



FriendshipMasonicLodge<sup>160</sup>

# Trestleboard

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon

From the East  
Leo Schuman, WM

Brothers! I am happy to share that we have agreed to make our Secretary and Treasurer's lives easier by moving towards a more robust online banking system. Our current cash accounts have been transferred from Wells Fargo Bank to Umpqua Bank as of this month. Investment accounts, of course, remain with Edward Jones.

The primary rationale for this change is that Umpqua Bank offers a more sophisticated online banking system than Wells Fargo. The new capabilities will allow us to effectuate a secure online warrant system between our Secretary and Treasurer.

Through the configuration capabilities of Umpqua's online bill payment system, the Secretary will be able to configure new payees, and configure specific payments to be made to them, but will not be able to approve these payments to be issued. The software will not allow it. In turn, the Treasurer will be able to review and approve payments configured by the Secretary, but will not be able to configure new payees or payments. Again, the software will not allow it. And, we will be able to easily generate reports of all payees and payments, in addition to many other transactional reports, as we may need.

The result is the online equivalent of a standard lodge warrant system. But, one enforced with the full security of an encrypted online banking system, which keeps a historical log of every action taken by every person using it.

This plan was reviewed with Grand Secretary Ed Bousquet, who saw no Masonic Code conflicts in the plan. The plan was approved by a unanimous vote of the lodge at our January stated meeting. The Grand Lodge has expressed great interest, and has asked that - once we have our new system up and tested - we write up a

description of our experience to share with other lodges, who may wish to follow our example.

Transparent, responsive, and responsible management of our assets is one of the highest priorities of our lodge. I would be happy to answer any Brother's questions about these changes. Feel free to give me a call, anytime, at (503) 750-7505.

Greetings from the West, Brethren;

I have the distinction of sharing some good news with you from Friendship 160. At our January Stated Communication we learned that the Grand Master had signed and the Grand Lodge had approved of an amendment to our bylaws. No hooting, clapping, cheers or jeers were heard in the Lodge that night. Some smiles broke out and a few heads nodded, some Brothers sighed relief. This was but one of many points of business we had on a busy agenda. No comment was made about this news even after the Lodge closed and we rejoined our guests for some light refreshments and conversation about the night's education. We'd had those conversations throughout the latter half of 2016, following the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. Following the example set by Most Worshipful Brother Don Stapleton, we chose to address the issue of sexual orientation in our Lodge and have amended our bylaws to include the following; "No individual is to be excluded or expelled from membership in our Lodge, on the basis of sexual orientation. Our Lodge regards it as unmasonic to take any such action against a candidate or member." This language is clear and unequivocal, as is our belief that this issue is a test of our skill with the proper application of the Level.

Brethren, I know that this is a contentious issue for everyone. I've met very few people without an

opinion on these matters (and never anyone with an opinion who didn't feel strongly about it), but we must all draw upon our fortitude and discuss how we as Freemasons will address the present issues of sectarian bias against men who seek to join a universal, progressive moral science. We all work to perfect our individual ashlar - to make progress as men, to enrich our world. Progress is the winning trend over time. There was a time when men of color were barred from admission into our gentle craft – and in time we saw better how to extend a hand of brotherly love and affection for them, and we and our Fraternity have been enriched by this change. We hope to encourage other Lodges to start these conversations (if they haven't already) and not let ambiguity or silence rob us all of the opportunity to seek further light.

Thank you for your time and attention, Brethren. Be well, seek light, and do good work.

Greetings from the South,

At our January stated meeting, I heard the words of the Junior Warden's closing charge as I've heard them many times. But this time, a particular sentence stuck out to me:

“You have been enjoined to remind a Brother in the most friendly manner of his fault, to endeavor to aid his reformation, and to defend his character.”

How does one achieve this? How can one aid in the reformation of a Brother's faults, or defend his character when we disagree with him?

The answer, I believe, is quite simply to assume the best of the Brother in question. Just because someone holds a view different than your own

does not mean that they are malicious in defending that point of view. We must all work to keep our passions in due bounds in cases such as these, and strive to understand our Brothers' varying points of view. With understanding, we can point out deficiencies in perspective or understanding and help our Brother smooth his ashlar. Further, we can test our own understanding, and perhaps learn something for ourselves.

We all think and act according to our own consciences as best as we are able, and that assumption should be the foundation for your evaluation of a Brother's faults.

Be well, and keep working,  
Chris Chase, Junior Warden  
Friendship Masonic Lodge #160, AF&AM

## **February**

### **Masonic Birthdays**

**Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason**

- 16 Kenneth Bowcutt (51)
- 17 Jerry Parrick (46)
- 18 George Nelson (64)
- 19 Tim Kretchmer (03)
- 24 David Gould (57)
- 25 David Shearer(64)
- 26 James Wallace (53)
- 26 Fredric Krueger (25)

Secretaries Note: Please pay your dues, I will send out another notice, the Master has indicated that he will NPD your status as a Mason if dues go unpaid past September, 2017.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Friendship 160 Dinner 6:30 Stated	<b>2</b> Minerva 104 Meeting 5:00 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Sufi Community Meeting 7:00 PM
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Bethel 4 7:00 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Kenton 145 Dinner 6:30 PM Stated 7:30 PM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Mizpah-Rose 12 Meeting 7:30 PM	<b>18</b> Prince Hall Stated Meeting 10 am
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Bethel 4 7:00 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>			

Rosicrucians  
Social Hour  
3:15 PM

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

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Address Correction Requested