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MATT ALEXANDER

SENIOR WARDEN
NEIL MACKEY

JUNIOR WARDEN
SCOTT BRASHER

TREASURER
JOHN PINCKNEY, PM

SECRETARY
TERRY GRIFFITH

SENIOR DEACON
JEREMY KLETKE

JUNIOR DEACON
TRACE HARRIS

SENIOR STEWARD
DAN JOHNSON

JUNIOR STEWARD
DENVER LEE

CHAPLAIN
DAVE JOHNSON, PM

TYLER
STEVE KARPSTEIN

MARSHAL
WM. LEE RANSALL, PM

HISTORIAN
DALE CLAYPOOL, PM

FACILITIES MANAGER
JEAN STEVENS

**TRESTLEBOARD /
WEBMASTER**
NEIL MACKEY



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From the East



Greetings brethren,

February was busy with an Entered Apprentice double header and I would like to thank all of the brothers who came out to help us welcome our two new brothers! We are going to be busy in March with upcoming proficiency examinations and Fellow Craft degrees!

I urge all Master Masons and Fellow Craft Masons to come to our practices to learn more about how to put on a degree and help our team become more proficient in their work! If you are proficient in your part in any degree, please come to the practice to help others to learn! The only way for us to truly provide the proper degree work is to practice as a team! Our new candidates and brothers going through the degrees deserve our best! We have scheduled the Fellow Craft degree for **Monday, March 12th at 7pm.**

Also happening in March, the Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee is having a *Dance and Degree Day* for DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow Girls on **Saturday, March 3rd** in Salem. More information about DJR can be found through the Grand Lodge website.

I look forward to seeing you all in Lodge!

Fraternally,

Matt Alexander
MASTER

Secretary's Desk

NEW EAs

TANNER WILLHITE



Meet Brother Tanner. He is 26 years old, going to college and also is a musician. Tanner is a native Oregonian living in Portland and then Central Oregon for the past 11 years. When in Lodge introduce yourself and say hello!

ROXY ANDRADE

Brother Roxy (Shawn) has been self-employed for the past five years, owning and operating an adult care facility. He is 44 years old and was born in Massachusetts. He is a Navy veteran and enjoys outdoor activities



PENDING FC

BUDD COLLINGS



Brother Budd was initiated in Bend Lodge on August 4, 2017. He comes to us from the state of Washington and resides in La Pine. He was born in California and is 61 years old and married. He is a financial planner and enjoys the out-doors including fishing and hunting. Brother Budd was examined in open Lodge on

December 14th and is awaiting his Fellowcraft proficiency.

Membership continues to be a major discussion point for all Lodges, including Bend Lodge. When I first became Secretary of the Lodge several years ago, we had over 150 members. Now, in 2018, Bend Lodge is down to just over 100. This is a common trend among fraternal organizations and the Masons are no exception. According to Grand Lodge our annual losses are about 16%.

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DON'T FORGET!
Turn your clocks FORWARD one hour when you go to bed on Saturday, March 10th!

From the West



Greetings, brethren to what is turning out to be the Ides of March! Hope this finds you all warm, safe and

contented!

Last month, I presented **Part I** of an article on the ups/downs of Masonic membership. Brother Secretary has alluded to the same issue in this month's *Secretary Desk*. And now....**Part II**.

WHAT THE NUMBERS DON'T TELL US!

In 2005, I was asked to deliver the keynote address to the Western Canada Conference – an annual gathering of the Grand lines of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Part of my presentation sought to dispel this myth that the Grim Reaper was using his scythe to cut a swath through the fraternity. Whereas, the MSANA numbers only give us the annual bottom line, I was able to look at the big picture closer to home by tracking specifics in our membership statistics over an eight-year period.

What I discovered was that, like the rest of North America, Alberta had a sizable hole in our Masonic bucket; 1,777 of our Brethren had affiliated with the Grand Lodge above, leaving us with a net loss of 1,512 members between 1996 and 2003. But this is not where our problem was because the numbers showed that in that same period of time, 3,118 men had joined, affiliated or renewed their membership in one of our lodges.

The What If Factor - Where Are We Really Losing Members?								
Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Start	9,641	9,308	9,044	8,858	8,690	8,516	8,316	8,129
Initiated	263	253	258	283	260	248	276	286
Affiliated	117	120	120	109	97	103	120	81
Reinstated	11	20	21	18	13	12	16	13
Combined	391	393	399	410	370	363	412	380
Demits	299	254	259	228	225	230	214	191
SNPD	130	160	117	127	108	126	92	103
Combined	429	414	376	355	333	356	306	294
Deaths	231	243	208	219	202	241	223	210
End	9,308	9,044	8,858	8,690	8,516	8,316	8,129	8,043
What If	9,801	9,951	10,142	10,333	10,512	10,623	10,812	10,982

* Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Alberta 1997 - 2004. What if based on not losing Demits &SNPD

In an ideal world, the difference between deaths and new members should have seen Alberta experience a 14 per cent growth in that time, but instead we were dwindling, just like everywhere else. The question was why? Where was the hole in our Masonic bucket that was causing the decline? It wasn't through deaths; we were clearly finding the men to replace ourselves. **The answer was through demits and suspensions for non-payment of dues (SNPD);** a combined loss of 2,863 over the eight years. When added to the deaths, we had lost a total of 4,640 men, while gaining a respectable 3,118. The hole in our Masonic bucket had been found and, as I've learned, it is not an isolated situation.

This past November I was the keynote speaker at the Grand Lodge of Manitoba's Masonic workshop and presented a similar address and findings, chronicling their past six years of data.

SECRETARY'S DESK (continued from Pg. 1)

Grand Lodge recognizes this trend and has created a new referral system for interested men. They can go online and submit an interest form, which is then transmitted, via Grandview, to the Secretary of the Lodge. The Secretary then has a countdown of five days in which to reach out to the interested party.

In Bend Lodge, we have created a membership team to help contact our referrals. Once the individual has been contacted, they then move to the next step, which is a conference with at least two Master Masons to visit with them about the Lodge. The purpose of this visitation is to 1) determine their intent; 2) answer whatever questions they have; and 3) to make certain they fully understand the commitment of entering Masonry.

By utilizing this methodology, the candidates that are chosen to be investigated should be worthy, with no surprises as to their commitment. This in no way circumvents the background investigative process, but moreover, is only an additional tool in determining the best candidates for Bend Lodge.

Increased efforts to make the community aware of the Masons are needed to find good quality men who are interested in Masonry. You can expect to see more community involvement to get Bend Lodge more into the public eye.

Terry Griffith
SECRETARY

Like Alberta, Manitoba has a hole in its Masonic bucket, caused by demits and suspensions outpacing new members. Between 2002 and 2007 Manitoba saw 856 men join, affiliate or reinstate their memberships. During that same time, 753 Manitoba Masons have died; again leaving a positive number between membership losses and gains. Like Alberta, their hole is caused by the combination of demits and SNPD's. In the past six years the province has seen 1,355 men leave the Masonic fraternity.

The What If Factor - Where Are We Really Losing Members?								
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Totals	%
Start	4,170	3,954	3,681	3,416	3,121	2,921	-1,359	-32.5%
Initiated	77	53	53	62	69	54	368	+8.8%
Affiliated	40	41	49	49	54	48	281	+6.7%
Reinstated	25	29	24	27	69	33	207	+4.9%
Combined	142	123	126	138	192	135	856	+20.5%
Demits	120	97	127	171	140	109	764	-18.4%
SNPD	90	116	119	100	80	86	591	-14%
Combined	210	213	246	271	220	195	1,355	-32.4%
Deaths	148	129	145	127	113	91	753	-5%
End	3,954	3,681	3,416	3,121	2,921	2,811	2,811	-32.5%
What If We Could Eliminate The Demits And SNPD?							4,076*	-02.5%

* Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba 2002 - 2007. *Based on 2002 start figure plus combined increases and minus deaths and reinstatements

But the Craft lodge in Canada is not alone in finding it has a bucket with the same hole.

Membership statistics from the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar show that between 2004 and the end of September 2008,

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17,470 American Freemasons have become Templars, while 9,576 have taken a demit and another 21,706 have been suspended for non-payment of dues. Add to this the 22,546 Templars who have gone on to join their creator, and you have 36,358 fewer Knights Templar marching about. But perhaps marching about is precisely the problem. Perhaps the men who are joining today are joining to parade about like the sword-wielding Templars of old and disappointed to find only old Templars parading about doing sword drill. It is a question only the Grand Encampment and those who are left remain in her Commanderies can resolve, but like the Craft Lodges, its bucket is leaking primarily from the same rusted-out hole.

TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Back when I was editor of the short-lived *Masonic Magazine*, I wrote an editorial titled *The Restaurant at the End of the Masonic Universe*. Without republishing the editorial here, it told the story of a restaurant that does not live up to its advertising slogan, "We make good food better," an obvious play on our own slogan "We take good men and make them better." The editorial, which has received equal doses of praise and criticism, sought to explain in a light manner the malaise affecting Freemasonry today and the true cause for the hole in our bucket.

Every mason has heard the expression, "but we've always done it that way before." The fact that it is used as the butt of Masonic jokes serves as proof positive of its longevity and power in maintaining a status quo. But, as we have seen by what the MSANA numbers don't show us, the status quo is draining our buckets. **As the allegory of my restaurant editorial showed, the reason things suck in many lodges is because the men who show up month after month like things that suck.** They do so because they enjoy the bland food; not the shoe-leather roast beef and off color green beans, but the Masonic meal that is largely comprised of recitation of minutes, tedious debates over how funds are dispersed and arguments over when and how to salute the Worshipful Master. Clearly these are not the things that appeal to the men who are leaving our ranks. If they were, they'd be with us still. But instead of spending our energies trying to retain them, we devote our efforts to finding their replacements.

For as long as I have been a Freemason, we have been trying to fill a bucket that has a sizable hole in it. Like Henry in the famed children's song, we have whined through the infinite loop of reasons why we can't fix the bucket and like Jack in the classic nursery rhyme, have rolled down the hill, our empty bucket tumbling behind us. Like children on a bus trip we have done our rendition of "99 Bottles of Beer" by repeating the same pattern ad nauseam, as one by one our members – like the bottles of beer on the wall – vanish.

Unfortunately, we are not doing a good enough job identifying what it is that the men who are joining are looking for, which is – in almost all cases – that which they cannot get any place else – **FREEMASONRY!** They are looking to be educated in the Masonic Craft, in the art of being a gentleman in a world that has largely forgotten what one was, and in how they can be part of – to quote my jurisdiction's ritual – "the society of men who prize honor and virtue above the external advantages of rank and fortune." In short, they want to be taught the things about themselves and the world in which they live that only Freemasonry can teach them. If we cannot teach them because we do not know these things ourselves, then we must learn alongside them.

Then...and only then...can the hole in our Masonic bucket be truly repaired and we can return to that growth that once allowed us to select men who would most benefit from Freemasonry's teaching and most benefit Freemasonry by their character and their conduct.

It will not be an easy task fixing this half-century old hole in our Masonic bucket; **but it will not be possible at all until we accept that a failure to do so is the cause of our decline and the harbinger of our demise.**

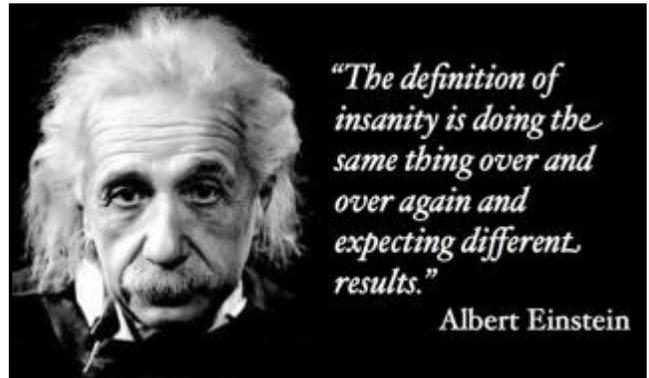
About the author



V. W. Bro Stephen Dafoe is a past Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, former publisher of *Masonic Magazine* and the author of several books on the Knights Templar and Freemasonry. In addition, Dafoe is a self-confessed anti-Internet Mason.

Until we reach out those brothers who have dropped from view...and find out what led them away...until we let them know that we miss them...and that Freemasonry AND Bend Lodge are far better WITH than without them, we will struggle to do the great things that we are capable of doing.

With my wife and I raising three daughters, when they were younger, Girl Scouting was pretty big around our house for more than a few years. I'm reminded of one of the primary tenets of that group..."KISMIF...keep it simple, make it fun!" Maybe we, as Masons, can learn something from that...



Hope to see YOU in lodge soon!

Fraternally,

Neil Mackey
SENIOR WARDEN

CENTRAL OREGON SHRINE CLUB

TERRY GRIFFITH, HIGH PRIEST & PROPHET

Members from the Central Oregon Shriners have started a "Fez Lunch", wherein we get together, wear our Fezzes and have lunch at a local eatery. It is a great time for fellowship but more importantly, it is marketing our "brand".

142 years ago, a group of Masons got together to create a social fraternal organization of Masons with the only goal being having fun. Since then, the Shriners have created a hospital network of 22 Shriners Hospital for Children, which treat children with orthopedic, spinal, cleft palate and lip conditions as well as providing four hospitals devoted to burn patients. All services are provided regardless of the family's ability to pay.



Marketing our brand, is extremely important so that Central Oregonians and visitors know that Shriners are here, and so that we can identify and refer more children who can benefit from our services. Additionally, wherever we go, the question always comes up, "What is a Shriner?" That leads to the explanation that in order to be a Shriner you first must be a Mason...which sometimes leads to "Who or what is a Mason... and, perhaps, "How do I become a Mason?..."

Remember, the Central Oregon Shriners meet the **1st Wednesday** of each month at the Bend Elks Lodge, which is just north of Empire Avenue on Boyd Acres Road. Social hour is at **5:30pm** and dinner is at **6:30pm**. Hope to see you there!

"MASON" is a traditionally masculine given name, although recently the name has been used for either sex.

Its origin is from the occupational surname Mason, which means "one who works with stone".

The popularity of the given name has risen in recent years, becoming the second most popular name given to boys in the United States in 2011.



CENTRAL OREGON SHRINE CLUB FUNDRAISER

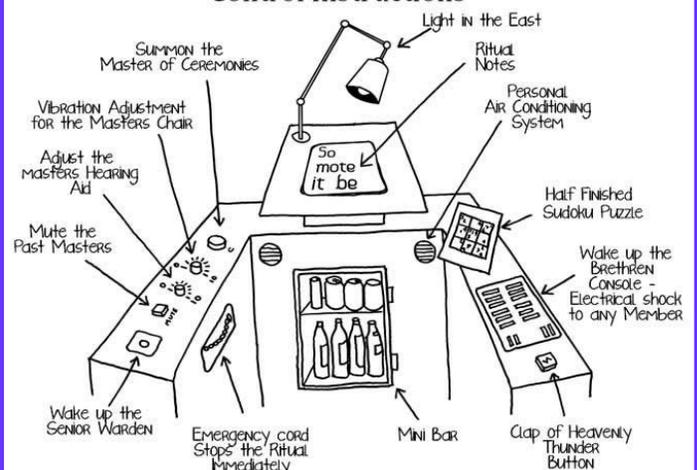
Join us from a great evening of spaghetti, salad, dessert and fellowship, while helping raise funds for the Central Oregon Shriners. All proceeds will go to help with the operating costs of the local Shrine Club.

We will also have special guests, including several of our past and present "Shriners Kids", children from Central Oregon who have been or are patients at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Portland. Come out and have a great time!

- WHEN:** Friday, March 16
HOURS: Doors open at 5pm, close at 8pm
COSTS: Adults - \$10
 Children 7 to 10 - \$5
 Under 6 - Free
WHERE: Bend Masonic Lodge



The Worshipful Masters Chair Control Instructions



MONTHLY EVENTS AT BEND LODGE

1ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
OFFICER'S MEETING, 7pm

2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH:
STATED MEETING, 7pm

4TH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH:
LODGE TRAINING, 7pm
(Topic varies from month-to-month)

MARCH, 2018 EVENTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 6th: 7pm:

- OFFICER'S MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 8TH:

- STATED MEETING:
 - Dinner @ 6pm;
 - Meeting follows @ 7pm

MONDAY, MARCH 12TH: 7pm:

- ENTERED APPRENTICE PROFICIENCY:
 - Bro. Tanner Willhite
- FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE:
 - Bro. Tanner Willhite (if proficient on EA)
 - Bro. Budd Collings

FRIDAY, MARCH 16th: 5-8pm, Bend Lodge:

- CENTRAL OREGON SHRINE CLUB SPAGHETTI FEED FUNDRAISER

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22nd: 7pm:

- 4TH THURSDAY PRACTICE:
 - This might be ritual practice or some other element chosen by the Worshipful Master

PLEASE WATCH THE 'TICKER' ON THE WEBSITE FOR ANY LAST MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR INFORMATION!