The identity of Freemasonry

What is the identity of Freemasonry? According to Wikipedia, “Freemasonry is a fraternal organization that traces its origins to the local fraternities of stonemasons, which from the end of the fourteenth century regulated the qualifications of masons and their interaction with authorities and clients.” This is a historical view of our Fraternity but it does not explain what we are and what we do. As each one of us knows, we are honest, hard-working, patriotic, and spiritual men who endeavor to make good men better. To this end we are successful. However, as our numbers decline, we need to stem the tide and let our light shine.

It is often said that Masons should not seek quantity, only quality. While that is true, I cannot believe that there are not tens of thousands of men in this Jurisdiction that would benefit from becoming Oregon Masons. We need to get the word out about what we do and stand for, and that we are looking for good men. In recent years, the Craft has not always been successful in reaching out to our communities – public relations have been lacking or nonexistent. This situation cannot be reversed by Grand Lodge alone or by the leaders of the Appendant and Concordant bodies. There is no silver-bullet solution, but there are steps we can take. Lodges, chapters, assemblies and temples and their membership need to begin to reach out to the community.

What can you do to reach out? Each Masonic Lodge, and the local groups of every Appendant and Concordant body need to focus on public relations. W.B. Carey Huckaba cites Dr. George Fox Mott who said, “The business of producing words and pictures has been going on for a long time. Combine an idea and the act of transmitting it to others out of range of immediate voice, and journal-
Grand Master’s Message, continued from page one

ism exists in its simplest [form].” Disseminating information to others is publicity. Administration of the dissemination of information from each organization to the public is considered public relations. Masonry and the Masonic Family has had communication with the public, but we need to learn to better manage our public relations.

It is obvious that there are a few who are opposed to Masonry. According to Wikipedia, “Anti-Masonry (alternatively called Anti-Freemasonry) has been defined as ‘opposition to Freemasonry’ but there is no homogeneous anti-Masonic movement. Anti-Masonry consists of widely differing criticisms from diverse (and often incompatible) groups who are hostile to Freemasonry in some form. Critics have included religious groups, political groups, and conspiracy theorists.” Our efforts to counter this kind of criticism need not be that extensive. There will always be a few in society who want to believe opinions for which there is no evidence, and there is not much we can do to persuade them otherwise. We can, however, live our lives as an example of the best that mankind has to offer and demonstrate our faith in what is right. Do good unto all and treat others the same way we expect to be treated. If we lead by example, we can diminish much of the unwarranted criticism and illuminate the truth about Masonry and the Masonic Family.

One organization in the Masonic Family has done a much better job of managing its public relations, and that is the Shrine. The Grand Lodge recognizes their success and feels that Masonry and the rest of the Appendant and Concordant bodies need to emulate the Shrine’s success and maximize our collective efforts.

Not only do the heads of each organization need to become cognizant of the need to put our best foot forward, but each area representative (i.e. District Deputy) needs to learn what can be done in their district. In turn, the call for better public relations needs to reach the leaders of each Lodge, chapter, assembly and temple to encourage them to reach out to their local community. Ultimately, each Mason and member of the Masonic Family is responsible for their contribution of public relations for the Fraternity. If each member does his or her part, the public will know what we stand for and what our standards are.

W.B. Carey Huckaba suggests that each Lodge needs to have a press correspondent who is responsible to inform the group’s members and the public at large about events and activities. The Torchlight continues

I am happy to hear from my Brethren, newly elected to office, who are working on Torchlight. Congratulations on your preferment, it reflects your Lodge’s confidence in you to do the duties required. What are those duties, you may ask? Doing the Torchlight study will answer most of your questions, teach you how to find answers, and show your Brethren that you are really serious about serving your Lodge to the best of your ability.

For new Worshipful Masters, organizing a Torchlight study group is an excellent way to stimulate a working bond with your officers. You will soon learn who is most willing or able to help you as you delegate Lodge duties. If you decide to group study, please download the study group form and use the procedures outlined, and provide the information asked for. Check the “For Members” tab on the Grand Lodge web site for “Educational Resources.”

Perhaps someone who has done the Torchlight would consider being the moderator for the group, and appreciate the opportunity to refresh their knowledge also. I am always here to give assistance, though I don’t answer Torchlight questions.

Good luck, good studying, and Happy New Year!

by Dick Unruh, Grand Chaplain
Torchlight Coordinator

Lodge Trivia: Know this Lodge?

Originally chartered in Frankfort, Germany near the end of World War II, this Lodge houses many of the artifacts brought from its country of origin.

Hint: The Jewels of the Lodge are made from remnants of B-17 Bombers and the Cords are originally from Ranger parachutes that landed U.S. military behind enemy lines on D-Day.
Lodge programs, continued from page one

Grand Master, and the Grand Lodge trustees, including members of the Concordant and Appendant bodies, are working on ways to put Masonry in the forefront of public education. Information on all these programs is available on the Grand Lodge website or from the staff at Grand Lodge.

So I ask the Masters and their various committee members to plan wisely and include some of these programs during your Masonic year. As we all know, time passes quickly. Let your Lodge and the principals that we stand for; Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth be known in your community and we will indeed hear that it was the Masons that made it all happen.

- by Don Stapleton
Senior Grand Warden

Public Education reminder

In the December issue of the Oregon Masonic News, our Grand Master, M.W.B. David Fryday, reminded us of the importance of the "Spirit of Giving". It is without a doubt that each and every Lodge, as well as each Brother, recognizes opportunities to reach out within our communities to contribute in some worthy fashion.

I am urging each Worshipful Master to go to the Grand Lodge website and download the Public Education Achievement Award Report and fill it out. This is a semi-annual report, covering June through December of the numerous activities and volunteer hours for this period. It is only proper that the Brethren and Lodges receive the recognition for their labor and serve as an encouragement to others to lend a hand in reaching out to our communities and supporting the opportunity to educate the public of our fraternal obligations.

- by W.B. Jerry Schierling
Chairman, Public Education Committee

GRAND MASTER’S TENTATIVE ITINERARY

January 2014

2 — Salem Scottish Rite, Honors Grand Master; 6-7 p.m., -U, L
4 — Al Kader Shrine, Installation; Wilsonville, 6-9 p.m., - T, L
9 — Ashland No. 23, Official Visit; dinner & Lodge. 6-9 p.m. - U, L
11 — MESH, Forest Grove; 8 a.m. - 12 noon
11 — Hillah Shrine, Installation; Medford, 5-8 p.m., - T, U, L
15 — Jennings No. 9, Official Visit; dinner & Lodge, 6:30-9:30 p.m. - U, L
16 — Meet the Masters at the Washington Masonic Center; Willamette No. 2 and Waverly No. 174; meeting & refreshments, 7-10 p.m., - U, L
20 — Medford Scottish Rite, Honors Grand Master; 6:30-9 p.m., - U, L
21 — Rainier No. 24, Official Visit; dinner & Lodge, 6-9 p.m., - U, L
24 — Robert Burns Dinner, York Rite, Odd Fellows; Milwaukie, 5:30-9 p.m., - U, L
30-31 Grand Lodge of Utah, Salt Lake Masonic Temple - U, T, L

February 2014

1-2 — Grand Lodge of Utah, Salt Lake Masonic Temple - U, T, L
4 — Holbrook No. 30, Official Visit; dinner & Lodge, 6:30-9:30 p.m. - U, L
5-7 — Grand Lodge of Alaska, Anchorage Sheraton Hotel - U, T, L
8 — MESH, Forest Grove; 8 a.m. - 12 noon
11 — Tillamook No. 57, Official Visit; dinner & Lodge, 6-9 p.m. - U, L
15 — Conference of Western Grand Lodges, Baltimore, Md.
15-19 Conference of Grand Masters in North America, Baltimore, Md.
20 — Clatskanie No. 133 Official Visit; dinner & Lodge, 6:30-9:30 p.m. - U, L
22 — Regional Meeting, Occasional Grand Lodge, Washington Masonic Center, Portland; 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. - SU, L
28 — Little Falls No. 176, White Sox & Wig Night, Vader, Wa; 5-6 p.m. -U

NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

The 2014 Masonic Model Student Assistance Program is fast approaching. Currently, we have around 60 teachers and staff signed up to attend. As Oregon Coordinator, I want to extend a thank you to each Mason who has taken the time to approach local educators. You’ve made the difference!

If you haven’t approached any, I implore you to do so. As we know, the benefits to Oregon children are endless and the program is regularly hailed as "One of the most useful and dynamic conferences [out there]".

Thank you for continuing to make the difference for MMSAP.

- by Marissa Douglas

*Quote of a Douglas County educator.
press correspondent would have the duty to utilize the appropriate media: be it the local newspaper, radio station, or television station. The press correspondent must have accurate information to disseminate: who, what, when, where, how, and why. He should also be able to provide high quality close-up photos of people and events. Proper media relations require establishing a rapport with editors, columnists, news directors and reporters. The subject matter needs to be timely, unusual, local and have human appeal.

Lodge Trestleboards (newsletters) need to follow the same standards for communication with the media. They also need to announce upcoming events, report on recent happenings, acknowledge member accomplishments, etc. Trestleboards can go a step beyond and provide biographical sketches and review Masonic publications. Although we traditionally mail our monthly publications, the trend is shifting to electronic media which has been enthusiastically accepted by many of our newer members.

All of these ideas, and more, will be shared in the upcoming training for our members and the leaders of our various organizations. Blue Lodge Training on April 26, 2014, will have various workshops on Lodge public relations and instructors will delve into the nitty-gritty of proper publicity. If you are interested, contact the Information and Education Committee Chairman, R.W.B. Art Borland, for more details.

Let all of us begin to reach out to our local communities and improve our collective Fraternal identity. We must proudly stand up for the principles and tenets of Masonry. We need to educate the public about the important work we do as Freemasons. A visit to remember: The George Washington Memorial

Twenty-one visitors from Oregon arrived at the east coast on Nov. 12, 2013, to represent the Oregon Jurisdiction at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, located in Alexandria, Va. Stay tuned as the next few OMN issues will cover the day-to-day activities and landmarks of the 2013 visit.

DAY TWO:

Thursday dawned bright, sunny and a bit chilly with a light breeze. Our day started with a trip to Mt. Vernon for an enjoyable and delightful tour of the estate of George Washington. We were met at the front steps by Jack, a very entertaining docent. He escorted us to the Orientation Center where we viewed a 15-minute movie titled “We Fight to be Free.” This informative video presents many lesser-known facts about George Washington’s role as a Colonel in the Virginia Militia when he participated in the French and Indian War. In 1755, Colonel Washington served with Major General Edward Braddock on a mission to advance on Fort Duquesne. After Braddock’s force was ambushed and defeated at the Battle of Monongahela, resulting in General Braddock’s death, George Washington stepped forward and organized a retreat that saved the remainder of the British and American forces. For his service during the French and Indian War, George Washington received several thousand acres in the Ohio Valley, an area that Washington became familiar with years earlier as a 16-year-oldsurveyor. The video further displayed details about the crossing of the Delaware, a battle that began on Christmas day, 1776, and concluded the next with the first major victory for the Colonial Army in the War for Independence, providing an

The estate features a "dove of peace" weathervane.
2014 Secretary Seminar

Time is limited! Sign up for the Jan. 18, 2014, Secretary Seminar. Hosted in the Jefferson room at the Jennings McCall Center, the Grand Lodge strongly recommends attendance. The seminar will last from approximately 8-5 p.m., with lunch provided. The Grand Secretary will be available for additional questions and answers that are pertinent to the individual Lodge Secretary’s membership issues and concerns.

The Secretary Seminar is open to Lodge Secretaries and those in training. Please have your registration form and supply order submitted no later than one week prior to the date of seminar. We suggest you bring a current copy of the Oregon Masonic Code and your Secretary’s Handbook.

Lastly, a block of rooms has been made available until Jan. 3, at both the Best Western Hotel, 503-992-888, and the McMenamins Grand Lodge, 503-992-9533. Mention “Masonic Grand Lodge” for a discounted rate.

2014 Secretary Seminar
REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill out and return to:
Masonic Grand Lodge
2150 Masonic Way
Forest Grove, OR 97116

NAME: __________________________

Lodge Name: __________________________

Lodge Number: __________

January 2014 Contributions
November 7, 2013 — December 11, 2013

Masonic & Eastern Star Home
Petitioner Club
Mitch Obeid (66)    James B. Byford (72)    Steve M. Dunn (156)
Raymond Carson (201)    Gary Price (18)    Harry Davis (48)
Judy and M.W.B. Ed Bousquet, P.G.M. (139)
Evelyn Holce    Gerald V. Gerritz, Jr. (55)
Tillamook Lodge No. 57 (Pin Money)
Crater Lake Lodge No. 211 (Pin Money)
Florence Lodge No. 107    Crater Lake Lodge No. 211
Warren Lodge No. 10    Gateway Lodge No. 175
Tillamook Lodge No. 57

Oregon Masonic OutReach Program
Petitioner Club
Jennifer Brundidge – in honor of Tom Burke & in memory of Forrest A. Steen
Portland Lodge No. 55

Giving Tree
Robert H. Swenson (57)    William F. Bitar (114)
Patti and M.W.B. Hunt Compton, P.G.M. (3)
Donald A. Helwig (57)    W.E. & Darlene Johnson (156)
Dalton & Christine Fox (29)    LeRoy Parker (103)
Matthew Gerbrandt (52)    Brian Hellman (6)    James W. Aday (13)
Donald B. Myers (102)    Morris & Carolyn Miller (157)
Dean & Helen Frazier (34)    Charles & Debra Aster (56)
Judy and M.W.B. Ed Bousquet, P.G.M. (139)    Art Thompson (6)
Marys River Lodge No. 221

OMCF - MMSAP
Petitioner Club
Ralph Gens (55)    William Ziebell (55)    Richard A. Hazeltine (156)
Mitch Obeid (66)    James B. Byford (72)    Bob L. Hopper (30)
Raymond Carson (201)
Gateway Lodge No. 175    Portland Lodge No. 55
Tillamook Lodge No. 57    Florence Lodge No. 107
Crater Lake Lodge No. 211

Masonic Youth & Literacy Program
Fellowcraft Club
Warren Lodge No. 10

REMINDER TO ALL LODGES:
LEGISLATION IS DUE TO THE GRAND SECRETARY’S OFFICE BY JANUARY 6, 2014.

January 2014 — Page 5
George Washington Memorial visit,
continued from page four

important and morale-boosting victory.

The original Mt. Vernon residence was a modest farmhouse
built by George Washington’s father, Augustine in 1735. George
Washington expanded the house in 1758 to two-and-one-half
stories and in 1774, added the north and south wings, the cupola
and piazza to create the structure we see today. Today, the man-
sion stands at those same two-and-one-half stories with a full
basement, the whole totaling more than 11,000 square feet.

There are large vegetable gardens
that provided vast
amounts of food for the estate. There
are outbuildings that include quar-
ters for the servants of those that visited George and Martha, a
bakery, distillery, blacksmith shop, gristmill, greenhouse and a
very interesting dung repository. This is a covered area where
horse manure was mixed with other organic matter to produce
fertilizer for the nearby gardens, orchards and fields. This unique
use of what would normally be considered waste was an example
of Washington’s creative innovations for agriculture. Of all his
talents, George Washington was most proud of being a farmer.

Our tour ended with an impressive laying of a wreath by Most
Worshipful Grand Master,
David Fryday at the tombs of
George and Martha Wash-
ington. George Washington died
at Mount Vernon on Dec. 14,
1799. It was not until 1831
that a tomb was completed
and George and Martha’s
remains were transferred to
the tomb.

Everyone agreed, the visits
to the memorials dedicated
to the Father of our coun-
try were rousing and excit-
ing ventures that created
an intense desire to return
and learn more about this amazing man, husband, Freemason,
farmer, fisherman, entrepreneur, surveyor, soldier and inspira-
tion. Sadly, we had to leave Mt. Vernon with much left to be seen.
Guess we will just have to plan another trip.

- by M.W.B. Ed Bousquet, P.G.M.,
Acting Grand Secretary

Grand Master’s Message,
continued from page four

public about our contributions to society,
to public education and to our various
philanthropic efforts. Working alone,
there is little we can get done; “Building
Together” there is little we cannot accom-
plish. Let us continue to make the world
a better place - eliminating ignorance,
eradicating disease and assisting the
needy. Let’s get to work and make a real
difference.

Fraternally,
David H. Fryday, Grand Master
A.F. & A.M., of Oregon

The Chaplain’s corner

Now that Thanksgiving has past, we can
take a few minutes to reflect on all
that we have to be thankful for. One great
benefit is the support of all our Brothers
as we go into a new year. Some officers
will be new and may be worried about
what they should be doing. Remember,
help and advice is just a handshake away.
Don’t hesitate to ask an experienced
Brother for assistance. Those of us who
have gone that way before are usually
reluctant to volunteer help, but seldom will
we refuse when asked. A lesson I learned
the first time I was Worshipful Master, was
that when I asked for volunteers, no hands
went up, but when I asked specific men
by name if they would help, I was seldom
refused.

Always remember, there is an inexhaust-
able supply of help and strength in prayer
and in our Holy Book. With the outstand-
ing leadership we have in our Lodges
and Grand Lodge, I pray and expect our
Lodges and Fraternity to prosper in the
New Year. May the Great Architect bless
and protect you.

- by Dick Unruh
Grand Chaplain

GWMNM TRIVIA
Washington also operated the largest
distillery in the country, producing near
11,000 gallons of whiskey in 1799.

M.W.B. David Fryday and wife, Mary lay a wreath
at the tomb of George and Martha Washington.
NEWS FROM OUR LODGES —
Bend Lodge No. 139

On Nov. 16, Bend Lodge hosted their annual Veteran’s Dinner. This year with the help of the Brethren, the Lodge was able to get the word out to well over 200 veterans who served, or are still serving, in the U.S. military. With the word out, and the leg work done by the officers of the Lodge, we were pleased to see a turnout that was four times the previous year. With the hall full and the wonderful food served, the Worshipful Master introduced our special guests for the evening.

Among the attendees were; Shirley Godwin and Lucille Seidenverg, sisters of Major Benjamin F. Wilson who received the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroics and actions in the Korean War; and Corporal Robert Maxwell, resident of Bend and oldest living Congressional Medal of Honor recipient for his heroic actions during World War II. Corporal Maxwell received his medal of honor for his risk of life in 1944, when he unhesitatingly hurled himself squarely upon an enemy hand grenade, saving the lives of his comrades in arms.

The head table, complete with its patriotic quilt backdrop, provided by the Worshipful Master’s wife, Gail Ransdall was covered with fascinating historic documents, flags, cartoons and photographs, including one of the presentation to Major Wilson by President Dwight Eisenhower. Though it is easy to revel in the accomplishments of our key speakers, it was impossible to come away from the evening without heartfelt recognition and deepened respect for all that each and every service member has done for our nation. I was proud to be able to break bread with such upstanding and selfless people.

- by W.B. Derek Stevens

Hermiston Lodge No. 138

W.M. Phil Walchli recently presented a gift to Brother Jim Leitch of Hermiston Lodge in honor of his fifteen years of service as Treasurer. Bro. Leitch was presented with the Grand Masters pen set and is seen below, holding the gift with smiles all around.

- story provided by W.B. Randy Smith

2013 OutReach Giving Tree Results

This year’s OutReach Service’s Giving Tree, at right, is covered with ornaments, each representing a donation given to support a Brother or Sister in need. This past Christmas, twenty-two OutReach members received gifts from the $1,880 donated to the fund. Danielle Christopherson, OutReach Services Coordinator, is working with the Rainbow Girls and Lodge volunteers to distribute, and often hand deliver the gifts to the recipients.

Thank you to everyone who picked an “ornament” off the tree and made the modest wishes of Masonic and Eastern Star Brothers and Sisters come true. You’ve made someone else’s holiday brighter!

- by Marissa Douglas

2014 Directory of Lodges

The Directory of Lodges will be mailed out in the next month. Included in the listings are Worshipful Masters, Senior Wardens, Junior Wardens, Senior Deacons and Secretaries. Also listed are District Deputies of the Grand Master and Grand Lodge staff.

Please remember the Directory of Lodges is only for the use of our Lodge members. Lodge Secretaries should submit any changes to the members’ contact information to the Grand Lodge promptly.

- January 2014 — Page 7
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: September 5 for the October 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. Email: ebousquet@masonic-oregon.com.

Winter Special
Let us welcome you!

Move into the Jennings McCall Center before March 1, 2014, and we will credit your first month’s rent for up to $500.*

Offer expires March 2, 2014
Contact Tina Purdy at Jennings McCall, 503-357-4133, or tpurdy@jenningsmccall.com.

Adult Living
You Design

2300 Masonic Way
Forest Grove, OR 97116
www.jenningsmccall.com

*Some restrictions may apply. A copy of this ad must be submitted before credit will be applied to your rent.