., to allow visiting Brothers to attend the Annual Table Lodge.
- June 23 PEARL LODGE NO. 66 — to hold a Special Communication for an Outdoor EA Degree located at 6143 Shaw Hwy SE, Aumsville, OR on June 24, 2023, to allow the membership to participate in a private outdoor Degree.
- June 26 McEWEN LODGE NO. 125 — to move the date and time of the July Stated Communication from July 6, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. to July 15, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
- June 28 SEAPORT LODGE NO. 7 — to conduct a business meeting on July 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to vote on proposed expenditures for the Cornerstone Rededication in September.
- Oct. 3 GRESHAM LODGE NO. 152 — to move the date of the December Stated Communication to December 27 to celebrate St. John's Day.
- Oct. 11 EAST GATE LODGE NO. 155 — to move the time of the October Stated Communication from 7:30.p.m. to 6:30.p.m. to provide additional fellowship and dinner after the meeting.
- Oct. 30 JENNINGS LODGE NO. 9 — to move the date of the December 20, 2023, Stated Communication to December 13, 2023 for the purpose of holding a combined Installation Ceremony with Rickreall and Lyon Lodges.
- Nov. 3 CASCADE LODGE NO. 208 — to move the date of the December 26, 2023, Stated Communication to December 19, 2023 for the purpose to avoid scheduling conflicts surrounding the Christmas holiday.

- Nov. 17 SILVERTON LODGE NO. 45 — to move the location of the December 14, 2023, Stated Communication to hold a joint Stated Communication with Fidelity Lodge No. 54 in Brooks, OR.
- Nov. 22 RICKREALL LODGE NO. 110 — to move the date, and location of the December 6, 2023, Stated Communication to December 13, 2023, to hold a joint Stated Communication and Installation with Lyon No. 29 and Jennings No. 9 at Lyon Masonic Lodge in Independence, OR.
- Nov. 22 JENNINGS LODGE NO. 9 — to move the date, and location of the December 20, 2023, Stated Communication to December 13, 2023, to hold a joint Stated Communication and Installation with Lyon No. 29 and Rickreall No. 110 at Lyon Masonic Lodge in Independence, OR.
- Dec. 5 MILTON LODGE NO. 96 — to hold an election out of time at the December Stated Communication on December 19, 2023 to allow the membership to elect its officers with the appropriate quorum that had been previously unavailable.
- Dec. 20 HIRAM LODGE NO. 67 — to move the date of the February 14, 2024, Stated Communication to February 12, 2024 for the purpose to allow members to attend the Grand Master's official visit to Joseph Lodge No. 81 on February 14, 2024.

**2024**

- Jan. 10 ESOTERIKA LODGE NO. 316 (*Grand Lodge of Wasington*) — to perform a Fellowcraft Degree on their candidate using Washington Ritual at Seaport Lodge No. 7 on February 24, 2024.
- Feb. 9 HOLBROOK LODGE NO. 30 — to move the date of the March 5, 2024, Stated Communication to March 12, 2024 for the purpose to allow members to attend the Grand Master's official visit to Union Lodge No. 3 on March 5, 2024.

- Feb. 19 SALEM LODGE NO. 4 — to move the time of the March Stated Communication from 7:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the regular date and in the regular location to allow members to attend Rickreall Lodge No. 110 for Grand Master Official Visit and Past Masters Night.
- Feb. 20 WILLAMETTE LODGE NO. 2 — to move location of the March Stated Communication to Fairview Lodge No. 92 at 202 SE Dora St., Troutdale, OR for a joint Stated Communication.
- Feb. 21 HIRAM LODGE NO. 67 — to move the date of the May 8, 2024, Stated Communication to May 6, 2024 for the purpose to allow members to attend the Grand Master's Official Visit to Joseph Lodge No. 81 on May 8, 2024.
- Mar. 11 HEPPNER LODGE NO. 69 — to move the date of the April 2, 2024, Stated Communication to April 3, 2024 to allow members to attend the Grand Master's Official Visit to Hermiston Lodge No. 138 on April 2, 2024.
- Mar. 11 RESEARCH LODGE NO. 198 — to move the date and time of the April 20, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Stated Communication to April 13, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose to allow meeting space for the Scottish Rite Annual Reunion.
- Apr. 11 HERMISTON LODGE NO. 138 — to move the date of the May Stated Communication from from May 7, 2024 to May 6, 2024 at the regular time and regular place.
- Apr. 16 WASHINGTON LODGE NO. 46 — to change the time of their June, July, August, and September Stated Communication from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the regular dates and regular place.
- Apr. 18 WILDHORSE LODGE NO. 65 — to change the date of the June Stated Communication from from June 11, 2024 to June 18, 2024 at the regular time and regular place.



**PROXIES**

**2023**

- June 5 to M.W.B. Mark L. Posler, I.P.G.M., to represent the Grand Master on June 23-24, 2023, at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon, A.F. & A.M. held at the Vancouver Island Conference Center in Nanaimo, B.C.
- June 6 to R.W.B. Timothy J. Best, Deputy Grand Master, to represent the Grand Master on June 22, 2023, at the Opening Ceremony Grand Session of Oregon Job's Daughters held at Lents Masonic Lodge in Portland, Ore.
- June 15 to M.W.B. W. Myles McMillan, P.G.M., to represent the Grand Master on June 25, 2023, at the Pearl Lodge No. 66 Outdoor EA Degree to be held at the McMillan Ranch.
- June 20 to W.B. Gregory A. Hinkelman, Senior Grand Deacon, to represent the Grand Master on June 24, 2023, at the Installation Ceremony Grand Session of Oregon Job's Daughters held at Lents Masonic Lodge in Portland, Ore.
- June 20 to M.W.B. Arthur L. Borland, P.G.M., to represent the Grand Master on July 8, 2023 at the Oregon Rainbow Founder's Day held at Corvallis Masonic Lodge.
- June 20 to M.W.B. D. Arthur Bush, P.G.M., to represent the Grand Master on August 13-15, 2023, at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Wyoming held in Sheridan, Wyo.
- June 22 to W.B. Dale B. Palileo, Grand Lecturer, to represent the Grand Master June 26-27, 2023 at the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oregon, Idaho, and Montana held in Portland, Ore.
- July 11 to M.W.B. James L. Morgan, P.G.M. to represent the Grand Master November 10-11, 2023, at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, A.F. & A.M. held at the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, Guthrie, Okla.

- July 11 to M.W.B. Ronald J. Eggers, P.G.M., to represent the Grand Master on August 1, 2023 for the Imperial Potentate visit for Joint Board of the Portland Shrine Hospital.
- Aug. 10 to M.W.B. Mark L. Posler, I.P.G.M., to represent the Grand Master on September 6, 2023 at the Stated Communication of Corvallis Lodge No. 14.
- Aug. 31 to R.W.B. Marc L. Strong, Senior Grand Warden, to represent the Grand Master on October 13-15, 2023 at the Grand Assembly Session of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.
- Sep. 12 to R.W.B. Timothy J. Best, Deputy Grand Master, to represent the Grand Master on October 13-14, 2023, at the Portland Valley Scottish Rite Reunion in Portland, Ore.
- Sep. 22 to R.W.B. Marc L. Strong, Senior Grand Warden, to represent the Grand Master on October 15, 2023, for the Official Visit of the Supreme Queen Patricia "Patty" Larimore, located in Nydia Temple No. 4 of Daughters of the Nile.
- Oct. 10 to W.B. Gregory A. Hinkelman, Senior Grand Deacon, to represent the Grand Master on January 28, 2024 for the Annual Joint Youth Fundraiser Dinner and Auction held at the Wilsonville Shrine Center.

**2024**

- Jan. 8 to R.W.B. Richard D. Varner, Junior Grand Warden, to represent the Grand Master at the Hillah Shrine Banquet in Roseburg on January 27, 2024.
- Jan. 15 to W.B. Gregory A. Hinkelman, Senior Grand Deacon, to represent the Grand Master on April 19-20, 2024, at the Portland Valley Scottish Rite Reunion in Portland, Ore.

- Feb. 13 to W.B. James Westerfield, to represent the Grand Master on March 4, 2024, for the March Stated Communication of Oakland Lodge No. 16.
  
- Feb. 13 to W.B. James Westerfield, to represent the Grand Master on April 1, 2024, for the April Stated Communication of Oakland Lodge No. 16.

## REPRIMANDS

**2023**

July 17 to W.B. Gary Faw, Worshipful Master  
Acacia Lodge No. 118

I reference the following as a basis for this reprimand.

### **Sec. 246. Proficiency in Lectures Required**

1. An Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft must pass, in open Lodge, an examination on the degree last conferred, to the satisfaction of the Master, before the next degree can be conferred. All Candidates Lectures must be given from memory using the English Language.

### **Installation of the Worshipful Master**

The Master is instructed with the following; The Code, or Book of Constitutions you are to search at all times. Cause it to be read in your Lodge, that none may pretend ignorance of the excellent precepts it enjoins.

As the Worshipful Master of Acacia Lodge No. 118, it is your responsibility to conduct your meetings in accordance with the Code.

You brought to my attention an oversight on your part as Master of Acacia Lodge No. 118 by conducting an EA proficiency on Lance Lovitt without opening Lodge as required by Section 246.1 of the Oregon Masonic Code, preceding receiving his Fellowcraft degree.

I, hereby, reprimand you for conducting an EA proficiency in violation of Section 246.1.

Furthermore, since Brother EA Lovitt in no way contributed to the irregularity of the actions listed above, in accordance with Section 20-17 of the Constitution of Grand Lodge — Powers of the Grand Master — I hereby declare Brother FC Lance Lovitt to be healed and a member in Good Standing of Acacia Lodge No. 118 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon.

July 17 to W.B. Jonathan Strowbridge, Worshipful Master  
Corvallis Lodge No. 14

I reference the following as a basis for this reprimand.

**Sec. 207. Quorum in a Lodge**

A quorum in a Lodge for the transaction of any business except voting on the formation of a new Lodge, or the conducting of funerals, shall consist of five or more Master Masons, members of the Lodge, one of whom shall be the Master or a Warden, and a Tyler.

**Installation of the Worshipful Master**

The Master is instructed with the following; The Code, or Book of Constitutions you are to search at all times. Cause it to be read in your Lodge, that none may pretend ignorance of the excellent precepts it enjoins.

As the Worshipful Master of Corvallis Lodge No. 14, it is your responsibility to conduct your meetings in accordance with the Code.

It has been reported to me and verified by the Tyler's roster and Lodge minutes that Corvallis Lodge No. 14 held a stated meeting on June 21, 2023 and conducted business without a proper quorum as required by Section 207 of the Oregon Masonic Code.

I, hereby, reprimand you for holding a Stated Communication on June 21, 2023 in violation of Section 207. Any business conducted at this meeting is considered null and void.

I also request that you reference the reprimand and as part of the required Code reading, that you read Sec. 207. Quorum in Lodge at your September stated meeting. A motion to approve the bills paid over the summer would be appropriate.

Dec. 20 to W.B. Tracy L. Morton, Worshipful Master  
Grants Pass Lodge No. 84

I reference the following as a basis for this reprimand.

**Sec. 238. Balloting —**

6. Unanimous Ballot Required —

A ballot on any Petition, or Request for Waiver of Jurisdiction, must be unanimous. If the ballot shows but one negative ballot, the Master, without declaring the result, shall at once, without recess of the Lodge and before any member shall have left the Lodge room, order a second and final ballot, which shall be taken immediately. In no case shall any discussion of the ballot or the Petitioner be permitted in open Lodge.

7. Result Only to Be Announced —

(a) After the ballot has been taken and duly examined, first by the Wardens and finally by the Master, the result shall in all cases be final and conclusive, and shall be so declared by the Master. The result only, namely, “elected” or “rejected,” shall be made known and recorded. (b) Such result cannot be set aside by the Lodge, the Master, the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge.

**Ritual – BALLOT ON PETITIONS** (Page 12)

Note - JW and SW rise to examine ballot box and remain standing until seated by WM. If WM finds the ballot clear, or that there is more than one black cube, he shall ask the JW and SW how they find the ballot, and not until then shall he proclaim the result. If only one cube appears, the WM does not ask JW or SW, nor announce result, but orders SD to destroy the ballot, and proceeds again as if no ballot had been taken. If ballot does not clear on second ballot, candidate is rejected. If more than one cube appears, candidate is rejected on the first ballot.

As the Worshipful Master of Grants Pass Lodge No. 84, it is your responsibility to conduct your meetings in accordance with the Code. It has been reported to me and verified that Grants Pass Lodge No. 84 did not follow the proper procedures for balloting upon a petition at your December Stated Communication held on December 5, 2023.

I, hereby, reprimand you for incorrect balloting procedures at your Stated Communication on December 5, 2023 in violation of Section 238.

Dec. 20 to W.B. Greg Gilbert, Senior Warden  
Grants Pass Lodge No. 84

I reference the following as a basis for this reprimand.

**Sec. 238. Balloting —**

6. Unanimous Ballot Required —

A ballot on any Petition, or Request for Waiver of Jurisdiction, must be unanimous. If the ballot shows but one negative ballot, the Master, without declaring the result, shall at once, without recess of the Lodge and before any member shall have left the Lodge room, order a second and final ballot, which shall be taken immediately. In no case shall any discussion of the ballot or the Petitioner be permitted in open Lodge.

7. Result Only to Be Announced —

(a) After the ballot has been taken and duly examined, first by the Wardens and finally by the Master, the result shall in all cases be final and conclusive, and shall be so declared by the Master. The result only, namely, “elected” or “rejected,” shall be made known and recorded. (b) Such result cannot be set aside by the Lodge, the Master, the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge.

**Ritual — BALLOT ON PETITIONS** (Page 12)

Note - JW and SW rise to examine ballot box and remain standing until seated by WM. If WM finds the ballot clear, or that there is more than one black cube, he shall ask the JW and SW how they find the ballot, and not until then shall he proclaim the result. If only one cube appears, the WM does not ask JW or SW, nor announce result, but orders SD to destroy the ballot, and proceeds again as if no ballot had been taken. If ballot does not clear on second ballot, candidate is rejected. If more than one cube appears, candidate is rejected on the first ballot.



As the Senior Warden of Grants Pass Lodge No. 84, it is your responsibility to assist the Worshipful Master in the governance of his meeting in accordance with the Code. Your actions contributed to the following Code violation. It has been reported to me and verified that Grants Pass Lodge No. 84 did not follow the proper procedures for balloting upon a petition at your December Stated Communication held on December 5, 2023.

I, hereby, reprimand you for incorrect balloting procedures at your Stated Communication on December 5, 2023, in violation of Section 238.



**GRAND ORATION**

of

The Grand Lodge of Ancient  
Free and Accepted Masons  
of Oregon

Myron E. Miles  
GRAND ORATOR

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

**Address to the One Hundred and Seventy-Fourth  
Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge  
of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon**

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Distinguished East, and my Brethren

You might be wondering just what would qualify an old, broken-down cowboy to be Grand Orator. I was flattered and honored to be asked by Most Worshipful Brother Craig. I can't resist using the same justification I used when I served for Most Worshipful Brother Bob Richmond and that is: I always seem to have a story to tell, and being quite opinionated, can con others into thinking I know what I'm talking about, as illustrated by an incident that happened when our son Gregg was about four years old. We had farmed him out to a neighbor Gloria for the day and she had him out in her yard doing some spring clean-up and gardening. After he had regaled her with myriad bits of information about the plants and flowers and worms and birds nearly non-stop, she finally asked him how he came to know so much about the birds and the bees. "Oh, my daddy told me. He knows everything. He's a know-it-all. Mama says nobody likes a know-it-all." What better qualification to be Grand Orator could be had? There are several paths to becoming a know-it-all; inherit it from your dad, live it as I do, read everything you can get your hands on, listen to other know-it-alls, or fake it! I find that everything about this job has contributed to my know-it-allness.

If you glanced at the April issue of the Oregon Masonic News, you saw my article about my dad being "A Mason to Emulate" and know that I come from a Masonic family. My son and daughter were both very active in DeMolay and Rainbow. My son Gregg is a Past Master of McEwen Lodge and a Shriner. Nearly everyone in my immediate and extended family are active members of Eastern Star. I am serving as Master for the sixth time and have a deep respect for our Masonic heritage, our principles, and our Ritual. I am among the few and the last to hold a lifetime proficiency card and can be a quite nitpicky about seeing our work done right, even while occasionally messing it up myself.

Being privileged to follow the lead of Most Worshipful Brother Craig this past year in Pioneering Masonry Forward has been inspiring, rewarding, and enjoyable. The Masons and their ladies we traveled with, the people we met on the trail, the lessons we learned, and the promise and hope we found for our Masonic Fraternity were truly inspirational. The dictionary defines pioneers as the ones who came before; the ones that were leaders and prepared the way for those that followed. They prepared that way by finding and marking a path, forging ahead,

allowing for a smoother passage for those following. They built bridges over obstacles or found ways around unsurmountable barriers. This sometimes meant finding an alternate or better route. These pioneering attributes fit very well with Grand Master Craig's engineering skills and experience.

The pioneers who founded our country and then worked tirelessly at its development and expansion were serious and dedicated. Although not always perfect, and sometimes having rather checkered pasts, when the chips were down, they did the right thing. They had grit, determination, and resilience. Many of them were Masons who used their Masonic principles and teachings to be unerring guides as they built new lives in a new land.

Outstanding examples of these pioneers were Meriwether Lewis and William Clark whose deeds and accomplishments make us all proud of our heritage. The Oregon country, flanked on all sides by towering mountains and guarded from the Pacific Ocean by a wild and rugged coastline, was the last region in North America for pioneering white men to enter. For two centuries, ships of several nations sailed up and down the Pacific Coast in search of the Great River of the West, told of in legend and journey logs. But fate seemed to withhold that prize until the United States of America grew into a strong new nation and was able to send out its own ships. The discovery and claiming of the Columbia River by Captain Robert Gray brought the United States again into direct competition with its former sovereign, Great Britain. Then when this fledgling nation bought the Louisiana Purchase from France, they needed to know what was out here and what they had. For this monumental task that would shape America's destiny for decades, President Jefferson selected methodical men of integrity, skilled in record keeping, long on courage and vision, with constancy and devotion to duty. It is not surprising that Lewis and Clark were Brother Masons, nor that their adherence to Masonic principles helped manage the Corps of Discovery and meet the unforeseen challenges and hardships of the expedition. They trusted each other with their own lives and the lives and safety of all in their party, knowing that trust was not misplaced because they were Brothers. When Congress refused to commission Lewis, a former secretary to President Jefferson, Captain Clark declared, quite Masonically, that they would act as equal Captains on the journey. For two difficult and stressful years they collaborated in mapping, collecting and recording flora and fauna, documenting all their actions and discoveries, and guiding and directing their exploration party. Nowhere in their logs or in history is there record or indication of any

conflict or contention. They were so successful at sharing leadership and giving equal credit that history tends to lump them together as if they were one. They may not have realized the enormity of the task they had accepted, but they did understand that obstacles could be defeated with inventiveness and ingenuity and that barriers could be gone around with determination and persistence. I believe that they and many other pioneers in our history were successful because they were good men who became better men by living up to their obligations.

Following Lewis and Clark's pioneering exploration, fur trading and fortune seeking slowly drew more people into the Oregon country. After the War of 1812 firmly secured the area to the United States, and the collapse of the fur trade when the beaver hat went out of style in the 1830s, many of the pioneering settlers were out-of-work French-Canadian fur trappers and mountain men. Missionaries appeared and were soon followed by independent settlers from the eastern states, many of whom were Masons. At first the various groups felt little need for government, but soon political differences began to surface. More immigrants began to arrive, and by 1843 were coming by the thousands. These newcomers were much more vocal and adamant about forming a government, resulting in a large outdoor meeting at Champoege on May 2, 1843. The meeting was called primarily to discuss the common problem of wolf depredations, but then took up the matter of organizing a government under the United States. The deciding vote and influence of one of the French-Canadians, Francois Xavier Matthieu, who later became a Mason in Oregon City, resulted in a vote of 52-50 to form a territorial government. Just three years later, in the first edition of Oregon's first newspaper, a notice was printed calling for members of the Masonic Fraternity to meet to adopt measures to obtain a charter for a Lodge. Out of that meeting a petition to form Multnomah Lodge was sent to the Grand Lodge of Missouri and a charter was granted in December of 1846. Difficulty finding a suitable courier, Indian wars on the plains, and the discovery of gold in California, delayed the delivery of that charter until September 11, 1848. That first Lodge was established and joined with two others, Willamette and Lafayette, chartered by the Grand Lodge of California, to form The Grand Lodge of Oregon, September 15, 1851.

After gold fever finally subsided and men returned to their homes and families and settled down to pioneering forward a new state, Masonic Lodges spread throughout Oregon. By the time Oregon became a state in 1859 there were nine local Lodges chartered under the Oregon Grand Lodge. At our peak after World War II, we had 192 Lodges with 44,542

members. It was natural that good men wanted to be Masons because they observed how we honored our founders and their principles and were impressed with the conduct of men in their communities that they respected and knew to be Masons. It is also natural that with the advent of modern distractions such as television, computers, cell phones, sports events and social media, today's good men have failed to turn to us. We are not alone in this dilemma as others such as churches, service organizations, trade and business associations, and volunteer groups have all suffered membership and attendance declines. Although the amount of Degree work going on in our local Lodges would indicate that we are on the verge of achieving growth, our numbers have seriously declined to where we now have only 4,913 members and 98 lodges. As I read through recent previous orations and my own from fifteen years ago, I identified a common theme. We are losing members due to aging and deaths, non-payment of dues, apathy, and dropping out at a rate faster than we are recruiting new ones. All seem to be in agreement that we must reverse this trend, if we are going to survive.

At first, I was determined to find a new topic for this oration, but try as I might, I could find no more important problem facing us. There is no question that society needs what we have to offer. It is our duty and responsibility as modern-day pioneers to preserve our Fraternity so that we can continue to offer to good men the opportunity to become better men and to share in our fellowship and charity. When we contemplate what passes for statesmanship today and are appalled at the shortage of ethics and principled behavior among our leaders, it is apparent that we need to step up and make a difference. All too often, those in positions of power and influence are more focused on personal gain and glory and how to remain in power than on what is good for our country. They curry favor with handouts and something-for-nothing programs that will buy them votes while ignoring the principles of hard work and integrity that propelled our country to greatness. It is critical that we quit waiting for things to change or for someone else to do something. You and I, all of us, today, must make the commitment to turn things around. Yes, there are signs of change, but they are not enough! We must all be doing more. But still apathy abounds! We must wake up, overcome our own inertia, and begin to do the things we know we must do if we are to survive.

How do we begin? First, each and every one of us must quit hiding the fact that we are Masons. Too many of us, when we are outside of our Lodges, fail to flaunt our Masonic membership and to point out that Masonry is what makes us who we are. Then we need to make our

presence known. We need to be there and speak out in public, not just among ourselves, when we see things that need to be corrected. We need to go to public meetings, become informed, and not be hesitant about voicing our opinions. But more importantly, we must remember to think like pioneers and get involved before decisions are made, when there is still time to influence the course of events. We need to volunteer and serve on committees or in positions of leadership in other organizations, our churches, or even in local government. As we embody the timeless morals and values that guided our founding fathers in shaping the bedrock of our nation, we not only uphold the fabric safeguarding our freedoms but also honor the diligent individuals who, through hard work and sacrifice, secure provisions for themselves and their families. In doing so, we become a beacon attracting others who aspire to be part of a community driven by these enduring principles. We will have no trouble explaining why other good men should join. We need to be sure that good people are selected for positions of leadership and to make the rules we must follow. The best way to be sure good people are available is to keep our Lodges strong and active and, by example, show that our principles have stood the test of time and are worthy of emulation. We must attract good young men to join with us, but we also need to keep our present members active and participating.

Let's dust off those "Dusty Masons" hiding out there and gently but persistently discover how we failed to keep them involved and get them back in the fold. Our Grand Master held several training events this year to provide us with information, skills, and methods to help us in these efforts. I believe that the pendulum will swing the other way and we can begin to achieve growth as our young people begin to realize that they do need some socializing and personal contact that a screen on their phone cannot provide. Let us speak out with our actions and conduct first, and rhetoric second. Yes, we will still need to seek them out, but if we conduct ourselves properly, the good men we are seeking will observe how we conduct our lives, be impressed, and become eager to join with us. We have a valuable gift to offer, that of a strong, moral, creative, charitable organization that makes good men better. We offer satisfying work, integrity, ingenuity, and brotherhood.

This is not an easy task that I have outlined. For some it will only mean stepping up what they are already doing. For others it may mean a change in the emphasis of their lives. But if we study our history and analyze what made us successful in the past, we will see that if our Fraternity



is to survive, it is a job that must be done. We owe it to ourselves, our Brother Masons, our families, and our communities to keep Masonry strong and viable. That is the challenge we face. I sincerely believe that we are up to it, and I implore you, my Brethren, to step up and join with me and our Grand Master in Pioneering Masonry Forward and meeting and surpassing this challenge. Thank You.

Respectfully submitted,  
Myron E. Miles



ANNUAL REPORT

of

**THE MASONIC &  
EASTERN STAR  
HOME BOARD**

Mark L. Posler  
I.P.G.M., CHAIRMAN

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

## **REPORT OF THE MASONIC & EASTERN STAR HOME BOARD**

As Chairman of the Masonic & Eastern Star Home (MESH) Board, it has been my honor and privilege to work with the Grand Lodge Trustees and Eastern Star representatives who comprise the MESH Board. They are volunteers who dedicate a substantial part of their time to oversee the policies and operation of the Jennings McCall Center (JMC) and the MasonicAid services & programs. As such, they are instrumental in the success of the largest and most ambitious charitable undertaking of our jurisdiction. The Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer are also involved in the MESH Board's operation on a regular and ongoing basis and contribute greatly to its success.

The members of the MESH Board for 2023-2024 were:

M.W.B. Craig Sipp	Grand Master
M.W.B. Mark Posler	Immediate Past Grand Master
R.W.B. Timothy Best	Deputy Grand Master
R.W.B. Marc Strong	Senior Grand Warden
R.W.B. Richard Varner	Junior Grand Warden
Stephanie Beall	Worthy Grand Matron
Laura Frye	Junior Past Grand Matron
Lanni Strong	Associate Grand Matron

Also in attendance at MESH Board meetings were W.B. Greg Hinkelman, Senior Grand Deacon and Nancy Pugsley, Grand Conductress. They made valuable contributions to our discussions, and I wish to thank them for their participation.

MasonicAid assistance is overseen by Danielle Christopherson and Courtney Chun, operating from Grand Lodge headquarters. The Jennings McCall Center is managed by Mark Remley of Aidan Health Services along with Administrator Crystale Harding. Additionally, all staff members at the Grand Secretary's office provided support to the MESH Board in different ways throughout the year. I wish to commend these staff members for their commitment and dedication to the success of MasonicAid and the JMC. Their efforts have been of great value to the MESH Board this year.

At the beginning of the Masonic year, staff and MESH Board members trained and planned at the Annual Conference of the Masonic

Communities & Services Association (MCSA) and at the annual MESH planning retreat, which was held in Baker City this year. These meetings provided valuable insight and training and allowed for candid discussion of issues surrounding MasonicAid and Jennings McCall operations.

There have been a variety of challenges at JMC following the pandemic, which seem to have altered Americans' attitudes toward work. Staffing at JMC has been an issue of concern, with vacancies and new hires of administrators, medical staff, and care providers. This stabilized somewhat during the second half of the year but is still a concern being monitored. Occupancy at JMC suffered noticeably during the pandemic because residents could not visit with their friends and family in person. Occupancy has been slowly rising this year and is much improved but has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. Additional challenges are new state requirements which have been implemented and increasing insurance costs.

The MESH Board authorized significant remodeling, repairs, and restoration of the JMC building and grounds this year to maintain the facility's condition and appearance. This work included interior remodeling in the West entry and lobby, roofing on both the Independent and Assisted Living wings, new security cameras, and a new exterior landscape feature on the West side of the building.

During a winter cold snap, a pipe leaked at JMC damaging the Assisted Living dining room. While completing repairs, the opportunity was taken to replace the flooring in the dining room, updating its appearance.

This year, the MESH Board was able to restart the quarterly resident reviews, a popular listening & feedback event with JMC residents which was discontinued during the pandemic.

The MESH Board participated in a strategic planning session mid-way through the year, which was organized by Mark Remley and offered an opportunity for the board members to meet and interact with JMC staff.

Of vital importance to the accomplishment of our mission is funding and finances. The Grand Lodge Finance Committee chaired by W.B. Bob M. Keller has done an outstanding job of managing the Grand Lodge investments in a challenging financial climate. I wish to thank the entire Finance Committee for their dedicated efforts on behalf of the Fraternity.

Similarly, marketing and promotion of JMC and MasonicAid is of great importance to the success of our mission. Marissa Douglas manages marketing efforts on behalf of the Grand Lodge and has done an excellent job advocating for our charitable services.

The work of the MESH Board is a marathon more than a sprint, trying to ensure we provide the best services while maintaining the quality of the JMC and MasonicAid experiences for those we are helping. This is a worthy endeavor and I know our group this year has done our best; it is bittersweet passing the torch to those who will succeed us – to them we give our best wishes for future success.

In closing, I would like to thank all who have donated funds, time, and resources to the success of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home. The Masons and Eastern Star Members in Oregon have maintained a successful program assisting our members for over 100 years, the home having been established in 1922. We are well-positioned to begin the next century of service.

Fraternally,

Mark L. Posler, Immediate Past Grand Master  
Chairman, Masonic and Eastern Star Home Board

ANNUAL REPORT

of

**THE JENNINGS  
McCALL CENTER**

Mark Remley  
Aidan Health Services

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JENNINGS MCCALL CENTER**

As with years past, we grow accustomed to changes at Jennings McCall Center. This past year, we were grateful to have Crystale Harding back as our Administrator in the building. After a brief stint doing some other work and providing oversight to Jennings McCall, Crystale decided to come back in this critical leadership position full time. Crystale has devoted many years to the success of the community, navigated through the COVID-19 Pandemic, as well as several renovations. We are very happy and fortunate to have her back!

We continue to deal with challenges in recruitment and retention of staff. I feel like we have done a good job of being very competitive in the market, and next we may need to look at if there is something different completely that people in the job market are looking for. One piece of data I ran across recently is that 51% of all workers in the United States are currently looking for a new job. This is the highest number in history relative to job seekers. We need to continue to stay in front of this and build a culture of a place people want to work.

At this point, we are wrapping up another renovation. We are blessed with a Board of Directors that continue to put money back into the building. This latest phase has been on the Assisted Living side of the community that transformed all common areas, hallways, doors, and décor. I believe this to be the last major internal renovation that will cause any big disruption. Whenever there is an interior renovation, it does cause strain on the staff and residents. Keeping everyone well informed about what was occurring was critical, but nothing is as quick as you would hope. As we wrap it all up, we are reminded quickly how worth it it was.

As is always the case, we saw many new rules and regulation roll out on the Memory Care and Assisted Living sides of the community. Rule changes are becoming more routine, and I feel like the team has adapted well to the new expectations bestowed upon us. One of these new rules is the annual kitchen inspection that we recently went through. You will be pleased to know that we came out of that inspection with zero deficiencies! This is a testament to our hard working dietary department. Truly a job well done. We are also in the midst of learning the new Acuity Based Staffing tool which is a state tool that will dictate how much staff is used on a shift-by-shift basis. Again, we just roll with the punches and learn the new processes and see how they fit into our overall plan at Jennings McCall.



Lastly, this year we look forward to getting fully back to business as usual with the Holiday Bazaar happening in November. This is always well attended, and has been put on the back burner as we've tried to limit the number of community folks coming into Jennings McCall. We feel like now is the time, and people are wanting this. So if you are all able to attend in November, keep an eye out for communication to this and you can enjoy the Bazaar and see how the community looks today.

As always, thank you to the board for their involvement and support during some tough times. Their engagement is welcomed as we continue to navigate into this post-COVID world.

Respectfully,  
Mark Remley  
Aidan Health Services, Inc.

LIFE CARE MEMBERS OF THE  
 MASONIC & EASTERN STAR HOME OF OREGON  
 April 30, 2024

NAME	AFFILIATION	AGE	ADMIT DATE	YEARS OF RESIDENCE
Evans, Margaret	Holbrook Lodge No.30	95	03/24/1997	27
Hall, F. Arinda	Esther Chapter No.11	69	12/12/2003	20

MASONIC AND EASTERN STAR HOME OF OREGON  
 COMPOSITION OF LIFE CARE MEMBERS OF THE HOME

LODGES & CHAPTERS	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
1 Lodge sponsors one member	0	1	1
1 Chapter sponsors one member	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

RECAPITULATION

Census April 30, 2023	2
Admitted during fiscal year	0
Released to Self	0
Released by Death	<u>0</u>
<b>Census April 30, 2024</b>	<b>2</b>

MASONICAID SUBSIDY  
 April 30, 2024

GENDER	AFFILIATION	AGE	APPROVED DATE	YEARS OF RESIDENCE
Female	Holbrook Lodge No. 30	94	07/11/2015	8
Female	Tualatin Chapter No. 31	92	07/09/2016	7
Male	Washington Lodge No. 46	92	06/03/2017	7
Female	Columbia Lodge No. 114	91	10/12/2019	4
Female	Doric Chapter No. 53	72	12/13/2019	4
Male	Jennings Lodge No. 9	76	09/10/2022	2
Female	Jennings Lodge No. 9	73	09/10/2022	2
Male	Grants Pass Lodge No. 84	86	05/13/2023	1

RECAPITULATION

Census April 30, 2023	12
Admitted during fiscal year	1
Released to Self	1
Released by Death	<u>4</u>
<b>Census April 30, 2024</b>	<b>8</b>



ANNUAL REPORTS  
of the  
**SENIOR & JUNIOR  
WARDENS**

The Grand Lodge of  
Ancient Free and  
Accepted Masons  
of Oregon

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

## **REPORT OF THE SENIOR GRAND WARDEN**

The Masonic Code of the Grand Lodge of Oregon defines in the By-Laws Sections 109 and 166.3 the duties of the Senior Grand Warden. He is a member of the Board of Trustees, a member of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home Board, and a member of the Budget Committee. He also has the clause to “Perform other such duties as may be assigned him by the Grand Master or required by the Constitution and By-laws of the Grand Lodge and the Customs and Usages of Masonry.”

Some of those extra duties have included overseeing Educational Assistance and serving as a board member of the Oregon Masonic Charitable Foundation (OMCF). As a member of the MESH Board and the Grand Lodge Trustees, we meet monthly at the Grand Lodge office in Forest Grove. I have attended all these meetings. Zoom is a good tool to get us through times when the board’s duties require being in two places at one time in different parts of the state, but there is nothing like the interaction of the face-to-face meetings.

As a member of the MESH Board, we review the operations of the Jennings McCall Center and management of MasonicAid. It is a daunting yet wonderful opportunity to see how we assist and support our Masonic Brothers, their wives and widows, and our Eastern Star Sisters. The Grand Lodge staff does an amazing job with MasonicAid and meeting the needs of many deserving family and friends and acting as a resource for what assistance is or might be available to them.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, under the leadership of the Grand Master, we conduct the business of operating the Grand Lodge. Duties include paying bills, reviewing financials, Lodge Restoration Grants, OMCF’s Creating A Partnership activity, charitable giving, as well as reports from various committees and the Blue Lodges, to name just a few.

During this year, I felt privileged to travel and be greeted as Senior Grand Warden with the Grand Master to some of the Lodges for his Official Visits. I was able to make some of those where I have not attended previously. It is great to be welcomed, fed, and supported by the Lodges. It is heartwarming to see the Brethren at work in their Lodges. We have a great bunch of outstanding Masons in Oregon. I was also able to attend and participate in several Occasional Grand Lodges and special events where we honored several Lodges and their buildings’ histories.

I was able to attend several other Grand Lodge Annual Communications including Idaho, Missouri, California, Washington, Hawaii, and Alaska. Networking with other jurisdictions and seeing how they operate is such a valuable experience. It offers the opportunity to exchange insights and perspectives on shared challenges and successes, drawing parallels between our experiences in Oregon and those of our counterparts elsewhere. By fostering open discussions, we can uncover commonalities in our struggles and triumphs, thereby gaining valuable knowledge and ideas. Subsequently, we can leverage this newfound understanding to support and uplift our local Lodges, contributing to the collective growth and advancement of our community.

I was able to attend the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, which was held in Seattle, Wash. One of the highlights this year was having both Illustrious Grand Commanders, Walter Wheeler 33° from the Northern Jurisdiction, and Illustrious Grand Commander James Cole 33° from the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite in attendance and giving the opening and closing remarks during our meeting.

I would like to thank M.W.B. Craig A. Sipp for his leadership, the Grand Lodge Trustees and the Grand Secretary for their support and friendship. As said in many more areas of life, the journey is not about the miles, which are many, but the hours I get to spend with each and all of you. It has been an honor to serve the Craft as your Senior Grand Warden this year and I thank you for the opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marc L. Strong  
Senior Grand Warden

## **REPORT OF THE JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN**

Most Worshipful Grand Master, fellow Grand Officers, Distinguished Guests, and Brethren:

It is my honor and pleasure to offer this report of my year as Junior Grand Warden. The duties of the Junior Grand Warden are outlined in Section 110 of the Code of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon. I have done my best and I hope the Brethren have found my performance worthy as I have attempted to serve them.

The Penal Code requires the Junior Grand Warden to prefer charges when necessary, and to act as the prosecutor in any Grand Lodge trial. It has been my responsibility to file charges in one instance so far this year, and at the time of writing of this report, the trial has yet to be scheduled. If the trial does not occur before Grand Lodge, I have offered to assist the new Junior Grand Warden with the trial.

In addition, the Most Worshipful Grand Master has requested that I investigate a couple of instances of deviations from the Code. I have done this and have reported the results of my investigation and provided recommendations to the Grand Master on actions he might take.

The Junior Grand Warden is also a member of the Board of Trustees for the Grand Lodge and the Masonic & Eastern Star Home Board. With the assistance of the Senior Grand Deacon, I have reviewed all the bills associated with the Grand Lodge and operations of our Constituent Lodges, along with the Jennings McCall Center. The magnitude of the efforts needed to operate the Home and our Fraternity are extensive. This process is done electronically to check that all bills and payments have been made correctly.

This year, I was able to travel and attend several Official Visits of the Grand Master, mostly west of the Cascades. In addition, I was able to attend most of the visits of the District Deputy of the Grand Master in my area. I was sorry to miss the Malheur Cave Degree as I was recovering from surgery. I did have the honor of participating in Occasional Grand Lodges, celebrating and rededicating Seaport Lodge No. 7, Tillamook Lodge No. 57, Grande Ronde Valley Lodge No. 56, and the Craftsman Club (home of McKenzie River Lodge No. 195). There were three other Occasional Grand Lodges where I participated in educational presentations for the Brethren attending.

I was able to represent the Grand Lodge of Oregon by traveling to other jurisdictions to attend the Annual Communications in Washington, Montana, Missouri, Idaho, California, Nevada, Alaska, and Hawaii.



Traveling with the Trustees to attend the Conference of Grand Masters in North America and Western Conference of Grand Masters in Seattle, Wash. was a notable highlight. These travels allowed me to meet and network with my counterparts from other jurisdictions. We share many of the same issues and were able to exchange information on how we were dealing with them. I also accompanied the Grand Master as he represented the Grand Lodge at many appendant and concordant body events, and represented the Grand Master at Hillah Temple's Potentate's Ball.

I was honored to serve as chair of the Long Range Planning Committee and to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Oregon Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard D. Varner  
Junior Grand Warden



ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

**GRAND LODGE  
COMMITTEES**

The Grand Lodge of  
Ancient Free and  
Accepted Masons  
of Oregon

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

## **APPEALS & GRIEVANCES**

To the One Hundred and Seventy Fourth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon. Per Sec.129 Duties of Committee on Appeals and Grievances, it shall be the duty of the Committee on Appeals and Grievances to consider all appeals to the Grand Lodge and all grievances which are required by law to be referred to it, or which in the judgement of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master should be so referred. Also, to make a separate and distinct report to the Grand Lodge upon each and every subject or case referred to it. To satisfy these requirements your committee on Appeals and Grievances file the following report.

The Committee on Appeals and Grievances did not receive any referrals of appeals, grievances or any other cases or subjects to consider during this Masonic year.

This Committee would like to congratulate the Grand Master, M.W.B. Craig A. Sipp on promoting harmony, thereby strengthening and supporting this grand jurisdiction resulting in a very successful year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melvin L. Lambert Darrell G. Maple  
Mark R. Reed Robert L. Richardson  
Michael J. McGuyer, Chairman

**BUDGET**

Per section 130(A) of the Oregon Masonic Code, the Budget Committee prepared a projected report for the 2024-2025 fiscal year with the assistance of Grand Lodge Financial Controller Molly Todd. Projected revenues are \$3,372,405.72 with expenses (cash + depreciation) of \$3,347,065.94, leaving a projected surplus of \$25,339.78. The remainder of this report is a summary of the projected income and expenses of the Oregon Masonic Grand Lodge for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

**INCOME**

INVESTMENT INCOME .....	\$206,817.24
SALE OF SUPPLIES.....	\$10,000.00
DUES.....	\$19,000.00
ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES.....	\$1,283,416.48
JMC LEASE INCOME .....	\$1,110,696.00
MCMENAMINS LEASE INCOME .....	\$380,031.00
CAPITAL INVESTMENT INCOME .....	\$346,809.24
OTHER INCOME .....	\$15,635.76
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$3,372,405.72</b>

**EXPENSES**

STAFF SALARIES .....	\$497,621.53
GRAND SECRETARY SALARY .....	\$122,000.00
GRAND TREASURE SALARY .....	\$21,742.66
BENEFITS .....	\$164,179.63
ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS .....	\$121,200.00
COMMITTEE EXPENSES.....	\$44,950.00
GRAND LODGE OFFICER EXPENSES .....	\$174,000.00
PRINTING & POSTAGE .....	\$50,000.00
OREGON MASONIC NEWS .....	\$55,000.00
GRAND LODGE PROGRAMS/GRANTS .....	\$205,000.00
BUILDING & OPERATIONAL EXPENSES.....	\$330,307.57
BUILDING DEPRECIATION.....	\$767,204.46
PROPERTY TAXES .....	\$245,735.57
JMC & MCMENAMINS INTEREST.....	\$233,124.52
OFFICE & IT.....	\$101,000.00
BLUE LODGE TRAINING EXPENSES.....	\$7,500.00
WESTERN & CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS .....	\$35,000.00
GRAND MASTER PINS & GIFTS .....	\$15,000.00
DEPUTY GRAND MASTER GIFTS .....	\$3,000.00
SEMINARS & OTHER CONFERENCE EXPENSE.....	\$15,000.00
MARKETING & SPONSORSHIPS .....	\$100,000.00
MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION.....	\$3,000.00
GEORGE WASHIGNTON SASONIC MEMORIAL .....	\$7,500.00
MASONIC RELIEF.....	\$2,000.00
FRATERNAL SUPPLIES .....	\$20,000.00
NATIONAL MASONIC FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN .....	\$2,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS.....	\$4000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>\$3,347,065.94</b>
<b>NET REVENUE OVER INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$25,339.78</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
 Gary L. Ball  
 James L. Morgan, P.G.M.  
 Timothy J. Best, Chairman

Gregory A. Jenkins, P.G.M.  
 Marc L. Strong

## **CLOTHING, JEWELS & FURNITURE**

To the Grand Lodge of A.F & A.M. of Oregon at our 174th Annual Communication: In compliance with Section 143 of the Masonic Code of Oregon, we hereby submit a report on the condition of the clothing, jewels, and furniture required for Grand Lodge ceremonies.

The new aprons which were purchased in 2020 are still in good repair and no issues have been reported to this committee. We continue to clean and repair the Grand Lodge Officers' aprons as well as the District Deputies' aprons, on an ongoing basis when needs are identified and brought to our attention.

The Grand Lodge collars also appear to be in good condition and no issues were reported to this committee. It was noted that there is an inconsistency with the collar design and following review and recommendation of the Trustees, we are looking to replace all the current collars with a standard. As of this writing, we are waiting for the Trustees approval to move forward with this purchase. This committee has started investigating new jewels for the Grand Lodge Officers as most of the current set are old, faded, and worn. Current offerings from our usual fraternal supply vendor do not comply with the Code so these will remain status quo for now. The Grand Lodge staff has been very helpful in researching replacement jewels and we thank them for these efforts.

The apron cases and soft cases are also in good repair. We will continue to monitor these and repair/place as necessary.

The Working Tools and Vessels of Consecration were used during the 100-year celebration of Molalla Lodge No. 178 in July of 2023, and the 150-year celebration of Tillamook Lodge No. 57 in September of 2023. They were also used in two building rededication ceremonies. Seaport Lodge No. 7 in September of 2023 and McKenzie River Lodge No. 195 in May of 2024. All are in good repair and are in possession of the Grand Marshal. The prior case that stored the Working Tools and Vessels of Consecration was replaced due to extreme wear. The new wheeled case is in use as of this writing. The tools for the dedication of a new Lodge are in the vault at the Grand Lodge in Forest Grove.

All other equipment necessary for the ceremonies of the Grand Lodge is in good condition and is in the possession of the Grand Marshal. An inventory of the same is on file at the office of the Grand Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,  
Billy J. Thompson  
Eric Headley, Chairman

Steven Karpstein

## DISPENSATIONS AND CHARTERS

To the Grand Lodge of A.F & A.M. of Oregon at our 174th Annual Communication: In compliance with Section 132 of the Masonic Code of Oregon, we hereby submit a report detailing the activities of this committee.

As of this writing no new dispensations for the formation of a new Lodge or the consolidation of existing Lodges have been issued or requested. All other dispensations issued by the Grand Master are automatically referred to the Jurisprudence Committee for review.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis R. Hanson

W. Myles McMillan, P.G.M.

Eric Headley, Chairman

Joseph Jarvis, P.G.M.

Donald F. Stapleton, P.G.M.

## EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Educational Assistance is for resident or nonresident children or grandchildren of a Master Mason in good standing (living or deceased) of a Lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction. This is authorized in the Grand Lodge Constitution and By-Laws as found in the following sections:

**Section 128.7** *Power and Duties of the Trustees of the Grand Lodge – Educational Assistance*

**Section 154.2** *Fund of the Grand Lodge – Educational Fund*

**Section 217.14** *Powers and Duties of Master – Education of Children*

The funding for Educational Assistance comes entirely from the irreducible Educational Fund to aid the families of Master Masons that are in financial need. This is not a “scholarship” program. Educational Assistance was developed to help families that are struggling to make ends meet, and to try and assure the child (or children) receives an education in a wholesome environment. The amount awarded to each eligible student is based on the total income and expenses of the household in which the student resides.

As the Senior Grand Warden, it has been my responsibility and pleasure to oversee the administration of the Educational Assistance program. Ms. Courtney Chun from the Grand Lodge office has done an incredible job working with the families and processing the applications. The Worshipful Masters and District Deputies have also worked hard at meeting with the families and reporting on the required information.



This year we had 20 families approved to receive Educational Assistance funds, representing 36 students. We were able to help 15 K-12 families, representing 28 students, and 8 post high school students. There were 6 cases, representing 9 students canceled for this year, 1 case denied due to eligibility, representing 1 student. A total of \$79,350 was distributed to our Masonic families during the 2023-2024 academic year. The leftover of \$104,409.89 will be put back into the irreducible fund.

A breakdown of the Educational Assistance for the 2023-2024 academic year is below.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Marc L. Strong  
 Senior Grand Warden

Kindergarten through 12th grade		
Case No.	Lodge Name & #	Total Award
842BC	Blanco No. 48	\$6,300.00
832C	Blanco No. 48	\$3,150.00
870B	Blanco No. 48	\$3,150.00
878ABCD	Blanco Lodge No. 48	\$6,300.00
866	Florence Lodge No. 107	\$3,150.00
872AB	Florence Lodge No. 107	\$6,300.00
846AB	Grand Ronde Valley No. 56	\$6,300.00
855	Hiram Lodge No. 67	\$1,350.00
858	Hiram Lodge No. 67	\$1,350.00
869ABC	Hiram Lodge No. 67	\$6,300.00
828BCD	Hiram Lodge No. 67	\$6,300.00
840ABCD	La Grande No. 41	\$6,300.00
867AB	Redmond Lodge No. 154	\$2,700.00
861	Union No. 3	\$1,350.00
873	Washington No. 46	\$3,150.00
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$63,450.00</b>

Post High School through age 22		
Case No.	Lodge Name & #	Total Award
842E	Blanco No. 48	\$3,150.00
849B	Florence No. 107	\$3,150.00
849A	Florence No. 107	\$3,150.00
876	St. Helens No. 32	\$3,150.00
830	Tigard-Orenomah No. 207	\$1,500.00
868B	Tigard-Orenomah No. 207	\$750.00
877	Vista Masonic No. 215	\$1,050.00
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$12,750.00</b>

<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENT</b>	<b>\$79,350.00</b>
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## **ENDOWMENTS**

The initial focus was to gain a shared understanding of the committee's responsibilities and history. As most of the members of the committee are new to, or have limited experience with the committee, there was little institutional knowledge among committee members to share. Outreach to the Grand Lodge, in particular Ms. Amy Barnhart, was useful in gaining an understanding of past efforts of the committee and how we might support the Grand Lodge and the Brothers going forward. Unfortunately, work and other commitments have limited the ability of the committee to meet and be productive.

Respectfully submitted,

Heath P. Banks

Donavon E. Davidge

Arthur Earl McGhehey, Jr., Chairman

Warren S. Burkholder, Jr.

Zachary K. Steele

## **EXAMINATION OF VISITING BRETHERN**

To the respected members of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Oregon:

In line with Section 139 of the Oregon Masonic Code, the charge of the Examination of Visiting Brethren Committee is to verify the credentials of all visiting Brethren who are not adequately vouched for. Our duty ensures that each visitor to our Lodges within this jurisdiction has been properly examined, confirming their status as a member in good standing from a recognized Lodge of Master Masons.

Over the course of the 2023-2024 Masonic year, the committee has had a year marked by routine and stability. The absence of exceptional circumstances meant that there were no instances requiring the convening of the committee. As such, no formal meetings or additional examinations outside of the established protocol were necessary.

The committee's responsibilities were carried out as part of regular Masonic proceedings, without incident or issue. This quiet year serves as a testament to the strength of our existing verification processes and the orderly conduct of our visiting brethren.

We thank all Lodges in this great jurisdiction for their continued support and upholding of our verification standards, ensuring the propriety of our Fraternal engagements.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joe "J.J." Fontana  
John P. Ridenour  
Dale B. Palileo, Chairman

Donald "Don" M. Lauer  
Paul N. Temple, P.G.S.

## **FELLOWS OF THE CRAFT**

Most Worshipful Grand Master, distinguished guests, and Brethren of the Craft:

It is with great pleasure that I present this annual report on the Fellows of the Craft program, covering the period from February 2023 through February 2024.

The Fellows of the Craft program was instituted by resolution in June 2005. Its inception was guided by the principle of offering proficient mentorship to Brethren seeking to enhance their Masonic knowledge and to serve as mentors in the Craft.

In February 2023, a major overhaul of the program was undertaken to address the evolving needs of our fraternity. This comprehensive revision resulted in the addition of a "trainer's program" designed to expand our capacity to certify Brethren as Fellows of the Craft.

The significance of the Fellows of the Craft program cannot be overstated. It serves as a fundamental component in the educational journey of a Mason, providing a path to deeper understanding and stronger fellowship. Its importance is amplified within the context of the West Gate Experience, emphasizing our commitment to the careful selection and education of new Brothers.

During the reported period, we have witnessed the certification of 111 new Fellows of the Craft. These Brothers have demonstrated a commendable dedication to Masonic education and self-improvement. Additionally, 35 of these Brethren have advanced to become certified trainers, underscoring their commitment to the transmission of knowledge and the mentorship of future Masons.

The program's achievements over the past year are heartening and provide a solid foundation for continued growth and success. It is my conviction that the Fellows of the Craft is not merely an educational initiative but a beacon of our Masonic values and Brotherhood.

As we look forward, I advocate for the continued promotion and support of this vital program. Further investment in the development of our trainers and periodic curriculum updates will ensure the program's relevance and

efficacy for years to come.

In conclusion, the foundation of our Lodges, and indeed our fraternity, is strengthened by the Fellows of the Craft program. It is through education and mentorship that we forge the bonds of Brotherhood and uphold the esteemed tenets of our ancient Craft.

I extend an invitation to all Brethren who wish to participate in or contribute to the Fellows of the Craft program to contact me for further information.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dale Palileo  
Program Manager, Fellows of the Craft

### **FINANCE**

Brethren:

Approaching 2023, there was significant concern that the economy would slide into a recession. Inflation was at elevated levels and 2022 had been a particularly difficult year as reported previously. The stock market outlook was precarious as the Federal Reserve was continuing its unprecedented series of rate increases. Investors buckled up for a difficult ride.

Instead, 2023 was one of the strongest performances for the stock market in a decade. The S&P 500 was up 24%, the Dow Jones Industrial average was up 13% and the Nasdaq had a stellar performance, up 43% driven by big tech companies such as Nvidia, Microsoft and Amazon.

The US economy remained resilient due to solid consumer spending and a healthy job market.

In the last quarter of 2023, under the direction and oversight of the Oregon Grand Lodge Trustees a test was performed to determine if reduced call writing could deliver better overall financial outcomes. It was determined that the historical call writing strategy delivers the most favorable overall results.

The committee is re-employing the call writing strategy, developed over the past two decades.

Looking at our account, Year to Date 12/31/2023:

Account Value December 31, 2022 .....	\$67,129,262.31
Account Value December 31, 2023 .....	\$72,436,940.92
Total withdrawals by Lodge 2023 .....	\$ 1,262,373.00
Total Deposits 2023.....	\$ 0.00

Year to Date income through December 31, 2023.

Income from interest and dividends.....	\$ 1,720,700.77
Income from call writing activity.....	\$ 4,391,042.15

On behalf of the committee, I would like to offer our thanks to the Trustees for their support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ed Bousquet, P.G.M.  
Bruce A. Kent  
Bob M. Keller, Chairman

Dave Fryday, P.G.M.  
Peter Morrison

### **GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS**

This report will be given verbally during the 2023 Session then printed in the Proceedings.

### **HISTORY**

This year the History Committee focused its attention on the promotion and improvement of recorded Lodge histories. Each Master is required to send in something in regards to the history of their year. Most fail to fully comprehend the value of this opportunity, and it is too often seen as a burden. In 2023 there was a marked improvement in the number of histories sent in, amounting to nearly half of the total number of Lodges in this jurisdiction. These reports range from trifling to extremely detailed, with most tending towards the former. The reports of a few Lodges did just the mandatory minimum, with no description of any events. A minimal response fulfills the requirement, but it does not fulfill the intended "spirit." A thoughtful report will be useful to the Lodge. It can be used to give membership a sense of unique purpose, even might evoke pride of membership.

Another reason for recording history is to bring new members up to speed as to the unique culture of their Lodge. It really helps to have some way of bringing new members to the point where they feel "part of the family." Educating them on the history of the Lodge plays a major role in that. A great example was the work of W.B. Robert Jones of Rogue River Lodge No. 226. A brief history of the origins of the Lodge, with some splendid details. A little about their operations, venues, and membership

in the intervening years, followed by the challenges and activities of the current year, provided some great history on the life of this Lodge past and present.

As in the case of Rogue River, it is not necessary to use the form on the Grand Lodge website, relating the story of your year and Lodge is the point, and the form can assist in giving structure and direction. In another excellent example, Beaverton Masonic Lodge No. 100, used the form and included several other pages of descriptions that might be of historical interest. They included a labelled picture of the Lodges officers, and the Master's picture. An included Master's biography is indispensable. Having a picture on the wall tells very little about the person. Constructing a history that relates who they were makes a big difference. Years later, these can be used as short in-Lodge talks, and will be of interest to members who knew him as well as those who did not have that privilege. During a Masonic funeral, it is asked that the secretary read from the Brother's "Masonic Scroll". It helps to have some documentation so that a beloved Brother can be remembered for what he did and who he was.

There are many ways to fulfill the Lodge history requirement. Often, the work is already done during the year. If you send out emails about events, post after events, or if your Lodge produces a trestle board, gather that information into a document and send them in. The Master of Fairview Lodge wrote in his history about the great work done in their trestle board, highlighting the stories of their older members. He was later encouraged to send in those trestle boards as part of the report. There is no maximum and a busy Lodge like Eugene Lodge No. 11 has published a 130–150-page book for each of the last five years. It is not necessary to rewrite the minutes, or write a book, but a few comments, creating context for events that happened during the year can be very valuable to the understanding of the Lodge's story by future members. Include pictures and label them.

After spending many years researching our members in the database, concerns arose that our member history was being lost as Lodges merged and as members affiliated. Degree dates remain the same, but Lodges were being changed to reflect only the current Lodge after mergers. Investigation revealed that this was likely not happening with the current Sentinel system. However, that system has only been in use for the last 11 years in this jurisdiction. The Grand Lodge desires every member visit Sentinel and inspect their profile, and we concur. If you have been a member for more than 10 years, and have affiliated or been part of a merge, visit Sentinel and check to see if your information is correct. If you find inaccuracies, send a note to your secretary. For the secretary: the information can be corrected, if necessary, with help from the Grand

Lodge, but a simple solution is to go to the Historical Events page, click the edit box after the Degree or event and add the information in the comments. This will show up on the member's record.

Documenting history has many purposes; what went right, as well as what went wrong. What can we do better and what was done during the year. We cannot emphasize strongly enough the importance of a readable Lodge history. This contribution will have a positive effect on the memberships understanding of their Lodge. It is also important that the official record at the Grand Lodge contain the correct information concerning where you received your Degrees, and or where you affiliated from.

Any Lodge that would like to, is welcome to contact us for an example of a yearly Lodge history.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Gray

Ryan Whittenburg

Michael D. Robinson, Chairman

Johnny J. Edwards, Grand Historian

Nathan Neff

Mitchel Pennell

## **HOSPITAL VISITATION**

Dear Esteemed Members,

It is with great pleasure that I present the year-end report for the Hospital Visitation Committee of the Grand Lodge of Oregon. As the newly appointed chairman, I embarked on a journey to enhance the committee's effectiveness and visibility within our esteemed organization.

Upon assuming the role, my first task was to foster better communication among committee members. I promptly reached out to each member to introduce myself and solicit valuable feedback, fostering a collaborative environment conducive to our mission.

With the gracious approval of the Grand Master, we embarked on a journey to redefine the purpose and scope of the Hospital Visitation Committee. This process aimed to align our efforts more closely with the evolving needs of our lodges and communities.

One of our significant undertakings was the development of an introductory flyer to be disseminated to all lodges across Oregon. While this project is still underway, we anticipate its completion in the near future, bolstering awareness and engagement with our committee's initiatives.

In line with our commitment to grassroots engagement, I personally

conducted 15 Lodge visits throughout the state. These visits served as invaluable opportunities to introduce myself and elucidate the committee's purpose, fostering a deeper connection with our fellow Brethren.

Furthermore, I am pleased to report that the Hospital Visitation Committee received prominent exposure in the Oregon Masonic News, further amplifying our reach and impact within the fraternity.

However, while celebrating our achievements, we recognize areas for improvement. Moving forward, we aim to enhance communication channels within the committee, ensuring seamless coordination and collaboration on our endeavors.

Moreover, we acknowledge the importance of increased visibility and participation within the Lodges. To this end, we will redouble our efforts to engage with Lodge members, soliciting their active involvement in our initiatives.

Additionally, we aspire to recruit more volunteers dedicated to educating Lodges on accessing MasonicAid and facilitating referrals to the Grand Lodge and other pertinent resources. By empowering our Brethren to better serve their communities, we can truly embody the principles of Freemasonry.

In conclusion, the Hospital Visitation Committee remains steadfast in its commitment to serving the needs of our Brethren and communities. With renewed vigor and dedication, we look forward to a year of continued growth, impact, and fraternity.

Fraternally,

John C. Donner

David L. Miller

Anthony Chase, Chairman

Terry J. Harris

Darrin T. Ward

## **INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

The Information and Education Committee was tasked by the Grand Master to conduct training and information presentations at three Occasional Grand Lodge communications and a Masonic Statewide Day of Training.

The subjects presented at these functions consisted of information regarding the various programs, services, and some administrative tools available to the Masonic Fraternity. The subjects were diverse and informative. The Craft was presented information on the following subjects:



1. Dusty Mason Program — This program is designed to assist Lodges and Brothers who have been absent from Masonry for a while. It helps bring long-absent Brothers back to Lodge and reacquaint them with rituals and tenants of Masonry.

2. The WestGate Experience — Brothers were briefed and reminded of this program and the importance of using it to bring potential prospects and candidates into Masonry and to continue engagement with them as they journey through their Degrees.

3. Grand View — Continued use and expansion of the capabilities of Grand View was a popular subject, especially during the Statewide Training Day. Many questions were asked during this session, which was also informative.

4. Creating A Partnership (CAP) and Lodge Repair & Improvement Grants — The presentations informed what is covered under the Creating A Partnership program, its reimbursement parameters, and submission requirements. The Lodge Repair & Improvement Grants program was briefed on its parameters also.

5. The School of Instruction — This subject was covered in two ways. During the Occasional Grand Lodge, in-person demonstrations were made on various aspects of the Ritual and our traditions. During the Statewide Day of Training, a more formal presentation was made using PowerPoint slides.

6. Background Checks — The Craft was given information on the new background check process. The use of the new system through Grand View was outlined.

7. Proper balloting procedures — This subject was discussed at the Statewide Day of Training only. The Craft was reminded of the process to bring a candidate to the point where they are balloted on.

8. Masonic Charities — A presentation was made on our Masonic charities and the programs associated with those charities.

The first Occasional Grand lodge took place in Medford with approximately 50 attendees. There was also a ladies program presented at that meeting while the tiled portion was in session. The second Occasional Grand Lodge took place in Salem with a similar number of attendees and they too had a ladies program. The final Occasional Grand Lodge took place in La Grande with over 40 attending and a ladies program.

The Masonic Day of Training took place in March with a coordinated effort among the Grand Lodge districts to host training sites for the day. Some districts had a decent number of attendees, other districts had few.

The morning session had the attendees listening to the presentations described in this report via Zoom followed by a lunch and then local area specific discussion and fellowship.

The Information and Education Committee would like to acknowledge the presenters in this report and thank them for their time and participation. The committee would also like to express its thanks to the Grand Lodge staff for their help and presentation during the Statewide Day of Training. The committee too would like to thank the District Deputies and Worshipful Masters for their help in making the Occasional Grand Lodge events happen. The District Deputies are also to be thanked for their roles in coordinating training site locations with their Worshipful Masters for the Statewide Day of Training.

Finally, the committee wishes to express their gratitude to M.W.B. Craig A. Sipp for his appointment of each of us to the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Cawley

Dale B. Palileo

Greg Hinkelman, Chairman

Brian Lackey

Cary Pugh

## **LIBRARY AND MUSEUM**

The Robert M. Richmond Memorial Library and Museum is a shining beacon for current and future researchers of our honorable ancient Craft.

Projects change from year to year for most committees, but not for your Library and Museum Committee.

Our focus is and always will be your library and museum.

The ongoing scanning of records has now taken your committee to begin the massive project of scanning the entire collection of the Oregon Freemason. The Oregon Freemason was the precursor to the Oregon Masonic News.

During this Masonic year, a total of 6,540 individual pages have been scanned. Currently it is estimated that 23,668 pages have been scanned and are available in our digital archives. This doesn't include donated papers, documents, certificates, and pictures which this year we have had many donated.

Every year there is a donation that stands out that has come into the archives and this year did not disappoint.

During Grand Master Sipp's trip to Grand Lodge of Alaska in February 2024, he was given a rare donation that had crossed two state borders.

M.W.B. Charles E. Wolverton's Past Grand Master apron was donated back to the Grand Lodge of Oregon after being in the possession of his descendants for many decades. This apron was added to your archives where it now lives with our other P.G.M. aprons, jewels, photographs, and papers.

The other item that was donated was what is believed to be the first banner for the Knights Templar Commandery in Oregon. This banner was carried along in many parades over its lifetime.

The museum is the repository for the Grand Lodge of Oregon's Lodge histories and has been since the new library and museum was built. The archives hold all of the early files for your Lodges along with the new submissions from Lodges concerning their yearly histories that all Worshipful Masters are responsible to make sure get written and shared to the Grand Historian. Last year less than 10% of Lodges submitted their histories to the Grand Historian per Oregon Code. This Masonic year I am happy to report that we jumped to 48% of Lodge submitted histories. This was with the help of the multiple reminders from the Grand Historian, Grand Lodge of Oregon staff, and our Grand Master, which was greatly appreciated.

With Lodges consolidating every year we must hope that their histories have been written and added to their new consolidated Lodge homes. If the histories upon consolidation were not compiled, then it's another example of undocumented history that has become erased to time.

Fraternally submitted,  
Kristopher L. Fahndrich  
David K. Moore  
Johnny J. Edwards, Grand Historian

Richard A. Ling, Jr.  
William H. Sparks, III

### **LODGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY**

The Oregon Masonic Code Section 146B defines the duties of the Lodge Management and Advisory Committee as follows: "To endeavor to ensure effective leadership; to improve the knowledge, understanding and interest of the members; to ensure the financial integrity of the Lodge; and to enhance the community relations and public image of Masonry and to perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Grand Master".

The committee communicated with Lodges on four occasions regarding issues. They included Lodge consolidation issues pertaining to copies

of the By-Laws not being properly submitted, following the Code on voting, and proper installation of officers.

We would like to thank M.W.B. Craig A. Sipp for the opportunity to serve the Craft in the role of Lodge assistance for this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
John F. Ferguson  
William A. Taylor  
Timothy J. Best, Chairman

Michael A. Kreger  
James R. Westerfield

## **LONG RANGE PLANNING**

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) has been meeting on a monthly basis to identify issues with a significant impact on the long-term success of Masonry in Oregon. Due to our location throughout the jurisdiction and our busy schedules, we continued to use Zoom software to conduct our meetings remotely.

As we discussed these issues, one issue rose to the top as one of critical importance throughout the jurisdiction and, in many cases, to the survival of our Lodges in some communities. The buildings which we own and meet in are a critical resource for our Lodges and our appendant and concordant bodies. They are also a key, visible symbol of our existence in our communities. These buildings are often the most important tangible assets of the Lodges. Sadly, in too many cases, our buildings take a back seat to other priorities and don't get the attention they deserve. As was expressed by a speaker at the Western Conference of Grand Masters, we need to determine whether our buildings are an asset or a liability to our Lodges.

We decided that the exclusive focus of the LRPC should be on providing our Lodges with suggestions and tools for better managing their buildings.

R.W.B. Dale D. Wiley deserves much of the credit for taking on the challenge of turning our discussions into a draft manual for use by Lodges in managing their buildings.

Once we had a draft before us, we went through several versions as we tried to make sure the document was a useful guide to Lodges while allowing them to customize for their situation. There are five sections to the manual plus six appendices.

The five sections are:

1. Definitions
2. Governance, Planning, and Accounting

3. Building Evaluation
4. Capital Reserve Budget and Planning
5. Building Use Agreements

The appendices are examples of various types of budgets and of a capital plan. Also included is Section Three from the Secretaries Handbook that deals with rental agreements.

The Grand Lodge Trustees have reviewed the document and have endorsed it for publication.

We all look forward to this manual being used by Lodges to better manage their buildings and to continue to have positive and visible homes in our communities to serve this Jurisdiction.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gregory Gilbert  
Dale Wiley  
Richard D. Varner, Chairman

James V. Munson  
Earlie A. Wilson

### **MASONIC CEMETERIES**

No report submitted.

### **MASONIC INSTRUCTION**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Esteemed Officers, and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Oregon, A.F. & A.M.:

In accordance with our timeless traditions and the directives outlined in Section 131 of the Oregon Masonic Code, it is my honor to present the annual report for the Committee on Masonic Instruction for the Masonic year.

This year has been marked by the diligent application of our labors to the fundamental task of Masonic education — the very cornerstone upon which the edifice of our Fraternal engagements rests.

Through concerted efforts, we have achieved a commendable milestone in our educational endeavors. The committee has overseen the issuance of 60 proficiency cards, a testament to the rigorous study and dedication of our Brethren. Among these, five were awarded for Intermediate Proficiency in the Entered Apprentice Degree and five for Advanced Proficiency, with the remaining 50 recognizing the attainment of Basic Proficiency.

The success of this year's instruction would not have been possible without the exemplary commitment of our trainers and testers. These

Brethren have acted as the custodians of our Masonic knowledge, ensuring its accurate passage to the forthcoming generation.

With utmost gratitude, we recognize the following Brethren for their service:

**Instructors and Assistant Instructors for Basic Schools of**

**Instruction:**

Art Borland	Dave Fryday	Jim Akers
Art McGhehey	Ed Bousquet	Joe Fontana
Bill Taylor	Eric Headley	John Ferguson
Billy Thompson	Eric Young	John Lohrfink
Cary Pugh	Ian Cawley	Roland Kari
Daniel De La Rosa	James Morgan	Shaun Weaver

**Proficiency Card Testers:**

Art McGhehey	James Bowers	Michael Kreger
Bill Taylor	James Morgan	Michael Sullivan
Bob Richardson	Jim Akers	Nick Nieffenegger
Daniel De La Rosa	Joe Fontana	Ralph Winters
Eric Headley	John Ferguson	Richard Southard
Eric Young	John Hatton	Shaun Weaver
Fritz Thomas	John Lohrfink	Steven Rienks
Gene Foster	John Quiroz	Vern Wertz
Ian Cawley	John Turner	W. Jay Carey

Each named Brother has displayed an unwavering dedication to the Craft and its perpetual advancement through instruction. Their invaluable contribution to our Masonic education cannot be overstated. Our sincerest apologies if we have miscredited, missed, or overlooked the contributions of a Brother.

The committee looks forward to another successful year in 2024-2025.

Fraternally and respectfully submitted,

Adam M. Bayer

Robert L. Fountain

Dale B. Palileo, Chairman

W. Ryan Buys

Michael D. Robinson

## **MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICITY**

To the Grand Master, Grand Officers, Brethren all:

The committee convening over the past several years realized that membership may be solely in the hands of each Lodge. It is the responsibility of each Master and the membership of each Lodge to be responsible for maintaining the membership rolls.

Without a viable, visible Lodge with pride and obligation to bring our light to the community in which they were chartered, there is not a silver bullet that fits all Lodges and repairs all the deficiencies necessary to maintain a stable or growth-related Lodge.

There has been a slow increase in the age of the men of the fraternity, and with it, a lack of response to the needs of the communities they inhabit. The societal changes seen in church attendance, and other fraternal organizations reflects a citizen group, less in search of personal growth, and less reflection on the role as a servant of their creator.

We believe there are those within our society, that do seek the relevance or our teaching and companionship. However, we also see a decrease in the fervency of our Brethren to offer their gifts to them.

Each Lodge needs to prepare to either grow or surrender their charter. Several of our Lodges are doing very well. Great programs of competency of Ritual, bonding of Brotherhood, review of performance, offering high quality surroundings, food and refreshment, community outreach, providing the high-quality program that the new Mason expected, and is in awe when first exposed.

The Grand Lodge can offer assistance with advertising, etc., but if the novice finds that our sales pitch is hollow, and our zeal lacking, our numbers will not grow. We must demand our officers lead all of us, to be true to the oaths we take, the virtues we profess, and the reverence we allude to.

We can not accept less than extraordinary performance of our fraternity if we expect it to prosper.

Other community fraternities and clubs are failing. We must not.

The activities of the committee have been to demonstrate who and what Masons are and have made a personal commitment to foster bringing men to light. We have used committee funds to sponsor public awareness of our fraternity at venues where good men may gather. We have sent shirts, mugs, flyers, and pamphlets to Lodges holding events and offered financial assistance to help these events succeed. We are in the process of offering a guide to generate quality digital and video

marketing that may help Lodges reach the new modern man.

Masonry has been depicted with movies, television, digital marketing with positive images of the fraternity. Young men are searching for answers and positive relationships. Now each Lodge must develop their own path to survival, and we will help. The Grand Lodge website, and the Scottish Rite/ Shrine website both provide Lodges with leads from inquires. Many Lodges are trying to excite this interest by communicating with these men in hopes they be better informed as possibly choose to be a Mason. Some fail to light the candle when offered to them.

Each Lodge, or Lodges working together, must develop outreach programs to inform the good men seeking better lives to investigate a Masonic life.

It is not possible for us to develop a silver bullet that we “cure” every Lodges loss of numbers. Each Lodge, location, and demographics are different and will require unique programs to fill their roles.

Every Lodge is encouraged to visit Lodges that are growing, Lodges that are holding their own, and learn why. Each Master should lead a visitation to see what works at these Lodges spend some time, feel the difference. Likewise, a visit to the Lodges failing may provide an example of what doesn't work, and your visit may provide a positive influence to strike a new motivation and may be just the medicine needed.

This is more than a report of the Membership Committee, it is the hope of a few men, in hopes that a few more good men will find a few good men, that may have friends that are good men and will find Masonry just what was missing in their life.

Be a good man. Find a new friend and spread the word. As a fictional TV character once said, “It is the way.”

Respectfully submitted.

Brian Kaufman

Forrest Hatch

Grant I. Sharp, Chairman

Terin J. Mueller

Michael Newgard

## **NECROLOGY**

Now comes the most difficult part of my year as Grand Chaplain. In all of my other prayers to the Great Architect, I have thanked you for the great days, thanked you for our Brothers in Pioneering Masonry Forward with our Grand Master, thanked you for the opportunity for the fellowship of our gathered Brothers, asked you to keep our service men



and women safe, thanked you for the food, the hands that prepared it, the nourishment to our bodies, and that we may serve him. At this time, we will be praying for 360 Brothers that have passed on.

When I was 18, my Grand Pa Miller passed away. He was quite old, and I accepted that it was his time. As I stood at his grave site service, I began to think of the things that I remembered about my Grand Pa. The gobs of bacon he would fix for my sister and I and the huge garden he had. My cousins and I would go into the rows of peas to pick and eat them on the spot. He would always catch us and always yell at us to get out of there. I thought he was very mad at us. As I stood there at his grave and tears started to swell in my eyes, I realized he probably enjoyed every moment of that. Now that I have grandkids, I know he did. A very roller coaster of emotion.

We will ride that roller coaster today as we think about our Brothers that have passed on. There will be many things that we remember. We will remember them as good men, we will remember their Ritualistic work, we will remember their portrayal of King Solomon, or the First Fellowcraft, or one of the Ruffians, or a lecture they gave, or standing on the level as a Brother, and their commitment to their Brothers, the Masonic Order, and to the community.

As we watch the listing of our Brothers who have passed, please stand for your Lodge Members and for Brothers who had an impact on your life.

Let us Pray.

*Supreme Grand Master, we bless Your name in thanks for all those who have entered their rest. We ask especially that you keep alive in us the memories of our Brothers, whom you have called out of this world. Lift our eyes beyond the shadows of earth and help us to see the light of eternity which rests with You.*

*Amen*

Most Worshipful Grand Master thank you for asking me to be Grand Chaplain and accompany you on this journey of *Pioneering Masonry Forward*.

Respectively submitted,  
Mark Reed  
Tracy M. Harris, Chairman

Michael Newgard

## **PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Most Worshipful Master:

It is, among other things, the duty of this committee to report on the operation of the public schools in order to perpetuate them. The state budget for public education is in excess of \$121 billion dollars for the 2023-2025 term. It is in no danger of going away. I could end this report here, but I feel this is not the only intent of Section 146a of the Code. I would like to comment upon a phone call I received from a Brother Mason this year on the subject.

This Mason and his Lodge were concerned with the direction that he felt public schools were going, and whether we should continue to be participating with them, since the school's teachings may not coincide with our core values. I believe that many in the Fraternity may share the same opinion.

While I agree that many of the things being taught in the schools are not beneficial, I do not agree that we should stop supporting them. If anything, I feel that we should endeavor to make them an even higher priority.

Why do we do it? What do we as a fraternity gain from the public schools? If we aid and assist the youth to hopefully make them better people, people who are intelligent free thinkers much like the founders of our fraternity, we will show them that good men and Masons help others. Furthermore, because large school systems will never listen to others in what to teach and how to teach it for fear of losing their power, our only way to influence is to give without asking and lead without telling. Then hopefully others will listen without fear.

When I said this to our questioning Brother, he said he didn't see how it is helping us. Especially the small Lodges with few finances. I could not blame him because there are no short-term direct changes that we can make that will affect a \$121 billion dollar system. However, we need to look to the long-term. We can hope to see a few glimmers of our teachings helping to guide our youth in their futures. We will, through our efforts, hopefully cause these youth to see that Masons help kids. In turn, this may cause those same youth to think and say "Hey dad, if Masons help kids, are you a Mason? Why or why not?"

In conclusion, when we ask ourselves why we are giving our time and money to the public schools, that is the answer we need to look at. We cannot tell the schools what to teach or what is important, but we can lead by example and show our youth what it is to be a Mason.

Isn't that truly the basis of what we need? To perpetuate our schools, our country, and our fraternity.

Respectfully submitted,

Will A. Benson

Budd L. Colling

Theodor C. "Ted" Huber, Jr., Chairman

Eric S. Bradford

Milan T. Haskell

### **TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

The Technical Standards Committee members attended the 2023 Annual Communication as usual and operated the cameras, overhead projection system, and e-voting system. As in years past, this was a very successful session.

The Committee has not spent any of their budget at the time of this report.

An audit of equipment will need to be conducted before the 2024-2025 Annual Communication. At this time a replacement tripod and spider stand for the cameras will be needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles O. Cornell

Carl A. Robinson

Mark Cook, Chairman

William S. Painter

Adam A. Epstein

### **TRUSTEES**

The Grand Lodge of Oregon By-Laws Section 108.2 requires the Deputy Grand Master, "To prepare and present annually to the Grand Lodge a summary of the transactions of the Trustees since the preceding Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge." In the Oregon Masonic Code under Section 18.1 it states the following "Trustees of the Grand Lodge 1. Personnel – The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, and Immediate Past Grand Master shall be the Trustees of the Grand Lodge." Also in attendance at these meetings are the Grand Secretary to record the proceedings, the Grand Treasurer to provide financial updates and the Senior Grand Deacon who attends to observe and prepare for his role as the incoming Junior Grand Warden.

The Grand Lodge Trustees meet monthly, generally at the Grand Lodge headquarters in Forest Grove, Ore. This past year, all Trustees attended each meeting as we take this role very seriously. These meetings give us the opportunity to discover what is happening in our Lodges, and how to assist them in the best way possible. During the meetings the Trustees also review the expenses of the Grand Lodge and approve the disbursement of funds. We review the Educational Assistance applications and vote on the approval of acceptance and funding. We review the recommendations of the Oregon Masonic Charitable Foundation board pertaining to Creating A Partnership disbursements. We also review the Lodge Repair & Improvement Grant applications which has been very successful in helping our Lodges maintain the upkeep of the Lodge buildings.

Some of the other actions the Trustees have taken this year include providing financial relief to the Grand Lodge of Hawaii due to the Maui fires in and around Lahaina. Authorizing improvements to Grand View that will assist the Lodges such as helping with the dues statements and being able to pay dues online, along with utilizing OneSource as an option for background checks for potential candidates. We have also approved the ability to assist with Lodge Degrees by giving the Brethren the ability to input what Degree work they are able to assist another Lodge with. And then the ability to access limited member information. On the same day that the Trustees meet, this group also meets with the ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star. Together they make up the Masonic and Eastern Star Home (MESH) Board. The MESH Board is charged with the oversight of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home along with the MasonicAid programs.

During the year, the Trustees traveled to nine other Grand Jurisdictions. In addition to this the Trustees also traveled to Seattle, Wash. in February to attend the Western Conference of Grand Masters and the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. At this year's conference a lot of the topics were related to membership and the issues facing the jurisdictions. These trips are a great resource as we can meet with our counterparts from across the country, gain new ideas and share experiences, and make connections to help us improve Masonry in Oregon. We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to represent the Brethren of Oregon during our travels. In closing, I would like to thank each member of the Board for their hard work and dedication to the Craft this year. It has been a pleasure to serve with you. As a group, we wish to thank you for your continued support of the Boad of Trustees throughout the year and giving us the privilege to serve.

Respectfully submitted,  
Timothy J. Best  
Deputy Grand Master

## **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

Every youth in Oregon should have an opportunity to develop leadership skills within the walls of a Masonic Lodge and experience the richness of our Masonic family heritage. The Masonic youth groups need project managers, problem solvers, number crunchers, marketers, builders, technology, planners, communicators, trainers, creativity, relationship builders, and your time. Without your leadership and involvement in our Masonic youth groups, their continued existence would be in jeopardy.

The 2023-2024 Youth Activities Committee established two goals at the start of the year.

Goal 1: Raise awareness of Masonic youth activities through regular articles in the Oregon Masonic News.

Outcome 1: The committee sent articles representing Masonic youth each month the Oregon Masonic News was published.

Goal 2: Schedule a Masonic Youth Day at Oaks Park on August 10, 2024, and an "All Youth Event" at Salem Scottish Rite on March 1, 2025. One more event is in the planning stage for an "All Youth Event" at the Shrine Center in Wilsonville.

Outcome 2: The Grand Lodge Secretary reserved Oaks Park for August 10, 2024 and has sent to each of the Masonic Youth Groups a save the date.

As our Grand Master pointed out in his Grand Master's message "Building Tomorrow's Leaders: A Mason's Call to Support Youth Organizations", published in the March 2024 Oregon Masonic News, the support to our Youth Organizations is critical to their success. Whether you are a board member or just attend their meetings, it makes a huge difference.

We thank the Grand Master for our appointment to this committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
D. Grant Mobley  
Scott Freeman  
Wayne Metz, Chairman

Travis Bryan

## **REPORTS REQUIRING ADOPTION**

### **CODE**

In compliance with Section 24.3 (c) of the Masonic Code of Oregon, the Code Committee completed the following report after reviewing all proposed legislation for presentation at the 2024 174th Annual Communications.

The report is divided into two sections:

The First Section is a report on Late Legislation carried over from the 173rd Annual Communication in 2023.

The Second Section is a report on Proposed Amendments to specific sections of the Constitution and By-Laws at the 174th Annual Communication in 2024.

### **First Section: Late Legislation carried over from the 173rd Annual Communication**

#### **1. Section 128.22 Powers and Duties of the Trustees of the Grand Lodge, Liability Insurance.**

This proposal was submitted by R.W.B. Craig A. Sipp, DGM, R.W.B. Timothy J. Best, SGW and R.W.B. Marc L. Strong, JGW and proposed to add "or Accident" to paragraph 22. Section 128.22 was found to be in order. However, the Companion Legislation in Section 213 Lodges Powers, Duties and Limitations included a typographical error in paragraph 34 where a second "or Accident" had been inadvertently left out. The Code Committee found Section 128.22 and Companion Section 213.34 to be properly prepared in order and form.

#### **2. Section 130A.2: Committee on the Budget, duties of:**

This proposal was submitted by R.W.B. Craig A. Sipp, DGM, R.W.B. Richard C. Southard, DD #22 and R.W.B. Brian D. Lackey, DD #21 and proposed in paragraph 4 to increase Proposed Expenditures Referred from ~~one hundred~~ to One Thousand dollars. Although Section 130A.2 was in proper form, the Companion Legislation Section 159.4 included a typographical error. The Companion Legislation was resubmitted by R.W.B. Craig A. Sipp, DGM, R.W.B. Timothy J. Best, SGW and R.W.B. Marc L. Strong, JGW with the error corrected. The Code Committee found Section 130A.2 and Companion Section 159.4 to be properly prepared in order and form.

### 3. Section 269 Jewels:

This proposal was originally submitted as Late Legislation by M.W.B. Myles McMillan, PGM, M.W.B. Hunt Compton, PGM and R.W.B. Marc L. Strong, JGW and proposed to include "Historian, an Open Book with Quill" into paragraph 1 describing the Jewel of the Lodge Historian. Due to bad weather and the lack of original or "wet" signatures, Section 269 Jewels was resubmitted by MWB James L. Morgan, PGM and Grand Secretary, RWB Timothy J. Best, SGW and RWB Marc L. Strong JGW. The Code Committee found Section 269 to be properly prepared in order and form.

### Second Section:

#### **Proposed Amendments to specific sections of the Constitution and By-Laws at the 174th Annual Communication in 2024**

1. A proposed amendment to the **Ritual** to *change the order of opening Great and Lesser lights in all opening and closing ceremonies* was presented by Robert Merrill-Colberg, SW, Bandon (130), Fritz H. Thomas, DD 15, PM, Bandon (130), Cary Pugh, DI Southwest, PM, Blanco (48) and George G. Seely, PM, Myrtle (78). This proposal was prepared in a manner consistent with presenting Legislation Proposed to Amend the Code. However, in the past, Customs and Usages for changes in the Ritual have been presented in Resolution Format through the Resolutions Committee. Consequently, between the Code Committee Chair and the Grand Secretary it was determined that this proposed Legislation should be presented as a resolution and that the Code Committee can consider this proposed legislation withdrawn. The author of the proposal may choose to submit it as a Resolution for the 2025 Annual Communication.

The Code Committee recommends that Legislation be prepared to change the Code to reflect that the proper method of proposing change to the Ritual is by Resolution. As a suggestion, a potential location would be in Section 161.1 **(b) to accommodate amending the Ritual**. The wording could be somewhat similar to Section 24 substituting such words as "Constitution" and "Code" with "Ritual" or "Resolution" as well as any other changes to conform to proper methods of presenting a Resolution for consideration to change the Ritual.

The reason for this potential change is to make it clear in the Code how to request potential changes in the Ritual. In addition, it will



likely prevent delays to proponents of the change having to rewrite the request in proper format.

2. A proposed Amendment to **Section 18 Trustees of the Grand Lodge** was presented by D. Arthur Bush, PGM 2009-2010, Robert Burns (97), Ed Bousquet, PGM 2010-2011, McEwen (125), David H. Fryday PGM 2013-2014, Salem (4) and Anthony S. Chase PM, Salem (4). This amendment adds a 3rd paragraph to Section 18 indicating “**Eligibility for Office, Grand Lodge Trustees-Grand Lodge Trustees shall not hold a leadership position in any Concordant or Appendant bodies.**”

The Code Committee found Section 18 to comply with Section 24.2(a) format, but not properly prepared per Section 24.3(c). Section 24.3(c) requires amendments to reconcile any conflicts with the Code. No such Companion Legislation was provided. If approved there would be an immediate conflict specifically as it pertains to RWB Richard D. Varner, JGW who is presently Worthy Grand Patron Order of the Eastern Star of Oregon. For the record, RWB Varner cannot resign from the Grand Lodge progression nor can he resign from the OES progression.

The proposal contains no remedy for Non Compliance. According to Penal Code Section 301.4, the Grand Master may find RWB Varner subject to a Masonic Offense. Conflicts may, in addition to Section 18 and 301.4, include but not be limited to:

Section 14.2 Eligibility for Office would need to be amended to include the proposed exclusion.

Section 128.14 Powers and Duties of the Trustees of the Grand Lodge where he shall be a representative on the MESH Board; and,  
Section 166 Masonic and Eastern Star Home duties.

In addition, the term “Leadership” may have to be defined.

Further, Section 1 Landmarks paragraph 16 states “That no Lodge can interfere in the business or labor of another Lodge.” This legislation would restrict the Trustees by interfering with the operation of the recognized Concordant and Appendant bodies.

Further, and acknowledging the reason proposed is a part of the proposal but not included in the Code Change, it implies “...the same basic guidelines for the Grand Lodge Trustees that apply at the Lodge level...” referring to Section 203.5. This is confusing as the limiting proposal refers to Concordant or Appendant bodies. Does the proposal prevent a Grand Lodge Trustee from being a Master or Warden of a constituent Lodge? Clarification is needed.

The Code Committee Recommends the proposal be withdrawn. One potential remedy may be to “Grandfather” or waive Masonic Offenses



specifically for RWB Varner. A search of our Proceedings from 1851 through 2011 found one Grandfathered issue, that of grandfathering certain lifetime proficiency cardholders at the 151st annual communications in 2001. Such a proposal to Legislate “Grandfathering” may come back to bite us someday.

3. A proposed Amendment to **Section 201 Lodge, Definition** was presented by Michael D. Robinson, Esoterika (227), Sergio Perez, Eugene (11), and Christian Garrett, Cottage Grove (51). Although the signers did not list their “Title”, they were all recognized as eligible signers. This amendment proposes to add “or Volume of the Sacred Law” following “Holy Bible” to further define a “Lodge”. The Code Committee found this Proposal to Section 201 Lodge, Definition complies with Section 24.2(a). However, the committee also found references to “Holy Bible” in several publications including the Code, Code Appendix Resolutions, the Ritual and the Etiquette Book.

Per Section 140 Duties of Committee on the Code, the Code Committee is to see that the proposal is not in conflict with any other Section or Sections. Per Section 150 Resolutions, How Submitted paragraph 3 states in part (Paraphrasing) the Resolution “does not conflict with the Code” If this proposal is passed there will be a conflict with the “Resolution on Statement on Freemasonry and Religion” as well as the Etiquette Book page 20 “Dignity”. Why is this? The proposal uses the term “or” between “Holy Bible” and Volume of the Sacred Law”. This proposal gives the option to use the Holy Bible “OR Volume of the Sacred Law. Not having an “open Holy Bible” is in conflict with the Ritual, Resolution and Etiquette book all of which require the Holy Bible to be “open”, otherwise, the Lodge is not in Session.

Because there is no Companion Legislation to correct these conflicts, the Code Committee finds the proposal while in proper form is not properly prepared per Section 24.3(c).

4. A proposed Amendment to **Section 203 Eligibility for Office, Constituent Lodges** was presented by Randy L. Kent, WM Belt (18), William J. Roll, DD 16, Grants Pass (84), Greg Gilbert, WM Grants Pass (84), Jon A. Torbert, WM Rogue River (226) and Lewis S. Lyons, WM Sidney Croft (206). This amendment proposes to change Section 203.5 **Limitation of Office of Master and Warden** as follows: The Master or Warden of a Lodge may not be a Master ~~or Warden~~ of another Lodge at the same time. The Warden of a Lodge may only serve as a Master or Warden of one other Lodge at the same time.

The reason stated is to permit smaller Lodges at risk of forced consolidation to have time to rebuild membership in order to maintain its chartered status.

The Code Committee believes the intent of this proposal is twofold:

One, Prevent a Master of one Lodge from being the Master of another Lodge at the same time, and

Two, Allow a Warden of a Lodge to be either Master or Warden of another Lodge at the same time for the reason stated.

The reason stated is to preserve the continuity of an existing Lodge, which may otherwise be forced to consolidate or surrender its Charter. As the reason is written, it is counterproductive to itself by the limitation of a Warden from serving only as a Master or Warden of another Lodge and not any other office. This is in Conflict with (same) Section 203.4.

Section 203.4 states one exception to being eligible for office in Section 224.1, which specifies you have not acquired Membership until after having completed certain requirements. Other than that, Section 203.4 states in part, "...any member...shall be eligible to ANY office in the Lodge except that of Master". Again, the proposal states "The Warden...may only serve as Master or Warden..." thereby denying serving in any other office.

The Code Committee found Section 203.5 to comply with Section 24.2(a) format, but not properly prepared per Section 24.3(c). Section 24.3(c) requires amendments to reconcile any conflicts with the Code. No such Companion Legislation was provided. The Code Committee Recommends the proposal be withdrawn.

Finally, I wish to thank the members of the Code Committee for their due diligence and support in reviewing the proposed legislative code amendments. I also wish to thank the Grand Master for allowing me to serve as chair of the Code Committee for this past year.

### **ADDENDUM**

Subsequent to submitting our original report on or before February 22, 2024, the Code Committee was in error with the Code in its conclusion on three specific proposals. Consequently, we are submitting this report as an addendum to the original report. This Addendum rescinds and restates our conclusion on three proposals in the Second Section of our report found in the Second Section namely:

Number 2: Section 18 Trustees of the Grand Lodge

Number 3: Section 201 Lodge, Definition and

Number 4: Section 203 Eligibility for Office, Constituent Lodges

Whereas Section 24.3 (c) directs the Code Committee to check proposed amendments with the Code to determine that it is properly prepared, and, when in conflict with other portions of the Code, to prepare amendments necessary to reconcile such conflicts, and

Whereas the Code Committee Report has recommended specific proposals to be “withdrawn”, rather than submitting Companion Legislation to reconcile perceived conflicts, and,

Whereas the Code Committee received an invitation from the Grand Master Sipp to actually prepare Companion Legislation where needed as stated in Section 24.3 (c),

Now therefore be it resolved that the Code Committee has submitted as a third section of our report three proposals as late companion Legislation for the purpose of rescinding our recommendation from “withdrawal” to actually reconciling the perceived conflict.

If the report is favorable, adopted, and passed, the following three proposals will be carried forward to be presented at the 175th Annual Communication in 2025 in Seaside, Ore.

### **Third Section:**

#### **Late Companion Legislation Proposed Carry Over Summary:**

1. **Section 18 Trustees of the Grand Lodge:** The original proposed to read “Eligibility for Office, Grand Lodge Trustees-Grand Lodge Trustees shall not hold a leadership position in any Concordant or Appendant bodies”

The Code Committee recognized that if Section 18.3 passed, conflicts may include:

a. R.W.B. Richard D. Varner, JGW and Worthy Grand Patron of the Order of Eastern Star is in immediate violation of the proposal to Section 18.3. Upon rejecting this by Jurisprudence, it just means that R.W.B. Varner, JGW would not be eligible to “Stand” for the position of Senior Grand Warden. This proposal is not in conflict with the Code.

b. A conceivable violation of landmark 16 “That no Lodge can interfere in the business or labor of another Lodge”. Jurisprudence position is that it would not be a conflict therefore no longer in conflict;

c. There is no mention of a penalty for violation. However, according to Section 314.:Z(b) Pleadings) “...the Trial Commission shall...render judgment and penalty...” In Section

317.1 Penalties and Their Administration in a Lodge, penalties may be

Reprimand, Stay of Advancement, Indefinite Suspension or Expulsion. In Section 349.2(b) Pleading, the “...Trial Board shall...render judgment and penalty. In Section 351.3 Guilty Mason

Notified, penalties may be Stay of Advancements, Indefinite suspension or Expulsion.

Section 352.1 the penalty may also include a Reprimand.

The Code Committee apologizes for considering a potential penalty for violation as this is adequately covered in Part Four Penal Code. Jurisprudence position is that no companion legislation is needed.

However, the Code Committee still feels that Companion Legislation is necessary to be included in Section 14 because the proposal for Section 18 contains “eligibility requirement” at affect Section 14.

**2 Section 201 Lodge, Definition:** The Code Committee attempted to resolve a conflict within Section 201 if the proposal was adopted. The attempt was not in compliance with Section 24.3(c)

The conflict is that using the word “or” between “Holy Bible” and “Volume of the Sacred Law” provides an “option” to open Lodge without the Holy Bible. It is very clear in the Ritual, Resolution on Statement on Freemasonry and Religion and the Etiquette Book page 20 “Dignity” that the Holy Bible shall be open. Not having the Open Holy Bible means the Lodge is not in Session.

The Companion Legislation is the only way the Code Committee knows to attempt to thwart a “Conflict” and that way is to suggest a change in the proposed legislation language by Companion Legislation.

The Code Committee rescinds its original decision that the proposal is “not properly prepared”. By submitting the Companion Legislation to point out Section 201 will be in conflict if approved the Code Committee suggests changing the wording to prevent the conflict.

**3 Section 203 Eligibility for Office, Constituent Lodges:** The Code Committee attempted to alter the original language in the proposal to Section 203.5 by deleting the word “only” which restricts Lodge Wardens to “only” serve as a Master or Warden of one other Lodge at the same time. The Late Legislation to change the wording is not allowed under Section 24.3(c). Consequently, the Committee submitted Late Companion Legislation to Section 203.4 to coincide with the proposal to Section 203.5 to resolve the conflict between Sections 203.4 and 2.3.5.

Respectfully submitted,  
Adam M. Bayer  
Tracy M. Harris  
L.L. “Vern” Beito, P.G.M., Chairman

Hunt M. Compton, PGM  
Gregory A. Hinkelman

## **JURISPRUDENCE**

The following is the consensus opinion of the Jurisprudence Committee regarding the 2024 Proposed Code Amendments and Resolutions:

### **First Section:**

#### **Late Legislation Carried over from the 173rd Annual Communication 2023**

##### **1. Amendment to the Code Section 128.22. Powers and duties of the Trustees of the Grand Lodge, Liability Insurance.**

This Proposed Amendment appears to be in proper form and ready for consideration.

Three-fourths (3/4) of the votes cast is required for adoption.

##### **2. Amendment to the Code Section 130A.2. Committee on the Budget, duties of:**

This Proposed Amendment and its “Companion” legislation Code Section, 159.4 to be in proper form and ready for consideration.

Three-fourths (3/4) of the votes cast is required for adoption.

##### **3. Amendment to the Code Section 269. Jewels**

This Proposed Amendment appears to be in proper form and ready for consideration.

Three-fourths (3/4) of the votes cast is required for adoption.

### **Second Section:**

#### **Proposed Legislation to the Code for the 174th Annual Communication 2024**

##### **1. Amendment to the Ritual**

This proposed Amendment to the Ritual is out of order. In the past, customs and usages for changes to the Ritual have been presented in the Resolution format and through the Resolutions Committee. The Code Committee Chair and the Grand Secretary have determined that this proposed Legislation is out of order and considered withdrawn.

Committee on Jurisprudence agrees that this proposed legislation should be withdrawn.

**2. Amendment to Code Section 14 Eligibility for Office**

This legislation is no longer required as Companion Legislation to Section 18; Trustee of the Grand Lodge. Proposed legislation to Code Section 18 has been withdrawn.

**3. Amendment to Code Section 18 Trustees of the Grand Lodge**

This legislation has been withdrawn by its proponents.

**4. Amendment to Code Section 201. Lodge, Definition**

NOW READS:

**Sec. 201. Lodge, Definition —**

A Lodge is a certain number of Brethren duly assembled, with the Holy Bible, Square and Compasses, and a Charter or Dispensation authorizing them to do Masonic work.

PROPOSED TO READ:

**Sec. 201. Lodge, Definition —**

A Lodge is a certain number of Brethren duly assembled, with the Holy Bible, Square and Compasses, and a Charter or Dispensation authorizing them to do Masonic work. In addition, a Volume of the Sacred Law may accompany the Holy Bible.

This proposed Amendment to *Code Section 201. Lodge Definition* has come from the Code Committee as Late Legislation and as such will go to the floor to be voted on in order to make it “Carry Over” Legislation for the 2025 Annual Communication.

A majority vote of the ballots cast is required to carry this Legislation over.

**5. Amendment to Code Section 203. Eligibility for Office, Constituent Lodges**

NOW READS:

**Sect. 203. Eligibility for Office, Constituent Lodges —**

1. Office of Master – The Master of a Constituent Lodge must be a member thereof.
2. The Master of a Constituent Lodge must have been duly elected and installed a Master or Warden in a

regularly constituted Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, provided in case of emergency, the Lodge may elect a member not so qualified, but no member so elected shall be installed except authority of a Dispensation issued by the Grand Master.

3. A Master of a Lodge Under dispensation need not have served as a Master or Warden.

4. Eligibility for Other Offices- Except as provided in Sec. 224.1 any member of a Lodge shall be eligible to any office in the Lodge except that of Master. The Chaplain, Musician and Tyler need not be members of the Lodge.

5. Limitations of Master and Warden – The Master or Warden of a Lodge may not be a Master or Warden of another Lodge at the same time.

PROPOSED TO READ:

**Sect. 203. Eligibility for Office, Constituent Lodges —**

1. NO CHANGE TO THIS PARAGRAPH

2. NO CHANGE TO THIS PARAGRAPH

3. NO CHANGE TO THIS PARAGRAPH

4. Eligibility for Other Offices:

Except as provided in Sec, 224.1 and Sec.203.5, any member of a Lodge shall be eligible to any office in the Lodge except that of Master. The Chaplain, Musician and Tyler need not be members of the Lodge.

5. The Master ~~or Warden~~ of a Lodge shall not be a Master or Warden of another Lodge at the same time.

The Warden of a Lodge may only serve as a Master or Warden of one other Lodge at the same time.

NOTE: Section 203.5 is presented as the original proposal. If Section 203.5 is adopted, neither this note nor the original proposal presented as paragraph 5 herein will appear in the Code as presented here, only the adopted proposal to paragraph 5 will appear in the Code.

This proposed Amendment to Code Section 203, Eligibility for Office, Constituent Lodges- has come from the Code Committee as Late Legislation and as such will go to the floor to be voted on in order to make it “Carry Over” Legislation for the 2025 Annual Communication.

A majority vote of the ballots cast is required to carry this Legislation over.

The following is the consensus opinion of the Committee on Jurisprudence regarding the 2024 Proposed Resolutions:

**1. RESOLUTION:** Consolidated and Updated Guidelines for the Hiram Award

The Resolution Committee received this proposed resolution entitled “Consolidated and Updated Guidelines for the Hiram Award.” This proposal is to consolidate previous resolutions on the Hiram Award into one resolution. This was received by Grand Lodge on December 26, 2023.

The Resolution Committee found this resolution to be in proper form.

The Committee on Jurisprudence agrees with the Resolution Committee and also finds this resolution to be in proper form and ready for consideration.

A vote of (2/3) is required for adoption

**2. RESOLUTION:** To Confer Honorary Membership

The Resolution Committee received a proposed resolution according Honorary Membership to distinguished visitors. This is for Lodge membership for dignitaries who visit the Annual Communication. This was written by the Resolution Committee on December 18, 2023.

The Resolution Committee found the resolution to be in proper form.

The Committee on Jurisprudence agrees with the Resolution Committee and also finds this resolution to be in proper form and ready for consideration.

A vote of (2/3) is required for adoption.

This concludes the Committee on Jurisprudences report on Resolutions.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Ed Bousquet, P.G.M.

Ronald J. Eggers, P.G.M.

D. Arthur Bush, P.G.M., Chairman

David H. Fryday, P.G.M.

Richard E. Surroz, P.G.M.

**RECOGNITION OF OTHER GRAND LODGES**

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates, Brethren all, your Committee on Recognition of Other Grand Lodges would like to report on four requests for recognition we have received since our last Grand Lodge session.



I want to begin by reviewing the standards used when considering requests for recognition. These standards were adopted by the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America in 1952 and have been used by most regular Grand Lodges since that time when considering whether Grand Lodges should be recognized. They are summarized as follows:

1. Legitimacy of origin.
2. Exclusive territorial jurisdiction, except by mutual consent and/or treaty.
3. Adherence to the Ancient landmarks: Specifically, a belief in God, the Volume of the Sacred Law as an indispensable part of the Furniture of the Lodge, and a prohibition of the discussion of politics and religion.

### **Grand Oriente Da Bahai - GOBA**

We have received a request for recognition from the Grand Oriente Da Bahai.

The GOBA was established on January 29, 1990, by the Lodges from the Grande Orient of Brazil.

At the 2020 Conference of Grand Masters of North America, the Commission on Recognition issued the following report:

“The Grande Orient of Rio de Janeiro, the Grand Orient da Bahia, and the Grand Orientes Paulista were each recognized by and treaties signed with their respective state Grand Lodges in 2019, along with the Grand Orient of Brazil. The CMI recognizes each of these bodies. It would be reasonable to assume that each of these Grand Orientes is practicing regular Masonry, and recognition would be appropriate.”

Based on the information submitted to this committee in the report, we recommend that the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Oregon grant recognition to the Grand Orient da Bahai – GOBA.

I ask that this portion of our report be accepted.

I move this portion of this report to be adopted, thereby granting this request.

### **Grand Lodge of Kazakhstan**

We have received a request for recognition from the Grand Lodge of Kazakhstan.

The Grand Lodge of Kazakhstan was established and consecrated as a regular Grand Lodge in Almaty on November 12, 2016, by the Grand Lodge of Russia. They currently have six constituted Lodges working

within their jurisdiction and are recognized by twenty-two Grand Lodges worldwide, including seven within the United States.

At the 2017 Conference of Grand Masters of North America, the Commission on Recognition issued the following report:

“After hearing presentations from the Grand Lodge of Russia, the founding Grand Lodge of Kazakhstan, the Commission finds the Grand Lodge of Kazakhstan appears to meet the requirements for recognition.”

Based on the information submitted to this committee in the report above, we recommend that the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Oregon grant recognition to the Grand Lodge of Kazakhstan.

I ask that this portion of our report be accepted.

I move that this portion of our report be adopted, thereby granting this request.

### **Gran Logia Cuscatlán**

We have received a request for recognition from the Gran Logia Cuscatlán.

Eight regularly constituted Lodges established the Gran Logia Cuscatlán in San Salvador, El Salvador’s capital, on September 22, 1912.

At the 2022 Conference of Grand Masters of North America, the Commission on Recognition issued the following report:

“The Grand Lodge of Cuscatlán of El Salvador was established in 1912. It enjoys amity with many of the South American and Central American Grand Lodges, several of the Grand Lodges of this Conference, and in Europe. It appears to meet the standards for recognition.”

Based on the information submitted to this committee in the report above, we recommend that the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Oregon grant recognition to the Gran Logia Cuscatlán.

I ask that this portion of our report be accepted.

I move that this portion of our report be adopted, thereby granting recognition to the Gran Logia Cuscatlán.

Two additional requests for recognition have also been submitted to this committee; they are:

### **Grand Orient do Rio Grande do Brasil – COMAB**

### **Gran Logia Del Astado Hidalgo**

Upon checking the archives of the Committee on Recognition for

the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, we could find no current information on either of these jurisdictions. Therefore, this committee recommends that recognition be withheld until additional information can be obtained.

Most Worshipful Grand Master, this completes our report. The committee members thank you for the opportunity to serve this Grand Lodge during the past year.

Respectfully submitted

D. Arthur Bush, P.G.M.

Steven A. Macarelli

L.L. "Vern" Beito, P.G.M., Chairman

Ronald J. Eggers, P.G.M.

Gary A. Faw

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brethren all:

The Resolution Committee is charged with reviewing proposed resolutions submitted for consideration at Grande Lodge.

The committee reviewed two proposed resolutions. Both had been timely filed and we find that they are in proper form. They are.

### **1. Resolution to Confer Honorary Membership.**

This resolution is per Code 150.9 that during this 174th Annual Communication, the distinguished visitors from other Grand Lodge jurisdictions shall have honorary membership in this Grand Lodge.

Respectfully submitted by W.B. Richard C. Southard, Chairman on Resolutions, and committee members W.B. Billy Burns, W.B. Ted Crocker, III, W.B. Brian Kaufman, and W.B. William "Bill" Williams.

### **2. Resolution for Consolidated and Updated Guidelines for the Hiram Award.**

Its purpose is to consolidate previous resolutions into one resolution. Respectfully submitted by R.W.B. Christopher Warren District Deputy of District No. 21, W.B. Norman (Nod) Palmer Worshipful Master of Grand Ronde Valley Lodge No. 56, and WB Darrin Ward Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge No. 67.

Respectfully submitted,

W. "Billy" T. Burns

Brian K. Kaufman

Richard C. Southard, Chairman

Theodor "Ted" H. Crocker, III

William "Bill" R. Williams





