



Oregon Masonic News



Volume XXXVI No. 7, March 2019

The Grand Master's Message: Why did you become a Mason?

Why did you become a Mason? This is a question I have been asking myself and others lately. When I think back to when I decided to join the fraternity, several reasons led me to take that initial step. My dad was a Mason as were most of the men I knew growing up. Many of them were business people in Rainier and later in Clatskanie, and they all seemed to be the type of person I wanted to be.



M.W.B. James L. Morgan
Grand Master

I have had Brothers tell me they joined because they wanted the brotherhood they knew in the service. Others join for the historical and esoteric sides of Freemasonry, having a desire to learn more about it and an opportunity to share their knowledge with others. Some join because they want to become a member of the Scottish or York Rite, while others want to be Shrine Masons.

These are great reasons to join, but I think there is something else in us that leads men to ask to join Freemasonry. I do not know that I can put into words just what it is. Perhaps it is a desire to belong to something greater than ourselves, something that we know is the right thing to do but cannot put into words. If we can look deep within and examine the reasons we asked for that petition and remember where we were first made a Mason, I think we begin to see why only some men take that giant step to ask a friend for a petition.

One of the reasons I am so concerned with the "why" of joining is because many of us are often asked about Freemasonry, and what is it that we do. The standard answer for the last 50 or more years has been, "We Make Good Men Better." Ask yourself, what does that really mean? How do we make them



continued on page two

Why I Became a Mason by W.B. Craig A. Sipp

When I find the opportunity to talk about Masonry I often get asked – What is Masonry and why did I become a Mason? Typically, I answer that it is a great fraternal organization with a focus on making good men better. Over the years I have worked on becoming more comfortable with discussing this topic with the hope of planting a seed of interest.



W.B. Craig A. Sipp
Senior Grand Steward

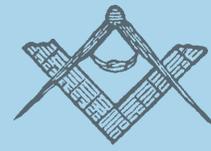
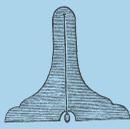
How often do we share what Masonry means to us? I find being able to talk and share a personal experience builds a stronger connection and provides a better insight into what Masonry is all about.

For me, it all started with my grandfather, Kenneth Miles, who provided me with a source of stability at a young age when young men can often struggle in what path they may take in life. My father was not a Mason, and I knew nothing of Masonry. It was in high school that my grandfather

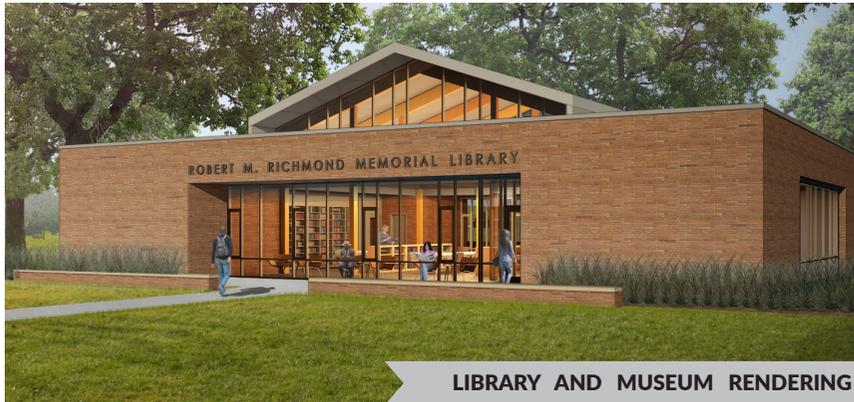
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The Robert M. Richmond Library and Museum



LIBRARY AND MUSEUM RENDERING

April 12 will mark the dedication of the new library/museum at the Grand Lodge campus in Forest Grove. This is the first new structure to be built in 20 years since the completion of the Grand Lodge office and Jennings McCall Center II in 1999.

When the library and museum project was proposed to the Trustees, two options to accomplish the desired result were studied at length. Option one: Remodel and add on to the existing Grand Lodge office building. Option two: Build a new structure. To remodel the existing building was much more expensive than new construction. Due to this, construction of a new 5,000 square foot building began in the spring of 2018 and is in the final stages of completion. The structure will be a combined library/museum and is designed to hold several thousand books and provide the opportunity to display artifacts unique to the history of Freemasonry in Oregon.



**Robert Richmond, P.G.M.
Grand Master 2008-2009**

The building is nestled in the oak trees just north of the Grand Lodge office. With permission from Multnomah Lodge No. 1, their trunk, that held the original charter from Missouri and came to the Oregon Territory by wagon, will be on display in the museum. It may be one of the most unique artifacts in Oregon Freemasonry.

In addition to the books currently housed at the Grand Lodge, more than 2,400 books were donated from the private collection of M.W.B. Bob Richmond who laid down his working tools in the fall of 2014. These have been cataloged and coded in preparation for display. M.W.B. Bob had a personal library of more than 4,000 books and was transporting 8,000 books from Sheridan, Mont. to Baker City when he had a fatal heart attack in Dillion, Mont. The idea of making the new library a memorial library dedicated to M.W.B. Bob was discussed with Mrs. Joyce Richmond, widow of M.W.B. Bob, and their children, Robyn, Jeff, and Verlyn. The family

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

better, and how were you made better by becoming a Mason? Perhaps a better answer would be to start with why you are a Mason. I suggest something like:

"I enjoy being with people that feel service to others and do the right thing whether anyone is watching or not. I believe that all men are created equal and meet on the level, that we have an obligation to help those who are less fortunate. These are some of the reasons you might want to become a Mason."

Have your elevator speech ready the next time someone asks you about Freemasonry and try starting with *Why*.

Fraternally,

M.W.B. James L. Morgan,
Grand Master, A.F. & A.M. of Oregon

You're Invited...

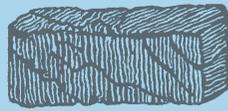
DEDICATION CEREMONY
FOR THE NEW
LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2019
1:00 P.M.

2240 MASONIC WAY,
FOREST GROVE

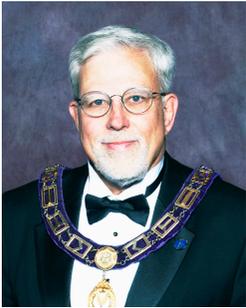


ATTIRE: BUSINESS
PUBLIC WELCOME



Grand Secretary's Desk The Inquiry Process

By now, many of our Lodges are using our inquiry process in *Grand View* to keep track of and follow-up on inquiries received from men who meet the basic membership requirements. With almost 800 inquiries from qualified candidates, it is safe to say there is curiosity surrounding Freemasonry and that the process has been successful.



R.W.B. Rick Komraus
Grand Secretary

While 75 percent of all inquiries have been answered, there are still 25 percent of qualified men that have not been contacted. These men have shown an interest in our fraternity and it is important that we do not wait to make this initial contact.

One of our goals as a Mason is to make new Master Masons. Of course, not everyone is a good fit in your Lodge. The inquiry process can only give you a lead. It is important that your Lodge has an experienced Investigation Committee to guard the West Gate.

I invite you to contact the Grand Lodge office, (503) 357-3158, if you have questions or comments about the inquiry process.

Fraternally,

R.W.B. Richard C. Komraus, Grand Secretary

Why I Became a Mason,

continued from page one

introduced me to DeMolay, which immediately sparked an interest in me. This opened my eyes to the world of Masonry. I asked my grandfather to join the year I became eligible; the challenge was that I was going to college at the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) in Klamath Falls.

My Masonic journey started on December 18, 1985, while I was home during Christmas break. It was an honor to have my grandfather confer the EA degree.

I remember that short winter break from my college studies as I spent just about every day with my grandfather learning the EA lecture. At the time, I did not realize what a blessing that was. The hours spent flew by as I heard many a story about family and also learned a lot about Masonry. The hard work paid off, and I was able to go through the FC degree on January 4, 1986, before going back to OIT.

The plan was to learn my FC proficiency when I went home for spring break. We had scheduled the MM degree at the same time – no pressure! Those three months at OIT flew by as I was focusing on graduating with my engineering degree. When I returned home during spring break, the first stop was to visit my grandfather and get to work on learning my part. Sadly to say, my head was filled with engineering formulas, and I quickly discovered that I would have to double my efforts if I was going to be ready for the MM degree in just a few short days. Again, the hours flew by as I learned more of the symbolism of Masonry, and of course, more family stories. I was raised a MM on March 29, 1986. My grandfather conferred all three degrees and more importantly was my coach and mentor.

I often think back and reflect on the many hours spent with my grandfather. If I had not made the choice to become a Mason, I would have missed the opportunity to really get to know my grandfather and the strong positive influence that exists today. He instilled in me to work hard, go after my dreams, and have a strong moral compass.



W.B. Craig Sipp with grandfather, W.B. Kenneth Miles, at W.B. Sipp's Installation as Master of Wasco Lodge No. 15.

Fraternally,

W.B. Craig A. Sipp, Senior Grand Steward



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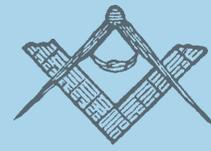
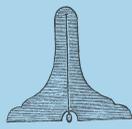
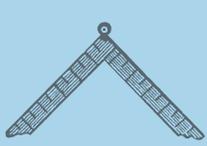


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www.masonic-oregon.com



GRAND MASTER'S TENTATIVE ITINERARY

March 2019

- 2 – Occasional Grand Lodge, East: La Grande No. 41, La Grande, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. - BC, L
- 5 – Union No. 3, McMinnville, Official Visit & Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner, 6 p.m.; Lodge, 7:30 p.m. - U, L
- 6 – Rickreall No. 110, Official Visit & Past Masters Night: dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Lodge, 7:30 p.m. - Bib overalls, L
- 7 – McKenzie River No. 195, Eugene, Official Visit: dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Lodge, 7:30 p.m. - U, L
- 8 – Leadership Meeting: Grand Lodge, Forest Grove, 1 p.m. - BC
- 9 – MESH/Trustee Meeting: Grand Lodge, Forest Grove, 8 a.m. - S
- 9 – Amaranth Grand Court Installation: Lebanon, 6 p.m. - T, L
- 11 – Wasco No. 15, The Dalles, Official Visit: dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Lodge, 7:30 p.m. - U, L
- 12 – Milwaukie No. 109, Official Visit: dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Lodge, 7:30 p.m. - U
- 13 – Tigard-Orenomah No. 207, Tigard, Official Visit: dinner, 6 p.m.; Lodge, 7 p.m. - U, L
- 16 – Junior Warden's Charge (*Sitting Senior Deacons*), Forest Grove, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - BC
- 17 – Nydia Installation: Al Kader Shrine Center, Wilsonville, 2 p.m. - T, L
- 18 – DeMolay Legion of Honor Observance - SU
- 20 – Molalla No. 178, Official Visit: dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Lodge, 7:30 p.m. - U, L
- 23 – Senior Warden's Charge (*Sitting Junior Wardens*): Forest Grove, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - BC
- 28 – Masonic Family Night: Salem Scottish Rite Center, 6 p.m. - U, L
- 30 – Worshipful Master's Charge (*Sitting Senior Wardens*): Forest Grove, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - BC

April 2019

- 4-6 Grand York Rite, North Bend - U, T, L
- 9 – Myrtle No. 78, Myrtle Point, Official Visit: dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Lodge, 7:30 p.m. - U, L
- 10 – Eugene No. 11, Official Visit: dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Lodge, 7:30 p.m. - U, L
- 12 – Dedication Ceremony for the Robert M. Richmond Memorial Library and Museum, 1 p.m., Forest Grove - U, B, L
- 13 – MESH/Trustee Meeting: Grand Lodge, Forest Grove, 8 a.m. - S
- 18-20 Grand Lodge of Hawaii - U, T, L
- 22 – Warrenton High Honors Night, 5 p.m. - U, L
- 25 – Acacia No. 118, Ontario, Official Visit: dinner, 6 p.m.; Lodge, 7 p.m. - U, L
- 25-27 Scottish Rite Baker Valley Spring Reunion - SU, U, T, L

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

Grand Master's Official Visits in March

- 03/05 – Union Lodge No. 3
- 03/06 – Rickreall Lodge No. 110
- 03/07 – McKenzie River Lodge No. 195
- 03/11 – Wasco Lodge No. 15
- 03/12 – Milwaukie Lodge No. 109
- 03/13 – Tigard-Orenomah Lodge No. 207
- 03/20 – Molalla Lodge No. 178

Library and Museum,

continued from page two

was honored by the Trustees' suggestion.

The new library will also house M.W.B. Vern Wertz's Lending Library. M.W.B. Vern served as Grand Master in 1996-1997. He is the author of many Grand Lodge training programs. Among them are the original Master and Wardens Charges used for many years. He was also involved with the group who developed the "Torchlight" program and ran the program for three years. M.W.B. Vern had a career as a teacher and is a mentor to many members of the fraternity.

Brothers from as far away as Scotland will be attending the dedication; family and friends from Oregon, Wyoming, and Colorado, will also be in attendance. The dedication, on April 12, begins at 1 p.m. in Forest Grove with refreshments to follow. If possible, please attend this event.

Fraternally,

M.W.B. Ed Bousquet, P.G.M., P.G.S.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN



HELPING OUR
MASONIC FAMILY

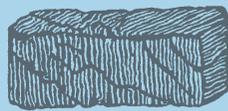
(503) 357-3158

This supplemental financial aid is available to benefit the children of Oregon Master Masons (5+ years).

- ✓ MEDICAL BILLS
- ✓ MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
- ✓ DENTAL BILLS

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Public Education Achievement Award

It is time for each Lodge to submit their various activities and support for our public schools for the year. This includes volunteering and financial support for the many programs we find in our schools today. Please record the funds your Lodge or individual Brother has contributed to your local school(s) by using the submission form available on the Grand Lodge website.

Please submit the form by April 1, to W.B. Jerry Schierling by email: jschierling@comcast.net or mail to 2120 Robins Ln. SE #98, Salem, OR 97306. Any activities between this date and June 1, 2019, can be reported (estimate contribution) on this form. Every Lodge should submit a report even if you think you may not qualify. This is your opportunity to share with the other Lodges how we are making a difference for our children. I encourage Lodges to share their participation in promoting public education regardless of the level of support.

Fraternally,
W.B. Jerry Schierling, Chairman,
Public Schools Committee

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2019

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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. Deadline: The 5th of the previous month (i.e., articles for the June issue are due by May 5).



OFFICER CHARGES

REGISTRATION



The 2019 Masonic Charges will take place in March at the new Masonic library and museum in Forest Grove. The Junior Warden's Charge, aimed at the sitting Senior Deacon, is scheduled for March 16, followed by the Senior Warden's Charge, on March 23, intended for the sitting Junior Warden. The Charges will end with the Worshipful Master's Charge, on March 30, designed for the sitting Senior Warden.

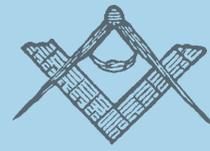
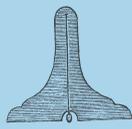
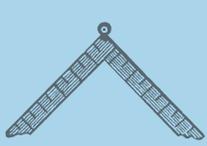
A light breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. The Charges are free to attend and will begin at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided, and the program will conclude by 3:30 p.m. Attire is business casual.

Using the feedback provided by past attendees, we plan to incorporate the requested topics and information into this year's program. Please bring your Ritual, Officers Handbook, and the Code Book. Registration is required, so we have enough food and handouts for the classes. We will provide reimbursement up to \$100 for one night's lodging for Brothers traveling over 50 miles to attend. Receipts will be required for reimbursement. Please mark your calendar for your office's training and join us at the Charges this year.

CHARGES REGISTRATION

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

SELECT A TRAINING	NAME
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior Warden's Charge (Senior Deacons) MAR 16	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Warden's Charge (Junior Wardens) MAR 23	LODGE NAME & NO. <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Worshipful Master's Charge (Senior Wardens) MAR 30	OFFICE HELD <input type="text"/>
	PHONE NO. <input type="text"/>



NEWS FROM OUR LODGES —

Grants Pass No. 84



On Feb. 5, R.W.B. John Lohrfink presented Bro. Elmer Paul Seutter with his 50-year pin and award at Grants Pass Lodge No. 84. This was a courtesy presentation for the Grand Lodge of California as Bro. Seutter now lives in Grants Pass. Bro. Seutter was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on Oct. 23, 1968, in Crow Canyon Lodge No. 551 in California. Pictured left to right: W.M. Chris Smith, Joanne Seutter, Bro. Elmer Seutter, and R.W.B. John Lohrfink. (Back row) 50-year members W.B. Irv Urie and Bro. James Warriner.

- submitted by R.W.B. John J. Lohrfink, District Deputy No. 17



PRESENTS

OUR ROLE

as members of the Masonic Family,
in restoring **CIVILITY** to society

SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2019

11:30 AM PRESENTATION
1:00 PM SOCIAL
OPTIONAL LUNCH

KENTON MASONIC TEMPLE

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Presented by
Most Worshipful Brother
Russell E. Charvonia
Past Grand Master of Free
and Accepted Masons in California



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KENTONFREEMASONS.ORG/CIVILITY

The Fellow of the Craft Mentor Training



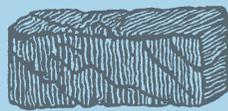
Some of the Brethren who received mentor training for the Fellow of the Craft program on Jan. 26.

On Jan. 26, 22 Brethren gathered to receive training on the Fellow of the Craft proficiency study. This group represented 10 Lodges in the Mid-Willamette Valley. Each Brother received the required materials to be a mentor and guide for our newly initiated members. During the training, the group explored methods of how to best provide instruction and guidance when working with candidates. The deeper study of our degrees provides the candidate a stronger foundation upon which to build his Masonic knowledge. When working in conjunction with the candidate's coach, the candidate will become wiser, better, and consequently happier with his association with the Brethren of the Lodge he is joining.



These Brethren now qualify as instructors to help Brethren in their respective Lodge to serve as mentors. Opportunities to set up and organize training sessions in your district is not a difficult task. W.B. Wayne Ford and I are always available to provide guidance in holding a future training session in your district. Feel free to contact us for assistance in this vital Masonic educational program.

- submitted by W.B. Jerry Schierling,
Fellow of the Craft Chairman



The Legion of Honor Brotherhood

The Legion of Honor is a unique group of Shrine Mason Veterans who enjoy the fellowship of Brothers and Nobles who are also veterans.

The origin of the Legion of Honor dates back to 1802 when Napoleon Bonaparte established *Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur* as the ultimate honor for France's military heroes. This became the inspiration for honoring Shriners who have served honorably or are serving our great country in its Armed Forces, or Shriners who have served honorably in the Armed Forces of a nation allied with the United States.



Al Kader currently has two Legion of Honor Platoons: the Willamette Platoon stationed in Salem and the North Coast Platoon in Tillamook and Clatsop counties.

The North Coast Platoon is reaching out to Shrine veterans in Washington and Columbia counties inviting them to participate in our activities. We will schedule meetings in locations convenient to the men who have shown interest.

For information, contact Legion of Honor North Coast Platoon Commander, Frank Jordan, by phone: (503) 398-5400 or email: fjordan603@gmail.com or Legion of Honor North Coast Platoon Adjutant, Carey Huckaba, by phone: (503) 842-5326 or email: cjhuckaba@gmail.com.

- submitted by R.W.B. Frank Jordan,
North Coast Platoon Commander



The Widows Sons of Oregon

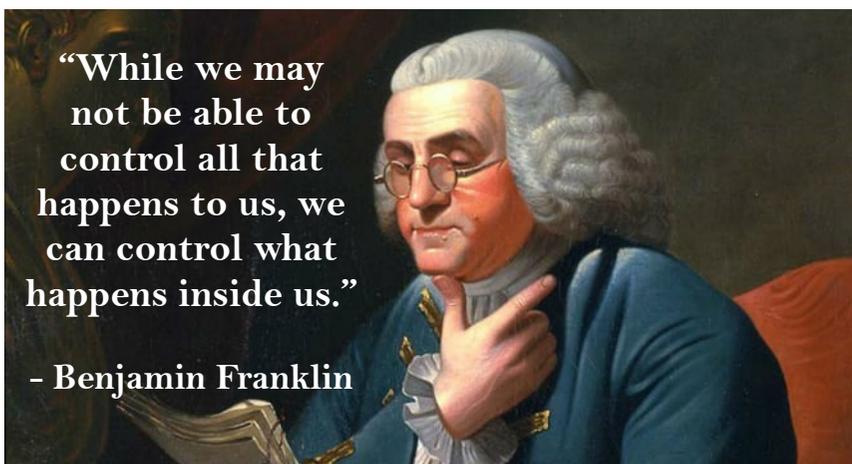


Over the fall and winter months, the Widows Sons of Oregon were busy riding in the Veterans Day Parade in Albany and the ABATE Toy Run for the Shriner's Hospital in Portland. We also saw a change in leadership. In November, new leaders were voted in for both the Grand Chapter and the Hiram Chapter. Congratulations to Darrin Taylor who was elected as the president of the Grand Chapter for the state of Oregon and Hunter Bronson who is the new president for the Hiram Chapter in Portland.

For those unfamiliar with the Widows Sons, here is a brief introduction. The Widows Sons is an organization exclusively for Master Masons who ride motorcycles. The primary goal of the Widows Sons is to increase awareness about Freemasonry through the hobby of motorcycling as well as to deepen the bonds of brotherhood with members of the fraternity. Moving forward, the new leadership hopes to increase awareness about the Widows Sons across Oregon.

If anyone is interested in learning more or would like to petition for membership, please contact your nearest Chapter: Sojourners Chapter (Salem), Darrin Taylor, darrin@widowssonsoregon.org or Hiram Chapter (Portland Metro), Hunter Bronson, hunter@widowssonsoregon.org. Any Grand Chapter inquiries should be sent to Darrin Taylor as well.

- submitted by Bro. Hunter Bronson, President,
Hiram Chapter, Widows Sons of Oregon



- Benjamin Franklin

OREGON MASONIC NEWS

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

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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.

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Mason of the Month – The Editor

In 1990, Lyon Lodge No. 29 started a joint newsletter with Jennings No. 9 and Rickreall No. 110 as well as Eastern Star Chapters Naomi No. 22 and Adah No. 34. After two years, W.B. Howard Haynes was asked to take over as editor and for the past 26 years, W.B. Haynes has published and edited our monthly newsletter.

After creating the newsletter, W.B. Haynes would print over 200 copies, then he and his wife would mail them to Lodge members as far away as Florida. Over the years, email became popular, and so W.B. Haynes also sent out an electronic version of the newsletter to over 100 additional members who requested it in that format. In doing so, he reached more members in places as far away as Canada, the Cook Islands, and the Philippines.

As you know, the outreach to members, near and far, is critical to keeping our members "in the Light". W.B. Haynes took a significant amount of time each month to make sure our Masonic family continued to stay in touch. I've heard from several members, who are not able to attend Lodge due to their location or medical condition, who enjoy keeping in contact with the Lodge even if only through a brief newsletter.

Recently, our Lodge Historian, Scott McArthur, asked W.B. Haynes to print all of the newsletters from the last 26 years (about 300 newsletters) and bind them for future historians to use, and W.B. Haynes agreed to do that. I feel that his sacrifice and commitment, not only to our Lodge but also to the other nearby Masonic organizations, have gone well above and beyond any expectations, and this is why I strongly believe he is worthy of Mason of the Month.

- nominated by W.B. Rick A. Igou



W.B. Howard Haynes

THANK YOU, W.B. HOWARD HAYNES!

To nominate an exemplary Mason, submit a short bio on the Brother to R.W.B. Rick Komraus, Grand Secretary, at grandsecretary@masonic-oregon.com.