



FriendshipMasonicLodge¹⁶⁰

Trestleboard

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon

Voting on Petitions – the Gentleman’s Way

by Bob Casey, Worshipful Master

Certainly it is hoped, that petitions for membership to our lodge will be approved. And voting favorably tends to be a straight-forward matter.

But what about voting to reject? That can be delicate. The most courteous approach might be to prevent the matter from being brought to a final vote.

Here’s how it might work. The process could begin, with a worshipful master looking for signs of impending black cubes. Such indications might appear at any time, between when a petition is first presented, and when the lodge has a final vote. Throughout this period, the master should encourage lodge members to search their own consciences, and to quietly share any concerns they might have with the master.

In privacy and confidentiality, all concerns can be expressed. The master might respond in a variety of ways. He might attempt to facilitate a reconciliation, between the petitioner and the member expressing reservations. Or, if differences appear irreconcilable, the master might choose not to bring the matter to a vote, and inform the petitioner in a humane, one-on-one communication. Greater kindness is shown, if the petitioner is spared the trauma of a negative vote. Moreover, that might allow him to petition another lodge, that might feel differently and welcome him as a new member.

Standard practice, unfortunately, can be harsh. Black cubes might appear unexpectedly, with no warning signs, at the time a final vote is called. If that happens, the worshipful master will be startled. Worse, the person who is rejected will be humiliated. Finally, there might be recriminations within the lodge.

A better way is available. A lodge member opposing a petition can quietly go to the worshipful master at some point before the final vote is cast, to communicate reservations. Nothing in our rules forbids such an approach. *This would be an act of discretion, that spoke well of the lodge member.*

The path of the gentleman sometimes involves doing more than simply following rules. It also involves imagination, foresight, and discretion. Why cause needless harm to someone who sought our fellowship?

WB Bob Casey, Worshipful Master 2016



“The Wrecker”

I saw them tearing a building down, a group of men
in a busy town.

With a hefty blow and a lusty yell, They swung with
zest, and the sidewall fell.

I asked the foremen, “are these men skilled? The
kind you would hire, if you had to build?”

He looked at me, and laughed, “no, indeed!
Unskilled labor is all I need. Why, they can wreck in
a day or two, What has taken builders years to do.”

I asked myself, as I went my way, which of these
roles have I tried to play?

Am I a builder with rule and square, measuring and
constructing with skill and care?

Or am I the wrecker, who runs the town, content
with the business of tearing down?

By: Charles Benvegar

from the South

I recently watched an episode of *George Gently*, in which a young, junior detective told the best friend of the deceased, “I didn’t know Dolores, but I want justice for her”. Perhaps it was the skill of the actor or his writers, but that line has stuck with me in my meditations on the virtue of *Justice* this past few weeks. It seems to say it all. “*Justice*” rings out clear as a bell – but what does it mean to *get* justice?

I was grappling with the idea of *Justice* at one point in my childhood; and my mother told me a story about her divorce from my father. At one point her attorney pointed to the courthouse and said that she “shouldn’t expect to find justice in that place, only resolution”. I’m not sure I still fully understand what her attorney meant by that, but within the same story my mother told me that human beings cannot create *Justice*. It is simply too divine a thing to be wrought by our own hands. But we can hope that by treating one another with fairness, respect and dignity, we can make the world a more divine place.

Perhaps *Justice* is not meant to be any one thing – to be exclusive would make it possessable and subject to distortion by avarice, vice and ignorance. I wonder, perhaps Socrates wasn’t so far off the mark. Perhaps *Justice* isn’t an answer, but rather a string of inquiry – a check on the self for the benefit of others. Even those we never know.

But I am optimistic that we can make progress together. We’ve seen a strong spirit of inquiry and introspection in Friendship this year – the Worshipful Master’s program of *Skills of a Modern Gentleman* has guaranteed the time and space for us all to do this work. And I look forward to seeing you again this May, and digesting this matter further whilst we dine again.

Be well, Brethren and make good choices.

Fraternally,
Your Junior Warden

BETHEL #4
MAY 2016

For the past several months, Bethel #4 has been very busy. We have participated in Initiations at other Bethels, Majority Ceremonies, Burgerville Fundraiser (thank you to the lodge members that came and supported us), Even a kidnap breakfast where the girls were picked up at their homes and had to go to breakfast in their pajamas, Grand Bethel Weekend as well as attending other Bethel meetings around the area.

This coming weekend, April 30th, the girls will be participating in a kickball tournament followed by a mystery dinner to benefit the H.I.K.E. (Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment) program that Job's Daughters support; we are also looking forward to Heritage Day on May 7th.

The installation of Bethel # 4 will be held on June 18th at 3:00pm where Alison Keepers will be installed as Honored Queen. Then Grand Session is just around the corner on June 23 - June 26 to be held in Redmond.

Speaking of Grand Session, Bethel #4 has sent out a no breakfast invitation where we are asking for donations. The cost to send a daughter to Grand Session this year is \$205.00. We are hoping to receive donations in order to pay for 2 girl's attendance. Any and all will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you again, Friendship Lodge, for all the support you have given to Bethel # 4 in the past. We appreciate it more than you can imagine.

Jobie Love,

Grace Pudayel, Christanee Tibball, HQ pro-
tems

Jodie Tibbetts, Guardian

May Masonic Birthdays

Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason

- 15 John Rall (22)
- 15 Brian Shannon (03)
- 19 Alfred Loeb, Jr. (68)
- 19 Mark Cook (05)
- 20 Aubrey Carroll (46)
- 22 James Lasher (53)
- 25 John Bromley (39)
- 25 Bruce Copper (33)
- 27 Stephen Dyrnes (35)
- 28 Brian Gardes (02)
- 30 Charles DeFir (37)

May Natural Birthdays

- 01 James Damron
- 02 Douglas McCarty
- 03 Philip Draper
- 04 Fredric Krueger
- 07 Robert Holloway
- 07 Leo Schuman
- 11 George Fitz
- 24 Bryant Bishop

1	2 Bethel 4 7:00 pm	3	4 Friendship 160 Dinner 6:30 pm Stated 7:30 PM	5 Minerva 104 Meeting 5pm	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Kenton 145 Dinner 6:30 pm Stated 7:30 pm	13 Mizpah-Rose 12 Dinner 6:30 PM	14 Prince Hall 10:00 AM Sufi Community Meeting 7:00 PM
15	16 Bethel 4 7:00 pm	17	18	19	20	21
22 Rosicrucians Social Hour 3:15 PM	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

To the Brother who stands plumb to his principles, yet is level to his Brethren.

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Address Correction Requested