



FriendshipMasonicLodge¹⁶⁰

Trestleboard

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon

From the East

Leo Schuman, WM

Brothers! I am happy to report our non-investment banking accounts are now fully transferred to Oregon's locally owned Umpqua Bank. Our accounts with Wells Fargo Bank are closed. The "online warrant system" described in my article last month has been implemented. Our Treasurer and Secretary have been trained to use it, and both report success with this new approach. Our banking is now more readily accessible than ever, yet secure as it has always been. Further, debit cards are now in use by the Secretary and Junior Warden, significantly reducing the paperwork burden of our regular monthly dinner, mailing, and similar expenses.

So, with this success in place, the next project has begun. We are working with an experienced Accountant who specializes in small non-profit organizations. Financial records are being migrated from a desktop copy of Quicken, which has been managed for several years by Scott Mist, PM, to a Quickbooks Online account, to be jointly managed by our Treasurer, Bryan Tranel, and Assistant Treasurer, Christopher Chase, JW.

Our primary motivation for this change is to significantly improve our ability to track expenditures relative to our approved annual budget. Using Quickbooks Online, properly configured by this Accountant, not only will any appropriate officer have access to our records from any secure web browser. But, we'll easily generate Year To Date budget reports for each stated meeting. This added transparency will make it much easier for us, in the months and years ahead, to soundly manage the patrimony of our Lodge, and put its gains to proper Masonic use.

As you know from past announcements, this year's Masonic Education focus is Classic Western Philosophy. The 30 minute recorded lectures have been met with appreciation, and our post-meeting fellowship,

discussing each evening's lecture, has been lively and interesting.

I sincerely hope all Brothers of Friendship Masonic Lodge No. 160, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, will make a point of attending Stated Meetings this year. As always, dinner is served at 6:30pm, the gavel falls at 7:30pm, Masonic Education starts about 8:20pm, and we are making a concerted effort to close the Lodge by 9:00pm, for those who need to return home sooner than others. All are welcome to stay longer for fellowship and lively conversation. If you would like assistance getting to and from the meeting, please contact Secretary Jim Loennig, and he will notify the Officer Corps to help accommodate your needs. You are heartily welcomed!

Greetings from The West, Brethren;

"Meeting on the Level" was a recurring theme in February. It took center stage in our meeting as we were reminded of the landmarks of Freemasonry, following Lodge it turned out to be prevalent throughout our conversations, and my own life for many days more. Last month's discussion of the teachability of virtue brought several interesting questions out of the library. From Bro. Blake Presswood's incisive reconstruction of Aquinas' *Principle of Double Effect* to the Worshipful Master's recounting of the story of *Moses and Al-Khadir*; the evening ultimately focused everyone on the problem of intent and its paradoxical alliance with effect. I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who participated - this second effort to drill down and unpack the notion of virtue expanded all our experience of the mysteries of our fraternity. And I am personally grateful that it gave me greater knowledge of the Level - knowledge which turned out to be quite useful this past week.

Several days ago, I fell into a familiar trap. To be

Greetings from the West Cont'd:

clear, I sprung it on myself, though one symptom of this snare is looking everywhere for villains to . In a moment, I was flushed with rage at the outcome of *someone's* choices. *How could they do this to me?! I thought (felt, actually), but I was saved from making grave and irreparable mistakes because I took the time to calm down, assume positive intent, and meet others on the Level.*

My story seems bland in this sanitized state, but I believe we have all been in this trap at one time or another. Who hasn't come to words (or blows) with a friend, a relative, or (tragically) a Brother because of some misunderstanding? How often have we learned in retrospect that no harm was ever intended; or that even if harm had been anticipated, that our friends' intent was beyond reproach? How often have we been the one doing some harm because we believed it was necessary for someone else's betterment? How often have we been horrified to learn our heartfelt attempts to aid another brought them harm?

I encourage you to read the story of Moses and Al-Khidr. Read it twice, probably. Because when I first heard the story I snapped to the decision that Moses' failure was not assuming positive intent of his teacher. Upon further reflection, however I think Al-Khidr is guilty of the same failure. He could have trusted that Moses could handle a fuller briefing. But perhaps I should give Al-Khidr the benefit of the doubt – this story was intended to teach deeper truths after all. Maybe read the story three times.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Brethren. I pray you and all you love are well, and I look forward to seeing you again in March for our lecture on Aristotle's disposition on the *usefulness* of friendship.

Fraternally,
Walter Lee

From the Secretaries Desk:

Big news on March 2nd Carson Bailey will become our newest 50-year members, he was raised a Master Mason in 1967. I hope to see Carson in Lodge where he can tell our brothers what Lodge was like in 1967. If you have any reflections on Carson Bailey please call me 541-499-2953 on my cell phone. Includes you also Paul Blackburn.

BETHEL #4 March 2017

Can you believe it ~ we are into March already! The daughters were busy in February with installation on Feb 6 ~ thanks you to the Masons that attended ~ it meant a lot to the girls. Also attended the reception for the State Master Councilor of DeMolay, attended the Alumni Tea put on by the grand Guardian council for the benefit of the American Heart Association and attended a Leadership Dance for DeMolay in Tacoma.

March will also be a busy month ~ Statewide initiation for Job's daughters, DeMolay and Rainbow with a talent show and dance to follow on March 4th ~ our Official visit will be held at our March 6th meeting – all Masons are invited to attend – it will start at the usual 7:00pm – and the Grand Bethel Weekend on Mar 24 – 26, where the new Grand Bethel Honored Queen and Grand Bethel Senior Princess is elected.

On March 18th, Bethel #4 is sponsoring a Swim party open to all Bethel's, prospective members and friends. It will be from 3 – 5 at the Oregon City Community Center. If you know of anyone that might be interested in coming to get a feel of what Job's Daughters is all about as well as have some fun, please let us know. More info will come. Thanks you again for your love and support ~ Jobie Love ~

The Daughters of Bethel #4
Jodie Tibbetts, Guardian

The Temperate Man.

Kent Smith, Junior Deacon

A visit to the Northwest Masonic Discussion page on Facebook is highly recommended to those with the luxury of time, some familiarity of the format, and the right machinery. For those who have none of the above, let this stand for a substitute!

Recent conversations there, between Brothers from across our region, have covered the following topics: Whether UGLE is right to have participated in a documentary showing Blue Lodge degree work start to finish; whether one-day classes for Blue Lodge degrees in Ohio are a good idea; a call for papers from the Quator Coronati Conference; whether the use of technology (specifically, video-chatting over the internet) to practice degree work is a violation of secrecy; identifying vintage sterling Masonic calling-card cases as such; a brief history of anti-Masonry; and last, but not least, an open discussion of the meaning of "Temperance." It is this last

subject that inspired what follows here – a very brief look at Temperance as a Masonic Virtue.

Consider first these vices and the feelings associated with them: Injustice enrages. Cowardice disgusts. Imprudence agitates.

When we find these vices in ourselves or others, a man does well to recognize and reject them – even though he sometimes might find space to excuse them, to feel sympathy with their origins. Certainly, it's easy to see how any one of the three might spring from a place of heated rashness, sudden fearfulness or plain ignorance, and not necessarily from an evil or mean-spirited disposition. Admirable? Never.

Unfortunate? Certainly. Contemptible? Not always. Brothers: what salvageable man has not experienced these conditions, and not regretted his actions after?

These vices, and their corresponding virtues, are fairly easy to grasp and explain – relatively speaking, of course. Most men instinctively value Justice because it is that which seems fair and right; Injustice, conversely, is whatever feels unfair, not right. Men also intuitively admire Fortitude, because they admire strength and steadfastness in the face of adversity; yet they naturally recoil from Cowardice, from flight in the face of adversity when others stay strong. And the Prudent man uses good judgment, is not hasty or unwise; while the Imprudent man doesn't think – he acts first and suffers after.

Fair/Unfair. Brave/Cowardly. Deliberative/Foolish. All quite clear, at least in the general sense.

But what of the Temperate man? Who is he, and how is he you? As an object of Masonic pursuit, Temperance may well be the most powerful of all virtues, and Intemperance the most dangerous vice. The questions for Masons today – indeed, the

questions for all men – are these: What about Temperance is inherently valuable to men? What pertains to Intemperance that we reject?

The Facebook discussion page mentioned above entertains multiple views on this very subject. Some feel Temperance equals absolute moderation; a man ought not overindulge,

especially in terms of intoxicants like alcohol. Intemperance here is embarrassing, disrespectful, and often dangerous to health, life and limb – one's own and the public's. Others feel Temperance is measured moderation; a man should generally avoid overindulgence, yet is not wrong to occasionally let his senses muddle a little bit in celebration or relaxation – safely

and (as the French say) moderate in one's moderation.

Intemperance for these brothers means overindulging too often and too much. Still others (including the author of this brief essay), find Temperance to be the ability to deny oneself

something – anything – in order to attain a greater good or benefit. In the converse, Intemperance is unable to resist, unable to delay gratification. But the Temperate man restrains his rashness, masters his fear, and assumes (with humility) that he may be ignorant about the subject at hand. Thus, the Temperate man controls himself for the sake of Justice; he holds steady in the name of Fortitude; and he deliberates cautiously for Prudence. Temperance, for the Mason, may well be the ability to restrain oneself in pursuit of the other Cardinal Virtues – in which case, it is indispensable for them all.

All these views of Temperance and Intemperance are certainly on the right track. Of course, each man and Mason must explore this issue on his own. Hopefully, reading this has spurred thought about the virtue/vice of Temperance/Intemperance, which will in turn spur conversation leading to improvement for every man and Mason.

In fellowship.

March

Masonic Birthdays

Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason

- 02 Carson Bailey II (50)
- 19 Rob Chapman (37)
- 20 Chris Lassen (43)
- 20 Monty Glover (15)
- 26 Verne Rohrbach (37)
- 26 Bob Casey (20)
- 27 Chris Chase (04)
- 28 Douglas Neville (2)

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------|---|--|--|---|
| | | | 1 Friendship 160 Dinner 6:30 Stated | 2 Minerva 104 Meeting 5:00 pm | 3 | 4 Sufi Community Meeting 7:00 PM |
| 5 | 6 Bethel 4 7:00 pm | 7 | 8 | 9 Kenton 145 Dinner 6:30 PM Stated 7:30 PM | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Mizpah-Rose 12 Meeting 7:30 PM | 18 Prince Hall Stated Meeting 10 am |
| 19 | 20 Bethel 4 7:00 pm | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

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