

DECEMBER 2020

ISSUE 2 | VOLUME 1



Worshipful Master: WB Jerry Murphy
Senior Warden: B. Michael Hesner
Junior Warden: WB Steven Dinkins
Secretary: MWB Jim Mendoza
Treasurer: WB Bob Starowski
Senior Deacon: WB Kevin Reid
Junior Deacon: B. Abby Bereket
Senior Steward: B. Peter Ablor
Junior Steward: B. Kris Lockrem
Chaplin: WB Rick Watt
Marshal: WB Bill White
Tyler: WB Michael Beasley



Highlights

- page -

1 Worshipful Master Article

2 From the South

3 Past Masters Corner

3 From the Desk of the Secretary

4 From the Desk of the Editor

5 Hiram Award

6 Masonic Birthdays



Worshipful Master

I was searching for something that would inspire me to write about for my article in the Lodges' Newsletter. I was getting frustrated with so many things I could write about and subjects that would cause the Brothers to stop and think on it. I was getting more and more frustrated as I continued to look, so I decided to stop and do something else. I wanted to get my mind to think of other things. I started looking through old papers and magazines to make sure I did not throw anything important away. I came across an old Masonic Tribune from 2016. What caught my eye was a picture of then Deputy Grand Master Jim Mendoza and an article he wrote. I sat down and started reading. The title of the article was "ever changing as it flows". As I read the article it spoke loud and clear to me of the vary problem I felt we still encounter today. As I continued to read the article I thought this is still very import today in Masonry. I also thought that I was getting the idea that MW Jim Mendoza was conveying, or at least I hoped. The point I thought I was getting from this fine article was the fact that if you do not stay involved in one way or another an activity you will tend to start straying away from the activity until you will finally no longer find yourself doing that activity.

To relate this even more, MW Jim Mendoza related in the article a story about J. C. Penney's thinking he needed something to make his business more successful, hired a new CEO to bring some changes needed. The new CEO had new ideas and he also brought in new Tec knowledge.

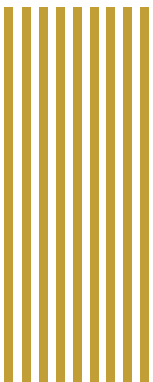
All of this not only confused the office staff but the clerks as well. However his ideas and concepts were all sound and great in theory but in reality left the clerks struggling to operate the new tec knowledge system and his day to day operation. Just guess what happened to the customers?

The new CEO was let go due to this confusion and the old CEO was rehired. Of course the old CEO then brought back the old ways, ideas and strategies. This put J. C. Penney's back to where it had been with old ways, problems and not making progress or money. This brings us to the following point that if we look around to our Lodges we see some of the same reality and happenings. When reality doesn't meet expectations, we tend to fall back into old habits.

However, just like J. C. Penney's the problem will still exist and remain problems. This is when we lose members because you know that people not participating in Lodge then the feeling of constructive ways, those people will seek and find other things to do with their time.

In our situation the Worshipful Master works with his officers and in turn they all will work with the Lodge. Hopefully the leaders never think or assume within the leadership that they have all the answers. To this point, MW jim put it this way, he quoted General Colin Powell. General Powell said "Don't let your ego get too close to your position, so that if your position gets shot down , your ego doesn't go with it".

So with everything being said, what would be the lesson learned? It is easier to lose a Brother than it is to gain a new one. Implementing change is an enormous challenge. It takes time and



Wishing you the happiest of days for the year ahead. May you experience nothing but happiness and love in the New Year.

success is never certain. However, the chances of achieving success is increased when your Brethren are vested in the project. They need to participate in the process.

This enrollment should create an increased level with understanding that changes that are brought forth are good ideas, that these ideas coming from you and members are simply not a change for change's sake.

So what is the solution? At the end of the day we all really want the same thing for our Lodge and members. The only disagreement we may have is where and how our objections can be solved and by whom the task of achieving that is best executed. So Brothers, you may stand your ground and adopt the attitude "I'm in charge" or you can seek the middle ground including insight and council from the Brethren that we all serve.

Remember that the river is going to flow —you just don't want it to engulf you and your Brothers.

This was such a good article with a great point and do to that point I felt it would be good for us to hear it again. I hope MW Jim will forgive me for using his arti-cle. However after I read it I felt there was no way I would not bring up the points this article brings for thought and maybe some action. I will say this, we all should put a lot of thought into the point that it does make.

All I can say is ilfeel we all need to think about this message and/or point this article brings for we can-not afford nor do we want to lose brothers.



From the South

Greeting from the South Brethren,

'Twas the Night before Christmas, and down at the lodge not a gavel was stirring, and in the hodge-podge.

Of aprons and jewels and chairs East and West
You could savour the silence, most gladly divest

All metal and mineral, it mattered not,
Since Christmas was nigh and the coals were still hot.

In the hearth of your homeplace, all Masons abed,
As visions of trestleboards danced in their head;

When up on the roof there arose such a clatter
Our Tyler jumped up to see what was the matter!
He picked up his sword and ran fast to the door,

Three knocks shook the panels – he wondered 'What for?'

'Why Santa!' he shouted and lowered his blade,
'I see you're a Mason!' the Tiler relayed.

He looked toward the Master's most dignified chair
And said, voice near trembling, 'Most Worshipful there

Is a Gentleman properly clothed at the gate!
The Master replied, 'Let's allow him – but wait

! You tell me a Gentleman, but I don't see
His Apron beneath that red suit, can it be
Our visitor hasn't been properly raised? Must
we offer a test that is suitably phrased?

'I do beg your pardon,' ol' Santa said quick
As he pulled up his coat and displayed not a stick
But a cane with engraving, two balls did appear
And oh, what an apron, he wore and held dear! Adorned
like the Master's, complete with a sign
Of "Lodge Number One, the North Pole" on one line!

"Now let this man enter," the Master declared,
And once in the Lodge room, the Brethren all stared,
For Santa was wearing a jewel not seen
For many a century – there in between
The fur of his coat and the splendid red collar Gleamed
two golden reindeer that shone like a dollar!

"It's Donner and Blitzen, who I must confess
"Are actually images brought from the West
By my Warden, a craftsman like none in the world!"
And with a great laugh from his bag he unfurled
An ear of fine corn, and some oil from the East,
"My friend I have plenty, tonight we will feast

On all that is good! We are Masons, kind sir!"
A murmur went throughout the Lodge, quite a stir,
As presents and promises flew from his sack!
This Santa, a Mason, showed he had a knack
For making this Christmas the best you could glean,
And soon even Deacons were laughing, they'd seen

On this very night only happiness reigned!
This jolly Saint Nicholas quickly explained
That only a Mason could be so inclined
To make all kids happy, make all people find
A Christmas so special, yes, Santa was right!
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.



Past Masters Corner

A View from the Trenches

Masonry brings the public together in many ways, providing leadership not only in our words, but in our actions.

On Veteran's Day this year, members of Frank s. Land Lodge and their significant others volunteered at the Des Moines Food Bank for two shifts,

to allow the veterans and National Guard to take a day away from their duties on their holiday.

I participated in the first of two shifts with MW Jim Mendoza, WB Steve Dinkins, WB Rick Watt and his wife Lois. We provided assistance in putting together gift or travel bags, transferring fresh items into refrigerators and freezers (to the point that it "kicked Steve's Dinkins' tail"-his quote). We got to spend three hours not only bonding with our Brothers, but helping our community. I felt proud in the fact that we accomplished two things that day: We helped the immediate community, but we also got to thank our veterans enough to allow them to spend their holiday celebrating.

I have said this several times in the last year in my past articles.

I am so proud to be a Mason, so proud to be a member of a fraternity that bends over backwards to provide leadership and to help our community. Our world is a much better place because of the goodness of Masonry.

Thank you Frank S. Land Lodge for allowing me to be a part of your community efforts.

WB Nicholas R. Franz

From the Desk of the Secretary

The Greatest of these...

At a DeMolay installation of officers, the Almoner is charged with these words: "...charity, not the ostentatious and unmeaning doling out of alms, but charity which has been translated 'brotherly love', is a virtue which all should practice." That is not to say that we should forego the giving of money. Such gifts are important and believe me any charitable endeavor that you may choose to financially support will be most appreciative, but let's not forget how charity that simple gestures like volunteering at a food bank, visiting with a shut-in, or simply showing grace as your fellow man navigates through a variety difficulties impact the soul.

It is well to remember that generosity — of money, but more important, of spirit — is what's good.

Generosity of spirit is the openness and willingness to share our own 'gifts' freely with others, joyously and willingly and without expectation of receiving anything in return. Generosity of spirit is created through respect and compassion for others; it involves experiencing and celebrating that which is important to another person.

When we share in this way, we generate abundance and increase prosperity for all. This helps us make a difference and transform situations; generate creative and innovative solutions; lead by example; strengthen our acceptance of responsibility and that of others; share our wisdom and knowledge for everyone's benefit; explore and build connecting threads where there were none before; and foster peace and harmony. And we can celebrate all that becomes possible as a result.

While being generous in spirit means not expecting anything in return, it yields more to us than we could ever imagine. What we have given will come back to us in ways we may never have expected.

Perhaps this is something you can reflect on over the coming weeks. What have you given away freely? When have you felt able to be generous of spirit, expecting nothing in return? What has come back to you as a result?

In this era of seemingly famished decency, such generosity — of money, but more important, of spirit — offers not just gratification, but emotional comfort food. And a goad to our own better angels, a reminder that the only difference between giving \$1 million to fund a vaccine and passing the clerk your credit card when the shopper ahead of you can't pay her bill, is one of scale. Otherwise, it's the same act, the same statement of, "We're all in this thing together."

Like I said: "Generosity — of money, but more important, of spirit — is what's good."

The best of the holidays to you & yours,

Jim Mendoza
Secretary
Past Grand Master



From the Desk of the Editor

Greetings Brethren,

Wow what a year it has been. I just wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for the continued support of this publication. It has been my honor to continue to be trusted to deliver news in a different format for all to enjoy. We have been lucky enough to get comments and compliments from some Brothers in different states. That is huge for me, that those who get this publication are willing to share it with those outside of our Lodge. For 2021, I would love to see some more content coming from our entire F.S.L. family. Jokes, clipart or even an article. The more we,

as a family, contribute, the better our publication gets. It is my goal for 2021 to make our Trestle board, not only one of the best in District 13, but in the state. I can't do it alone, I need you. I hope you and your families have a great holiday season, and I look forward to even bigger and better things in 2021.

Fraternally,

Kris Lockrem
Junior Steward/Trestle Board editor

Hiram Award

Presented by WM Jerry Murohy



Brethren,

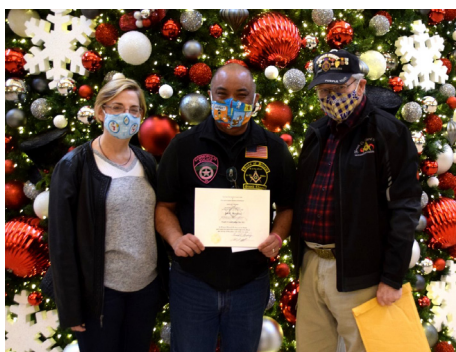
For those of you unable to attend our latest lodge meeting this past Saturday December 5th, which served as the Official Visit of our District Deputy VW Don Downing, you missed enjoying the moment where I presented MW Jim with the Hiram Award. After getting guidance from several brother Masons as to the importance & significance of the Hiram Award, and including a kind word from our Grand Master, the award was sent out to us from Grand Lodge to be presented (Virtually). It was difficult keeping this a secret until I presented it to him, but I found it well worth it as we could all tell he was very touched. And while he told us that he had received other awards throughout his masonic career, he had never been presented with the Hiram Award. As my wife Kathy took pictures, I presented to him both the label pin and his certificate, signed by our current Grand Master and myself. MW Jim was smiling throughout this small ceremony (which you could tell even though all of us had our masks on). His lovely lady Laura was also present to witness the presentation and we got a picture of MW, his lady Laura and myself.

MW Jim has been the guiding force behind Frank S Land's virtual meetings, as well as the many instructional meetings he has coordinated. These included masonic history (like the original lodge officer's jewels made by Brother Paul Revere), a peek into and description of the Baseball Hall of Fame, individual presentations by the leaders of all 3 of our masonic youth organizations and even a visit from our Grand Master. MW Jim has striven to keep our lodge meetings active enough to entice the continued attendance of the brothers of Frank S Land. And by doing so, we've all kept in touch as best we could. That's no small task my brothers.

My brothers, I have it from a very good source that we are not done with the creativity we have put into our virtual meetings. Stay tuned for future virtual surprises and unique educational visits.

Lastly, as WM and on behalf of the entire Lodge, I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

WB Jerry Murphy



Masonic Birthdays



<i>Masonic Title</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Date Raised</i>
Brother	Kristopher	Lockrem	October 01, 2019
Brother	Austin	Collins	October 03, 2015
Brother	Christopher	Copeland	October 03, 2015
Brother	Kevin	Jenkins	October 03, 2015
Brother	Timothy	Anderson	October 07, 2017
Brother	Gerald	Murphy	October 15, 1975
rother	Mitchell	White	October 20, 2011
Brother	William	White III	October 20, 2011
Worshipful Brother	Roy	Pidcock	October 27, 1987
Brother	Nathan	Nazareno	November 05, 2016
Brother	Kenneth	Sprague	November 05, 2016
Worshipful Brother	John	Burrage	November 11, 1972
Worshipful Brother	Frederick	Docker	November 11, 1993
Worshipful Brother	Corey	Kent	November 23, 2005
Brother	Kevin	Reid	November 25, 1986
Brother	Brian	Isoen	November 29, 2007
Brother	Abby	Bereket	November 30, 2016
Brother	Bryant	Brown	November 30, 2016
Worshipful Brother	Richard	Watt Jr.	December 09, 1981
Brother	Michael	Sawyer	December 17, 2007
Brother	Scott	Salvner	December 27, 1984
Brother	Perry	Kent	December 27, 2007