

**Missouri Lodge of Research (MLR)
Meeting & Breakfast in Jefferson City
May 19, 2007**

SEMI-ANNUAL MLR MEETING

This Semi-Annual Meeting of the Missouri Lodge of Research was held in the Jefferson Room of the Capitol Plaza Hotel at 7:00 AM on Saturday, May, 19th. The Meeting was called to order by MWB Elmer Revelle, Worshipful Master with his greeting and welcome, who called upon RWB Stanton T. Brown for prayer. He then introduced MWB M. Robert Berger, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri immediately followed by Grand Honors.

Everyone enjoyed the breakfast followed by the introduction of Grand Lodge Officers present, MWB Revelle's personal remarks and introduction of the 2006-07 MLR Officers present. Then he formally introduced our Honored Guest Speaker, RWB Nick Cichielo who spoke of his personal and intimate view and participation with the MO ChIP Program. This is a GREAT program sponsored by the Missouri Masonic Children's Foundation and has been getting tremendous publicity for the Freemasons in Missouri. Please review the program and what it does (and where) at: **www.mochip.org**

RWB Ron Wood announced that about 700 of our members received the WRONG MLR Book during May 2007. Check the one you got! It should be Number 54, "Lodges of St. Louis - 2". If you got the Book Number 52, "Lodges of SE MO", please contact the MLR office or visit the MLR desk at the Grand Lodge of MO Annual Communication in Columbia in September and you will be provided a copy of the proper book at no cost. Please contact our Lodge of Research Secretary, RWB Ron Miller or assistant Adriene Green. RWB Wood also stated that he still needed some *more* input of biographical sketches of those Freemasons in your Lodges who DO THE RIGHT THING for the Lodge. Write up that Freemason who you believe deserves to be mentioned in such an article. He intends to get that book out during the next year.

MWB Berger asked the membership present if they think the Missouri Lodge of Research should take on the responsibility of the Missouri Masonic Library and Museum in the Grand Lodge office building in Columbia.

No further business appearing, the MLR was closed at 8:00 AM, peace and harmony prevailing.

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*Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft
and I'll show you A-flat minor.*

Info from the Missouri Lodge of Research

The Missouri Lodge of Research was, originally, a local Masonic Study Group founded in 1923. That study group was chartered in 1941 by the Grand Lodge of Missouri (Article 25.060) while MWB Harry S Truman was serving as Grand Master, and since then, has gone forth with the desire to provide educational and instructional materials that will enable our members to learn about and understand that Freemasonry teaches all who knock upon it's door. For instance, found in one of the many publications printed and distributed by the Missouri Lodge of Research is the following article:

FOR THE FIRST TIME in the history of American Freemasonry, a President of the United States installed officers of a Grand Lodge. The installation was, of course, not a part of the duties of a President; he was acting in the capacity of a Past Grand Master of Missouri Freemasons.

This epochal event occurred on the last day of the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Missouri meeting in St. Louis, Mo., September 27-29, 1949. The President arrived in St. Louis on the evening preceding the installation and was met at the airport by a group of Masonic friends who accompanied him to his hotel.

On the following morning he was guest at a breakfast arranged by some of his Masonic associates and between that hour and the time scheduled for the installation ceremony he remained with his friends at the hotel. Promptly at 10:40 A.M., accompanied by J. Renick Jones of Independence, Mo., and Ray V. Denslow, of Trenton, Mo., and a goodly escort of secret service operatives, he walked the block between the hotel and the Scottish Rite auditorium where the Grand Lodge was being held. Here he was greeted by officers of the Grand Lodge, and was soon thereafter escorted into the Grand Lodge by Grand Treasurer Edmund E. Morris of Kansas City. The Grand Lodge arose in applause for this was his first visit to the Grand Lodge of Missouri since he had been made President.

The Grand Master turned over the gavel of authority and the President immediately called from labor in order to make the installation public; several of his official staff and others who were not Free-masons were invited in at this juncture to watch their "chief" perform in another field of service. Rev. Emmitt L. Robison of St. Joseph acted as Grand Chaplain, and Ray V. Denslow as Grand Marshal. Rapidly, and with ease, the President proceeded to charge each officer with the duties of his respective office. At the conclusion of the ceremony the President asked and received authority to retire with his escort and within a few minutes was en route to another engagement in Kansas City, Mo.

During the annual communication, and previous to Mr. Truman's arrival, a beautiful painting of the President in his regalia as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri had been unveiled and presented to the Grand Lodge. It was the work of Miss Greta Kempton of New York and is a remarkable likeness of Missouri's most famous Grand Master.

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RITUAL --- Do we really need it??

by Editor, MLR Newsletter

A dictionary will define the word --- “RITUAL” --- as a set of actions, performed mainly for their symbolic value, which is prescribed by a religion or by the tradition of a community. Well, maybe that’s a way we could define what Freemasonry is --- a community.

So then, what part in Freemasonry does ritual really play? Well, ritual begins as the Worshipful Master has the Brethren rise and join in the “Pledge of Allegiance.” From that point on, ritual is probably at least 95+% of everything else that happens.

In fact, just walking into a Lodge Room (which has been properly laid out) you could be overwhelmed by the ritual which is neither moving or speaking! All Lodge Rooms are laid out in the same (nearly identical) pattern. Walking in from the Tilers station by the outer door (or even from the inner door or preparation room) you will be facing the East of the Symbolic Lodge Room.

The Worshipful Master’s Station is in the East, his chair which is centered on the altar is on a dais or platform immediately at the top of 3 steps. Directly to the West of the WM, is the station of the Senior Warden on a platform immediately at the top of 2 steps. (A straight line west from the center of the WM chair should cross the center of the altar and end at the center of the SW chair.) The Junior Wardens Station is in the South, his chair just a smidge west of the altar. The Secretary is in the East to the left (South) of the WM and the Treasurer is to his right. The Senior Deacons place is in front of and to the right of the WM (specifically ½ the distance from the center of the WMs chair and the North sideline to the center of the SD’s chair;) and the Marshals chair is similarly located to the WM’s left, a distance equal to the distance from the WM chair to the SD chair.

The Junior Deacon is to the right of the SW in the west, the Chaplain to the left of the WM and the Tiler is outside the outer door of the Lodge Room.

The WM, S and JW have pedestals about waist high in front of, and should be to the right of their chairs; and the Wardens each have a column, normally about a foot or so tall on the top right hand side of his pedestal. The JWs column standing upright at the right, front top of the pedestal, and the SW’s lying down, base to the wall on the right side, top of his pedestal.

Before the formal opening of a Lodge, all Brethren should be familiar with the raps of the gavel as may be given by the Master or Wardens. One rap (without words) is to get Brethren to sit down and be orderly. Following the announcement of a subordinate officer’s title (i.e., Brother Junior Deacon), 1 rap calls him (only) to stand up. 2 raps, causes all officers of that particular degree to stand up. Three raps is for everyone in the Lodge Room to stand up. Remember. 1 rap seats the Lodge.

During opening and closing ceremonies, all officers start all movements (forward or backward) with the LEFT foot first. (This generally hold true in degree work, but there are some specific exceptions – when a particular officer must step off with the right foot first). Deacon’s rods are always carried 4 to 6 inches off the floor, on the left shoulder (except when

specially carried on the right). They always deposit rods, right hand over left and always close their step when stopping. All 90° turns are made on the “outside” foot. And then, of course, there is the “dreaded” 4 foot Line!!

From the initial request to join in the “Pledge” until Lodge is declared open and a single rap given by the Master to seat the Lodge Brethren (at which time before sitting down, the SW raises his column to the forward, right on top of his pedestal and the JW lowers his, base toward the south wall on the right edge of his top; and the two deacons deposit their rods; all words spoken and all moves made have been ritual, The business section is not ritual except for certain actions, such as: receiving petitions, balloting, interruptions for Brethren entering or leaving the Lodge Room, reception of distinguished guests and maybe some other special activities.

Then there is the ritual of going up or down in degrees, the closing ritual ---- and, of course, the MOST important of Ritual --- that of conferring each of our three Masonic Degrees.

Buried within the simple, but yet beautiful work of the degrees, are the lessons to be extracted, learned and practiced by each candidate completing them. Few may ever truly understand them. In the First Degree we are told that “Freemasonry is a *beautiful system of morals*, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.” And some Brethren think this IS all the explanation necessary as to what the Degrees are about.

In the First Degree, you were greeted in the preparation room and told to take off all your rings, watches and metal objects --- and, remove your outer clothing and to put on a special uniform. Then blindfolded and conducted to a door, you were told to knock three times. And then your journey began. You were admitted to the Lodge Room, received and conducted to the center of the Lodge for Prayer; following which you were required to speak your belief in a Supreme Being; then conducted around the Lodge room stopping several times where they talked about or to you; then kneeling at the altar where you were Obligated as an Entered Apprentice; brought to, then instructed on the Lights, told to arise and salute the Junior and Senior Wardens (as if you knew WHAT a salute was -- but you were prompted by your conductor.) At this point the WM presented you with your own, personal White Leathern Apron which you were told to take to the Senior Warden, who taught you to wear it properly – and why it is done that way. Followed by a trip to the East where the WM made a demand you were, of course, not able to comply with and it was explained why this bit of humility was put upon you. After returning to the preparation room and putting on your own clothes, you were placed in the Northeast Corner of the Lodge, which was explained at the time, then presented with the Working Tools of an Entered Apprentice – and the operative and symbolic, moral applications of both. And finally, you were provided a chair to watch a slide presentation and heard a memorized ritual explanation of everything you went through, plus more information. Whew! Before Lodge closed you may have been asked if you could be back in days or weeks for your next degree. In the dining room you were undoubtedly told by

(Con’t on Page 4)

SOME MORE “GRAND REPRESENTATIVE” JURISDICTIONS

U R E P R H O D E I S L A N D
 O C I X E M N I C A R A G U A
 R P S T A S M A N I A R I I A
 E N C E E H M U I G L E B P N
 G F I N L A N D A R L L N P A
 O H A T U A R I Z O N A I I I
 N E N I A M W G R E A A S S S
 D A N D O R A H N G P D N S I
 N E B R A S K A T L A O O I U
 A U S T R I A D G U J E C S O
 L R N E W M E X I C O M S S L
 A U M I N N E S O T A S I I A
 E G O C I R O T R E U P W M G
 Z U S W I S S A L P I N A E E
 W A I N I G R I V T S E W O N
 E Y E R I H S P M A H W E N E
 N T H E N E T H E R L A N D S

ARIZONA
 AUSTRIA
 BELGIUM
 D'ANDORA
 FINLAND
 GEORGIA
 JAPAN
 LOUISIANA
 MAINE
 MEXICO

MINNESOTA
 MISSISSIPPI
 NEBRASKA
 NEW HAMPSHIRE
 NEW MEXICO
 NEW SOUTH WALES
 NEW ZEALAND
 NICARAGUA
 OREGON
 PERU

PUERTO RICO
 RHODE ISLAND
 SENEGAL
 SWISS ALPINA
 TASMANIA
 THE NETHERLANDS
 URAGUAY
 UTAH
 WEST VIRGINIA
 WISCONSIN

RULES FOR PLAY:

You must **circle the names of Grand Jurisdictions**, LETTER BY LETTER, in the puzzle above then line through or check the name off the list. **DO NOT black or blot out the letters** in the puzzle, as some of the same letters are used in another name. **Be careful with names using “New”, and particularly Mexico and New Mexico!** When you have found **ALL** of the above names that you can find in the puzzle, you should have several letters **NOT circled**. Writing down each of these letters from the top left to the bottom right, will sequentially spell out the name of the Grand jurisdiction hidden in the puzzle (and is NOT listed above or in the List of Grand Representative Jurisdictions in the Grand Lodge Proceedings).

The answer will be included in the next issue of this newsletter.

Last Quarters answer was: **PHILIPPINE ISLANDS !!**

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Every calendar's days are numbered.

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(Con't from Page 2)

some Brethren to get back and see the degree again in the future and you will learn what it was really all about. (Or better yet, ask any Brother from the side line with several years in the fraternity, and do you really think he would be able to answer the question, "what is the degree really about?" Does it matter?) We will soon have you back for the 2nd and then the 3rd Degrees (or maybe you will get them in a one day Chance to Advance Class (a C2A!!). Then, when you are a Master Mason, you will have ALL *the secrets* in Freemasonry and in the Charge for that degree, you are told that you should advise and instruct those in the lesser degrees.

Did I miss something?? Oh, yeah. My first question "Ritual, Do we really need it? I certainly believe so. And it needs to be presented *accurately*, and *clearly*, and *with meaning*, and with a certain *enthusiasm* --- and then maybe all Brethren would be inspired to try to learn more of the underlying meaning in Freemasonry.

Let's diagnose the First Degree a bit. Freemasonry IS a beautiful system of morals. Veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. It's "tenets" (or teachings) are **Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth**. Its cardinal virtues are **Temperance** (or due restraint of our passions), **Fortitude** (as it equates to bravery), **Prudence** (regulating our lives and actions agreeably to the dictates of reason) and **Justice** (which enables us to render every man his just due without distinction). We are brought to light to see **The Holy Bible**, (which is the rule and guide of our faith and practice), the **Square** (to Square our actions) and the **Compasses** (to circumscribe our desires and keep our passions in due bounds with all mankind, especially a Brother Freemason.) We are exposed to the terms: **Faith** (as in a belief in God), **Hope** (our hope of an afterlife of immortality) and **Charity** (the giving of relief). In the NE Corner your body stood erect before the WM to indicate the strong foundation of your "new moral life", of upright living --- all of this ritual is meant to assist your thought processes, in the future, in order to bring desires, passions and emotions of your physical body, under the moral and rational control of each of your own intellect.

And it doesn't stop there. The 2nd Degree will balance your intellect by exposing to you the orders of architecture and the seven liberal arts and sciences to give our minds greater rational powers and to let us know that Freemasonry is truly a progressive science and that as yet, you only have a part. We travel to the 3rd Degree, having been told in the EA Degree that as this life ends in death, and Mother Earth will piously cover us, we learn great lessons in **fideliity**, **fortitude** and especially **integrity** - and, as the level is an emblem of **equality**, when we are leveled, all mortal men are equal. Do not think that your being more important or your perception of being better than anyone else you know will save you from this equal end. The lesson, all human beings are dependent upon the **help, aid and assistance** of our fellow human beings.

Is Ritual really important? Maybe it is really, REALLY important !!! For if every man on this earth was a Freemason, would there being any problems? Every man needs to get to know himself --- inside his thoughts, better.

Yeah. Ritual is important