



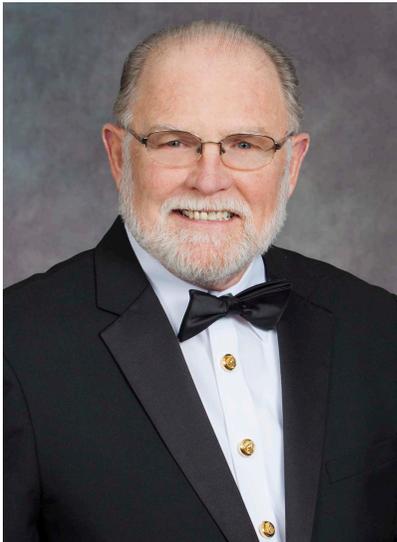
# Oregon Masonic News



Volume XXXV No. 7, March 2018

## The Grand Master's Message: Masonic Education and Visitations

Our 168th Annual Communication is just around the corner and will take place in Salem, June 7-8. Spring is fast approaching, and our Masonic Charges are underway. Having finished the Sitting Master's Charge, we are on a roll. Our first Charge was held at the end of January, and although the numbers in attendance were not as high as we would have liked, the attendees were eager to learn. From first-time Worshipful Masters to senior Brothers, the training was well-received, and I believe the attending Brethren went home with a better understanding of the Craft.



**M.W.B. W. Myles McMillan**  
Grand Master

We are now preparing for the next round of Charges this month. These trainings include the Junior Warden's Charge on March 17, the Senior Warden's Charge on March 24, and the Worshipful Master's Charge on March 31. These trainings are directed at the upcoming officers to help them transition into these chairs in January. However, all Brethren interested in learning the three principal officers' duties and responsibilities, floor work, and Ritual are invited to attend.

Details are being finalized for the trip to Washington D.C. in April. Each month, a different jurisdiction is honored by the George Washington Masonic National Memorial and Oregon is fortunate to be selected and highlighted next month. On the trip we will open and close the Grand Lodge inside the Memorial; what a memorable event it will be. The tentative itinerary includes a visit to the Capitol Building, many memorials, a museum or three, and Mount Vernon, the plantation home of George Washington. If you have an interest in joining the Grand Lodge on this trip, do not wait to make travel arrangements. More details, including hotel information, can be found on page 3 of this publication.

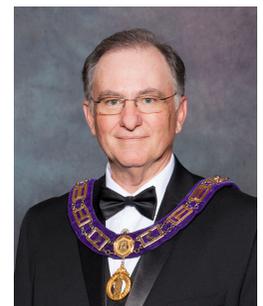
Now to a message: I want to encourage all Brothers, from the youngest Entered Apprentice to the senior Master Mason, to



*continued on page two*

## The Blue Lodge's Most Valuable Commodity

What is the most valuable and treasured resource of a Masonic Lodge? Did you answer money or property? The most valuable commodity of a Masonic Lodge is its members. We have two basic member types in our Blue Lodges. The first is the new member or candidate. The second is an established (or full-fledged) Master Mason. Both types joined for four primary reasons. First, we had Masonry in our family or knew a friend that is a Mason. Second, we wanted to help kids. Third, we wanted to be in a fraternity with known values. Fourth, we have a love of history or the mystique associated with Freemasonry. All of us expect to be made better men by association with this fraternity.



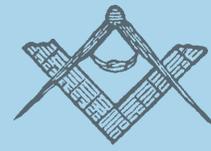
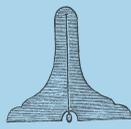
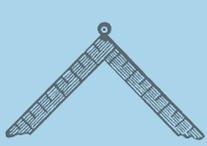
**R.W.B. Michael J. McGuyer**  
Junior Grand Warden

I want to discuss the new candidate. Lodges must translate candidates into permanent, participating, and engaged members. However, many jurisdictions have a failure

*continued on page three*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Grand Master's Message
- 1 The Lodge's Most Valuable Commodity
- 2 Contributions
- 2 GWMNM Trip
- 4 Mason of the Month
- 4 Charges Registration
- 5 Grand Master's Calendar
- 6 News from Our Lodges
- 7 Upcoming Basic Schools of Instruction
- 8 Fellows of the Craft



## Grand Master's Message, *continued from page one*

make the commitment to get out and visit other Lodges. I encourage you to look at the calendar and select a day and destination. Let your Lodge Brothers know in advance where and when you plan to go and make the trip happen. Travel the distance for a Lodge visitation—in or out of your District. One such story goes like this: Nine members of a Lodge gather up in autos, drive two and a half hours to do a Lodge visitation—in their District! Oh, guess what? They also have a two-and-a-half-hour drive home. Commitment and love of the Craft. Even if it is only two of you traveling in the beginning, get started; it will grow if you let it. If you joined the Craft seeking Light, this, I believe, is where and how you get Light; through Masonic education and visitations.

*Fraternally,*

*W. Myles McMillan, Grand Master, A.F. & A.M. of Oregon*



## March 2018 Contributions

January 1, 2018 - January 31, 2018



### Masonic & Eastern Star Home

#### Petitioner Club

Ben Harper (157) Rex Howe (4)  
Bryan Swearinger (4) Lyon Lodge No. 29  
McKenzie River Lodge No. 195 – in memory of  
Brothers who passed away in 2017

#### Masters Club

Rainier Lodge No. 24

### Oregon Masonic Youth Education & Literacy Foundation

#### Petitioner Club

Mark Cook (207) Ben Harper (157)  
St. Johns Lodge No. 17 Kroger Rewards Program

### Oregon Masonic Charitable Foundation

#### Petitioner Club

Rodman D. Grimm (207) Ben Harper (157)

### Oregon Masonic Charitable Foundation: MMSAP

#### Petitioner Club

Ben Harper (157) Douglas A. Harsh (103)  
Terrie & James L. Morgan, DGM (133)  
Lawrence Wilson (57) Lyon Lodge No. 29  
McKenzie River Lodge No. 195

### Educational Assistance

#### Petitioner Club

Ben Harper (157) Jeffrey Scott Long (96)

#### Apprentice Club

Willamette Lodge No. 2

### Oregon Masonic Library Foundation

#### Petitioner Club

Judy & Ed Bousquet, P.G.M. (139)  
Patricia Bresler, PGM – O.E.S.

### MasonicAid: MESHCare & OutReach

#### Petitioner Club

Rex Howe (4) – MESHCare  
Ben Harper (157) – MESHCare  
Rex Howe (4) – OutReach  
Ben Harper (157) – OutReach  
Paul Hendrix (4) – MESHCare

### MasonicAid: OutReach Giving Tree

*(Additional donations received December 1-31, 2017)*

#### Petitioner Club

Jerrine & Jim Belshe, P.G.M. (15)  
Art Borland, P.G.M. (103) Phil Van Buren (39)  
Suzane & Philip McClure (95)  
Holbrook Lodge No. 30 Vista Masonic Lodge No. 215



## MSANA Disaster Relief

### Fellowcraft Club

George Granger, Jr. (118) –  
Grand Lodge of Florida



Donation Level	Tier
Foundation Society	\$10,000 and above
Cornerstone Club	\$5000 - \$9999
Masters Club	\$2500 - \$4999
Fellowcraft Club	\$1000 - \$2499
Apprentice Club	\$500 - \$999
Petitioner Club	\$499 and below



## Trip itinerary to visit the GWMNM in April

The Grand Lodge of Oregon will be visiting the George Washington Masonic National Memorial (GWMNM) in Alexandria, Virginia, April 24-30 and wants you to join in on the fun. The GWMNM highlights a different jurisdiction each month, and the Grand Lodge of Oregon is scheduled as the featured Grand Lodge in April. The trip itinerary currently includes the opening of Grand Lodge on Wednesday, April 25, a trip by riverboat to Mount Vernon on Thursday, April 26, and a tour of the Capitol Building on Saturday, April 28. A visit to the White House and a photo opportunity with our congressional delegations is also being planned.



**George Washington Masonic National Memorial**



**United States Capitol Building**

A room block has been set up at the Marriott's Residence Inn Alexandria Old Town/Duke Street at the price of \$139 a night (free breakfast included in the rate) for the dates 4/24-4/29. There are a limited number of rooms reserved in the room block, so do not wait to make your reservations! Reservations should be made online using the link, [bit.ly/2ril2AQ](http://bit.ly/2ril2AQ) or call 1-888-236-2427. Please use the room block code **"Masonic Grand Lodge of Oregon."** **The cutoff date to guarantee the nightly rate of \$139 is Tuesday, March 27.**

Questions? Please contact W.B. Rick Komraus, [rkomraus@masonic-oregon.com](mailto:rkomraus@masonic-oregon.com) or (503) 357-3158.

## Most Valuable Commodity,

*continued from page one*

to advance rate well over 50 percent. Why? Simply, we are failing to meet their expectations and validate the benefits of membership. Typically, failure to advance occurs for two reasons; first, the Lodge does not do its job, or second, the candidate changes his mind after the experience of his initiation. How should a Lodge take care of its newest members? When a prospective member has inquired about joining the Lodge, what do you do? Just hand him a petition? One of our Lodges will offer a petition to a prospective candidate only after multiple meetings, dinners, and visits to make sure they are a good fit. When ready, they make a special occasion out of presenting the petition, as a scroll with a wax seal, while the Lodge is at Refreshment. Kenton Lodge No. 145 in Portland does this with significant effect. At that point, the petition has become a desirable item connected to a memorable event.

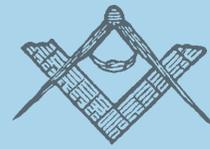
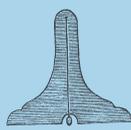
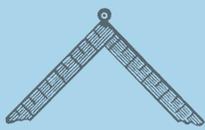
When notification is sent out about his EA degree, the candidate should also be informed that he has a mentor. An advocate and benevolent teacher. The mentor is not a Mason that happened to be sitting on the sidelines in the Stated meeting. His mentor should be his Top Line Signer on his petition. Assigning his Top Line Signer, as done by one District in Oregon, has reduced failure to advance to single digits. Who is responsible for the proper instruction of a candidate? The Worshipful Master of the Lodge bears the full responsibility, but under the Mentor Plan used by our jurisdiction, he designates a qualified Brother to act as the candidate's special adviser and instructor (called a mentor) until he has completely mastered the fundamentals of the three degrees. The Worshipful Master will also designate a "coach" for the memory work.

The new candidate must feel wanted, accepted and welcome as a member of the Lodge. No one wants to fight their way into an established group. If the candidate feels like an outsider from the start, it will take less effort to quit than to break open the tight circle of members and try to fit in. Right after his EA degree, present him with his name badge. This sounds like a small thing, but it will help everyone to remember the new Brother's name, and the overall result is that he will feel comfortable and part of the group. It is a small investment, but it can pay big dividends.

Immediately, set his coaching schedule, where you will meet and when. Let him know your expectations of how often and how long these meetings should take. Whatever schedule you set, make sure you both keep it. Touch base with him often. Do not wait for him to call you. Keep engaging him. Interact with him. Remember his time is valuable, do not waste it! Have him help set up the Lodge room. If the Lodge is practicing on a degree appropriate for

*continued on page five*





# OFFICER CHARGES

## REGISTRATION

Having finished the Sitting Master's Charge in January, we are ready for our next set of Charges. Each Charge focuses on the preceding office: The Junior Warden's Charge on March 17 is aimed at the sitting Senior Deacon, the Senior Warden's Charge on March 24 is intended for the sitting Junior Warden, and the Worshipful Master's Charge on March 31 is designed for the sitting Senior Warden. The Charges are free to attend and will be held in the Jefferson Room at the Jennings McCall Center in Forest Grove. Enjoy a light breakfast starting at 8 a.m. followed by the training from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A free lunch will be served at noon. The Grand Master's wife, Sue McMillan, will be available for any ladies wishing to know more about Freemasonry or who would like a tour of the Jennings McCall Center, our Masonic and Eastern Star Home.

The Grand Lodge of Oregon will pay up to \$100 to be reimbursed for one night's lodging for those traveling over 50 miles. Receipts will be required for reimbursement. Room sharing and carpooling is encouraged. An informal gathering will be held on Friday evening to meet the Grand Master and other attendees.

We ask that you bring the Masonic Etiquette and Instructions booklet, the Ritual, and the Oregon Masonic Code book to the training. The dress for the event is casual, but please no shorts or flip-flops. We encourage all Lodges to take part in this program.

### CHARGES REGISTRATION

Register online, [www.masonic-oregon.com/charges](http://www.masonic-oregon.com/charges), mail this form to the Grand Lodge office, or call (503) 357-3158. Questions? Contact W.B. Greg Jenkins, Senior Grand Deacon at (503) 474-7449.

<b>SELECT A TRAINING</b>		<b>NAME</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Junior Warden's Charge (Senior Deacons) <b>MAR 17</b>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior Warden's Charge (Junior Wardens) <b>MAR 24</b>	<b>LODGE NAME &amp; NO.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Worshipful Master's Charge (Senior Wardens) <b>MAR 31</b>	<input type="text"/>
		<b>OFFICE HELD</b>
		<input type="text"/>
		<b>PHONE NO.</b>
		<input type="text"/>
		<b>LADY'S NAME (If attending)</b>
		<input type="text"/>

## The Lifesaving AED Program

Several Lodges have taken advantage of the Grand Lodge AED Program. The program provides Oregon Lodges with an automated external defibrillator (AED) at a discounted rate.

Lodges currently participating in the program are encouraged to contact your local fire department and schedule a training on proper use of the AED. I recently attended a training and found out that you must activate the device before it can be used. This process takes up to 10 minutes. That being said, if you have an AED and have not initialized it, I encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience. We do not want anyone in distress waiting for the device to start up before aid can be rendered. If you need to order an AED, please contact the Grand Lodge office.



- by W.B. Gregory L. O'Neal

## Mason of the Month Going above and beyond

W.B. John Tucker, Life Member of East Gate Lodge No. 155, went above and beyond to help a Brother whose house caught fire during the holiday season and icy weather conditions.



**W.B. John Tucker**

Upon learning of the fire, W.B. John immediately contacted local Lodge Brothers to help supply the Brother with clothing and his medication. W.B. John follows up with the Brother, who is in a wheelchair, and provides updates on the Brother's status at the Lodge's Stated meetings. This act of kindness qualifies W.B. John for Mason of the Month.

- nominated by R.W.B. Jim Akers, D.D. No. 5

**CONGRATULATIONS, W.B. JOHN!**



## Most Valuable Commodity, *continued from page three*

him, make sure he is there to observe and interact. One of the most important things is to help socialize our new Brother into the fraternity. How about taking him to an event at the local Shrine center? Maybe a nearby Lodge is having a degree or a Stated meeting. He needs to experience *Brotherly Love* and fellowship firsthand. Do not be afraid of too much contact with a new candidate; it is an easy trap to fall into. He wants communication, to be a part of the fraternity, and to know more about Freemasonry. We must reveal to him the true benefits of membership, demonstrating good reasons for investing his time, fulfilling the promise of making him a better man.

For these things to work, the Master of the Lodge must hold the mentor and coach accountable. Both must report regularly to the Master as to his advancement or lack of it. The Master should never be wondering how the candidate is progressing. He should always be aware of his circumstances and activities so that he can take swift, corrective actions if warranted. Finally, when he does "prove up" and advances, along with the applause, give him a certificate commemorating the event. Something tangible and inexpensive to say, "Congratulations, here is a memento of your efforts, well done!" This is not a definitive list of things to do, but hopefully, it will enhance your efforts for the Brother's advancement to become a Master Mason.

We all joined Masonry to become better men. It is the Lodge's job and our obligation to help everyone that asks for assistance to receive it. So, let's get busy making good men better by keeping our promise, and together, we will make failure to advance a thing of the past!



*Fraternally,*  
R.W.B. Michael J. McGuyer,  
Junior Grand Warden

## GRAND MASTER'S TENTATIVE ITINERARY

### March 2018

- 1 – Blanco No. 48, Coos Bay, Official Visit: dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Lodge, 7:30 p.m. - U, L
- 3 – DJR Youth Activities Day, Salem
- 6 – Union No. 3, McMinnville, Official Visit: Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner, 6 p.m.; Lodge, 7:30 p.m. - U, L
- 7 – Rickreall No. 110, Official Visit & Past Masters Night: dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Lodge, 7:30 p.m. - Bib overalls, L
- 8-10 Amaranth Grand Court, Valley River Inn, Eugene - T, L
- 9 – Leadership Meeting: Grand Lodge, Forest Grove, 1 p.m. - BC
- 10 – MESH/Trustee Meeting: Grand Lodge, Forest Grove, 8 a.m. - U
- 10 – Amaranth Grand Court Installation: Valley River Inn, Eugene, 7 p.m. - T, L
- 13 – Pacific No. 50, Salem, Official Visit: dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Lodge, 7:30 p.m. - U, L
- 15 – Blue Mountain No. 34, Baker City, Official Visit: dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Lodge, 7:30 p.m. - U, L
- 17 – Junior Warden's Charge (Senior Deacons): Jennings McCall Center, Forest Grove, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - BC
- 18 – Nydia Installation: Al Kader Shrine, 2 p.m. - T, L
- 22 – Masonic Family Night: Salem Scottish Rite, 6 p.m. - U, L
- 24 – Senior Warden's Charge (Junior Wardens): Jennings McCall Center, Forest Grove, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - BC
- 27 – Cascade No. 208, Shady Cove, Official Visit: dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Lodge, 7:30 p.m. - U, L
- 31 – Worshipful Master's Charge (Senior Wardens): Jennings McCall Center, Forest Grove, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - BC

### April 2018

- 5 – Grand York Rite, The Mill Casino & Hotel, North Bend - U, T, L
- 9 – Tuscan No. 136, Umatilla, Official Visit: dinner, 6 p.m.; Lodge, 7 p.m. - U, L
- 10 – Wildhorse No. 65, Athena, Official Visit: dinner, 7 p.m.; Lodge, 8 p.m. - U
- 11 – Hiram No. 67, Elgin, Official Visit: dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Lodge, 7:30 p.m. - U, L
- 14 – MESH/Trustee Meeting: Grand Lodge, Forest Grove, 8 a.m. - U
- 15 – O.E.S. General Grand Reception: Salem Scottish Rite, 1:30 p.m. - T, L
- 19-21 Grand Lodge of Hawaii, Honolulu - U, T, L
- 21 – Hillah Shrine Installation, Klamath Falls - T, L
- 24-30 George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Washington D.C. - U, T, L

**U = Uniform; L = Ladies; T = Tuxedo;  
S = Suit; BC = Business Casual**

## Want to submit an article?

If you have Lodge stories of community involvement, events, etc. you are invited to submit your articles and pictures to Erin Evans at [eevans@masonic-oregon.com](mailto:eevans@masonic-oregon.com). Deadline: The 5th of the previous month (i.e., articles for June issue are due by May 5).



# NEWS FROM OUR LODGES —

## Laurel No. 13



On Feb. 2, longtime residents of Douglas County were honored for their many years of Masonry at Riverview Terrace in Roseburg. R.W.B. David S. Jackson, D.D. No. 15 (not pictured), and W.B. Bob Mallory, Worshipful Master of Laurel Lodge No. 13 in Roseburg, presented a certificate and Jewel to Brothers Harold M. Rush, 65 years; Raymond O. Sims, 65 years; and William H. Sims, 50 years.

- submitted by W.B. Bob Mallory

## Santiam No. 25



The Brethren of Santiam Lodge No. 25 started the new year by presenting Immediate Past Master Christian Tinney with his Past Master certificate and pin. He was also awarded the Hiram Award for his exemplary efforts and contributions during 2017. Congratulations, Worshipful Brother, and may this year be just as successful, if not more so than the last.

- submitted by W.B. Hunter C. Tinney

## District No. 23



On Feb. 3, Master Masons from Acacia Lodge No. 118 and Vale Lodge No. 142 took a road trip to Robert Burns Lodge No. 97 to present two Lewis Jewels: one to Acacia Lodge's Worshipful Master Joe Mackey, and the other to his brother Gene Mackey, Past Master of Robert Burns Lodge. W.B. Gene was astounded, unaware of the presentation planned to honor his father and grandfather. W.B. Gene expressed gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for the Lewis Jewel and to his brother for including him in this Masonic honor.

- submitted by R.W.B. Will Hasley, D.D. No. 23

## Eugene No. 11

Bro. Mike Richardson of Eugene Lodge No. 11 presented a \$2,000 check to Relief Nursery to support its Parents for Recovery program. This group meets weekly and provides a safe environment for parents in recovery to share their challenges, encourage others and learn new parenting skills. Parents can also bring their children. Everyone enjoys a nutritious dinner together, and then the children get to play in a supervised classroom while the parents meet.

- submitted by W.B. Zachary A. Blalack



Left to right: Kyle Hunter, RN Program Supervisor; Bro. Mike Richardson, Eugene Lodge No. 11; Ray Brown, RN Program Director Accessing Success and Outreach; and Jennifer Solomon, RN Director of Philanthropy.

## East Linn No. 44



On Jan. 11, Bro. Jeremy Smith received his Life Membership certificate in East Linn Lodge No. 44, located in Lebanon. The presentation was made by his father-in-law and Worshipful Master Mearl Kroker, and wife Elizabeth Duell Smith.

- submitted by W.B. Mearl Kroker



## Raising A Reader comes to Coos Bay



Left to right: R.W.B. Courtland "C.B." Brooks, District Deputy No. 14 & Worshipful Master of Blanco Lodge No. 48; Kristen Anderson; and W.B. Eric Vickoren, Worshipful Master of North Bend Lodge No. 140.

The Raising A Reader program has recently been provided to all five kindergarten classes at Madison Elementary School in Coos Bay. Kristen Anderson, Senior Manager, Program and Affiliate Relations for Raising A Reader, visited Coos Bay on Jan. 11 and gave an interesting and informative presentation at North Bend Lodge No. 140 on the Raising A Reader program. Goals for this program are early literacy and family engagement. Masons from both the North Bend and Coos Bay area attended.

The following day, Kristen trained the kindergarten staff, school principal and Title X specialist at Madison Elementary. W.B. Eric Vickoren, Worshipful Master of North Bend Lodge No. 140, has a child in this program and reports that the kindergarten students and school staff are excited about this new program and appreciative of the Oregon Masonic Grand Lodge for sponsoring this wonderful opportunity in our local area where it is much needed.

- submitted by W.B. Cary R. Pugh

In partnering with Raising A Reader, Oregon Freemasons provide children with book bags containing books they will take home and read with their family. This encourages children to read, learn, and succeed – one book at a time. To learn more, visit [www.masonic-oregon.com/omyelf](http://www.masonic-oregon.com/omyelf).

## Scio Lodge assists Scio Robotics Club

Members of the Scio Robotics Club at Scio Middle School visited Scio Lodge No. 39 during the Jan. 18 Stated meeting to show the progress on the club's new robot. On behalf of the Lodge members, W.B. Duncan Tucker, Lodge Secretary, presented the club with a check to help fund their first competition of the year. The Brothers of Scio Lodge were impressed by the club members' enthusiasm, technical expertise and competence they demonstrated in overcoming physical and technical challenges. We wish them great success competing with their robot in the 2018 school year.

- submitted by W.B. Duncan S. Tucker



## Upcoming Basic Schools of Instruction

There are two Basic Schools of Instruction scheduled for the Portland Metropolitan area as spring arrives. The first, on March 10, will be held at Tigard-Orenomah Lodge No. 207 in Tigard. The second, scheduled for April 14, will be held at the Kenton Masonic Temple in Portland. Both Schools will start at 8:00 a.m. with coffee and donuts, then instruction until noon. After a lunch break, we will listen to readings for Basic, Intermediate, or Advanced Proficiency Cards.

All Master Masons are invited to attend. If you currently have a Proficiency Card, check the expiration date. You might be ready for renewal. If you do not have a Proficiency Card, this is your opportunity to get one. Remember, every Brother must attend a Basic School before he can receive his Proficiency Card.

The instructors are M.W.B. Rich Martin, P.G.M. and M.W.B. Tomey Greer, H.P.G.M. for Tigard, and M.W.B. Martin and W.B. Dale Palileo for Portland. Please join us for the fellowship, and to get your questions answered concerning the Oregon Ritual.

- by M.W.B. Richard A. Martin, P.G.M.

**March 10**  
**Tigard-Orenomah**  
**Lodge No. 207,**  
**Tigard**

**April 14**  
**Kenton**  
**Masonic Temple,**  
**Portland**

## OREGON MASONIC NEWS

The Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of OR  
2150 Masonic Way  
Forest Grove, OR 97116

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SALEM OR  
PERMIT NO. 526

Change service requested



Scan this QR Code for a quick link to the Grand Lodge website.

### Oregon Masonic News

The Oregon Masonic News is published monthly (except July and August) by authority of the trustees of The Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Oregon. Editors are the trustees of the Grand Lodge. Deadline for copy is the fifth of the month preceding the publication date. Example: May 5 for the June issue.

High resolution photos, along with story submissions, may be sent electronically to the Grand Secretary. Photos should not be reduced in size. Printed photos are also acceptable. If you scan your own photos, they should be at least 300 dpi. Photocopies are NOT acceptable.

The Oregon Masonic News is a publication of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Oregon and unauthorized duplication is strictly forbidden. Proprietary rights to all articles published in the Oregon Masonic News are the sole property of the author and cannot be reproduced without express permission of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Oregon. "News of Lodges" is solicited. Rights are reserved to edit all submitted material, and views expressed in articles may not necessarily be the official position of the Grand Lodge nor an endorsement thereof. Non-members' domestic-subscription rate is \$5 per year. PLEASE NOTE: The mailing address is Oregon Masonic News, 2150 Masonic Way, Forest Grove, OR 97116. Phone: 503-357-3158; outside the Portland-area, 800-970-9920. Fax: 503-357-1815. Website: [www.masonic-oregon.com](http://www.masonic-oregon.com). Email: [ebousquet@masonic-oregon.com](mailto:ebousquet@masonic-oregon.com).

### Fellows of the Craft

A Resolution from June 2006 instituted the *Fellows of the Craft* program. The original intent of the program was to provide a means for educating Masons at all levels of experience, but most especially for those who are progressing through the degrees of Freemasonry.

If one were to read through the traditional candidate's lecture, it becomes clear that this is a recapitulation of the first section of the Entered Apprentice degree. In the Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees, a brief review of elements of the second sections are visited. Ask yourself, did the candidate receive any instructions regarding the esoteric lessons and history of Freemasonry? These are found in the lectures and charges which are not addressed in the candidate's proficiencies. Here is where the *Fellows of the Craft* becomes an essential educational tool that each candidate should have access to with the guidance from a highly-qualified mentor.

It may be that back in the "good old days" the coaches and mentors took time to teach the lessons from the lectures and charges. Is that still done today? If a candidate does not learn the historical foundation and lessons of Freemasonry, what incentive is there for him to proceed? Inquiring minds want to know! There is no reason that the candidate should not have the experience of proper mentorship through the *Fellows of the Craft* and guidance of a degree coach.

The Blue Lodge is the foundation upon which all Appendant and Concordant bodies are built. The strength of that foundation directly influences the quality and strength of these organizations. Brothers, it all starts with a well-educated, wiser, and happier candidate and Brother. By employing both strategies in guiding candidates through their degrees, our fraternity will be one that good men will seek out and join.

For Brethren interested in becoming a qualified mentor, I invite you to contact me for additional information and arrangements for a Mentorship class. This invitation also applies to those who received training in the past and want to improve their skills.



Fraternally,

W.B. Jerry Schierling, Chairman, Fellows of the Craft