



# OFFICERS

- Worshipful Master - Dale Bryan**
  - Senior Warden - M. Robert Berger**
  - Junior Warden - Stanley Thompson**
  - Secy-Treas - Ronald D. Miller**
- 6033 Masonic Dr Suite B  
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**Missouri Lodge of Research (MLR) Meeting &  
Breakfast in Jefferson City  
May 15, 2009  
SEMI-ANNUAL 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 Friday, May, 15<sup>th</sup>. The Meeting was called to order by RWB Dale Bryan, Worshipful Master, with his greeting and welcome. He called upon RWB Stanton Brown II for prayer, followed by a great breakfast. WM Bryan then introduced Officers of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri, which included our Grand Master MWB Rocky Weaver, 7 officers and MWB Glenn Means. MLR Officers present numbered 4 and several Grand York Rite Officers also present.

The speaker for this morning, RWB Keith Neece, Executive Director of the Masonic Home of Missouri, gave a presentation on "Our Masonic Museum and Library" located within the MHM Masonic Complex in Columbia. He touched upon the many of the displays and area, and let everyone know that both are still growing steadily and invited all present to insure that they visit same on a future visit to the Columbia Missouri area. They are really great displays of Masonry in Missouri, past and present.

MLR Secretary, Ron Miller, reported that our next meeting will be on September 21, 2009 in Columbia. He also announced the several items being sold by the MLR (pins and key chains) as fund raisers for the Missouri Lodge of Research. RWB Miller also commented on and stressed the importance of asking others to join and belong to the MLR.

The meeting was closed following prayer.

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One day, a man came home and was greeted by his wife dressed in a very sexy nightie.

"Tie me up," she purred, "and you can do anything you want."

So he tied her up and went golfing.

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## A MASONIC MESSAGE

His name is John. He has wild hair and an earring, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college. He was the top of his class, kind of esoteric and very, very bright. He became a Mason recently while attending college. After moving to his new town, he found that down the street from his new apartment is a well-dressed, very conservative Lodge.

One day John decides to go there after work. He walks in with shoes, jeans, his work shirt, and long hair and earring. The Lodge has already started and so John starts looking for a seat. The Lodge is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now, the brethren are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. John gets closer and closer to the East and, when he realizes there are no seats, he squats down and sits right on the carpet. (Although perfectly acceptable behavior at a college fellowship, trust me, this had never happened in this Lodge before!)

By then the Brethren were really uptight, and the tension in the air was thick. About that time, the Secretary realized that from way at the back of the Lodge, a Past Master was slowly making his way toward John. Now, the Past Master was in his eighties, had silver-gray hair, and a three-piece suit. A good man, very elegant, very dignified, and very courtly. He walked with a cane and, as he started walking toward this young man, everyone was saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he's going to do. How could you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid in the Lodge? It took a long time for the old man to reach the young man.

The Lodge was utterly silent except for the clicking of the old man's cane. All eyes were focused on him.

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## GL of Southern New England Upcoming Merger

On April 1st, 2009, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, and the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations announced the upcoming merger of the two Grand Lodges. The new entity will be known as The Grand Lodge of Southern New England, A.F & A.M , reflecting the geographic and historic background of one of the oldest and most established regions in the United States.

The Grand Lodge of Southern New England building is a stately and superb structure. The Grand Lodge of Southern New England is located on the scenic grounds of the University of Connecticut Agricultural Center, with plenty of nearby lodging for visitors during future Grand Lodge Communications.

Citing a budget shortfall due to a lack of membership and the bad economy, and the resultant inability to fund various programs, the Freemasons of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, and those of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, jointly announced at the Grand Lodge of Connecticut's Annual Communication their intention to merge into a single entity: The Grand Lodge of Southern New England, A.E &A.M.

The news was first announced earlier this week at the March 30 Connecticut Grand Lodge Annual Communication in Farmington, and will be officially announced in Rhode Island very shortly.

"It seemed a perfect opportunity," said William Rogers, spokesperson for the former Grand Lodge of Rhode Island. "Attrition from old age, death, and retirement has reduced our numbers to a quarter of what they were back in the 1950s. Likewise, mergers and lodge closings have reduced our Lodges to about two dozen. It's becoming an administrative nightmare.

"He's not kidding," said Thomas Ludlow, the Grand Master's representative from Connecticut. "We have fewer lodges and fewer brothers, but we somehow have a growing number of officers and district officers. In business parlance, you might say that our workforce is shrinking, while middle management has become bloated. So, we've decided to merge our Grand Lodges and make some long-overdue staffing cuts."

Ludlow went on to describe the cutbacks. "The first positions to be eliminated will be the District Grand Lecturers and Assistant Grand Lecturers," he explained, "We've outsourced ritual instruction to college students who are making *Youtube* videos, which we will then embed on the Grand Lodge website. Anyone who wants instruction can just watch the videos."

Rogers agreed. "You'll be able to download those videos to an iPod or Zune, your iPhone, or a netbook," he explained, "and then you can watch as much instruction as you can handle during your free moments. In traffic, in the bathroom,

on plane trips it's perfect. There won't be any excuse for people not to be more improved in their ritual workings."

Other Grand Lodge dignitaries will also be downsized, said Rogers. "Do you know we've managed to acquire more District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals than we have lodges? These guys are tripping over each other, and we can't find anything more for them to do. It's time to start consolidating our resources,"

"Same thing with all these Grand Line officers," agreed Ludlow. "You can't swing a dead cat without hitting a couple of Grands or Past Grands. There's way too many of them nowadays, and we figure that nine or ten guys should be able to cover the two state area more than adequately." When questioned about how well the two states could be covered by so few Grand Officers, he responded. "Hell, lodges in those big square states out west sometimes don't see a Grand Officer for years; our lodges have gotten spoiled around here. We simply can't afford to have District Deputies showing up at every other meeting anymore.

Both spokespersons noted that rumors about spinning off one of the districts into New York were merely persistent, but unfounded, rumors. "Those rumors pop up every few years, usually right after we raise our Grand Lodge dues," explained Ludlow.

Noting the progressive nature of the plan, interviewers asked about whether other states would follow suit.

"Massachusetts has taken notice, and we've already begun talks to include them on the merger, but they're funny up there. News from Boston doesn't reach the Berkshires for years, if ever," explained Ludlow. "Besides, we don't want to wait too long on this - our two states have been ready to merge for a couple of years now. But when Massachusetts is ready to merge, we'll already have the infrastructures in place for them. The way we see it, it's not a question of 'big, but of 'when'."

Do any other states have an interest?

"New Hampshire and Vermont are going to be discussing the topic at their next Annual Meetings," said Rogers. "We sent some snowmobile and dogsled messengers up to Maine in December, and we're hoping to hear back from them by spring, when they get the power lines back up." Both Grand Lodges will close for July and August, during which time they will be packing and moving. No word yet on the location of the new Grand Lodge building, but speculation is that it will be one of the old University of Connecticut agricultural buildings. "I can't confirm this," said Ludlow, "but it's definitely one of the possibilities. Obviously we'd like someplace centrally located. Since most of the people living west of the river think that UConn is in Rhode Island anyway, it seems like a good spot."

"Yes, it's perfect," quipped Rogers, it's equally inconvenient for everybody."

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**Reprinted from the "Connecticut Freemason" dated  
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## WORDS USED IN RITUAL

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

**Accord**  
**Ancient**  
**Cowan**  
**Craft**  
**Degree**  
**Discord**  
**Duly**  
**Eavesdropper**  
**Equivocation**  
**Evasion**  
**Fellow**  
**Firmament**

**Furniture**  
**Harmony**  
**Inculcate**  
**Indent**  
**Indite**  
**Institution**  
**Integrity**  
**Mote**  
**Precept**  
**Presume**  
**Quiet**  
**Recapitulate**  
**Relief**

**Reposed**  
**Stated**  
**Sublime**  
**Tenets**  
**Tile**  
**Token**  
**Trestle**  
**Tried**  
**Tyre**  
**Virtue**  
**Vicissitudes**  
**Zeal**

### RULES FOR PLAY:

You must *circle each of the letters* in each of the words listed above contained in the puzzle. Then line out the word found from the list. **Do NOT BLACK or BLOT out** the letters in the puzzle as each letter may be used in a different word also. When all the words have been lined through, you should then have 13 letters left in the puzzle which have not been circled. Write down **these letters only**, from upper left to lower right and this will spell out the word which is the answer! You should know you have the right answer, and can find it at the end of the first paragraph of the Masters Lecture for the First Degree. This would be a good word to look up in the dictionary to see if it means what you thought it meant! In the seventh paragraph of Section Three in the EA Lecture, the word "furniture" is used stating: "The Furniture of a Lodge consists of the H.B., S & C." Look up the word 'furniture' in the dictionary and see if that answers *why* that statement is made. There are *many* words in our Ritual that mean other than what we may think. Look up: Indite, Indent!! (Maybe more, Tile?)

Oh, by the way. The answer to March's puzzle was: **THEODORE ROOSEVELT**  
 I certainly hope that everyone enjoys working these word games as I do putting them together!

**Every calendar's days are numbered.**

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You could not even hear anyone breathing. The Secretary could not even continue with the minutes until the Past Master did what he had to do. Then the Lodge watched as that elderly man dropped his cane on the floor and with great difficulty, lowered himself and sat down next to John on the floor. He welcomed John so that he would not be alone.

When the Secretary gained control, he said, "What I'm about to say, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget." "Be careful how you live. You may be the only Mason some people will ever meet."

**As we have heard so many times; "He ain't heavy, Father, He's my brother!"**

**NOTE:** Article from: Newsletter #191, April 2009 as published by: HARRY S TRUMAN Chapter No. 152, National Sojourners, Inc of Waynesville MO. (National Sojourners is an organization of **Master Masons** who are, or were, Commissioned or Warrant Officers, or Senior Non Commissioned Officers of the uniformed services of the US, and Honorary Members.

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