



**Missouri Lodge of Research (MLR)  
Meeting & Breakfast in Columbia  
September 21 & 22, 2008**

**ANNUAL MLR MEETING**

This year's Annual Meeting of the Missouri Lodge of Research will be held at the "Holiday Inn Select", located at the I-70 South Outer Rd on the West side of Stadium Blvd in Columbia, Missouri during the Annual Session of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. This Session will be from September the 20<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup> when Grand Lodge closes and has its open installation of officers for 2009-2010.

The Lodge of Research Annual Meeting also includes the election of officers and will be held at 4:15 PM on Monday afternoon, the 21<sup>st</sup>, in the Windsor IV Room at the Holiday Inn Select. There will undoubtedly be some interesting business to come before the MLR membership in attendance.

Our Annual Breakfast will be held Tuesday morning at 7:00AM in the Windsor III room and tickets will be available from our Secretary RWB Ron Miller or his MLR Assistant Adriene Green at the Lodge of Research table in the hotel lobby on Sunday and Monday. Tickets will be \$15.00 each and our honored guest speaker will be WB Christopher L. Hodapp, a Past Master of Broad Ripple Lodge No. 643 in Indianapolis IN, a noted Masonic author and filmmaker. He is remembered for his 2005 book, ***Freemasons for Dummies***, a fast selling introduction to the Masonic Fraternity. Should be interesting. Don't miss out. Be there!!!



**Christopher L. Hodapp  
MLR Guest Speaker**

**MISSOURI  
Lodge of Research**

**OFFICERS**

- Worshipful Master – Dale Bryan
  - Senior Warden – M. Robert Berger
  - Junior Warden - Stanley Thompson
  - Secy -Treas - Ronald D. Miller
- 6033 Masonic Dr Suite B  
COLUMBIA MO 65202-6535

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MLR RP 09-03  
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**Upcoming Merger was a Hoax**  
Editor's Report

The article contained on the whole of page 2 in our last newsletter reported on a forthcoming merger between the Grand Lodges of Connecticut and Rhode Island. We are sorry to say that at the end of June, we learned that the article "republished" was a hoax. I should have been smart enough to catch it, especially since that last line on the page stated: **"Reprinted from the "Connecticut Freemason" dated May 2009 as reported by Lirpa Sloof"**

Now, if I had had my editorial glasses on, I should have realized what "LIRPA SLOOF" backwards spelled.

My apologies for not having been more attentive. However, if it is still up, here is the website where it originated:

**<http://glsneafam.wordpress.com/>**

The following website, if it is still up, tells about the hoax and how it all happened.

**<http://www.masonictao.com/2009/05/hoax-deconstructed.html>**

I certainly hope everyone understands.

## IS IT TIME FOR A CHANGE??

Many times over the last several decades, I have heard Brethren ask, "How do we get the more recent generations of young men to become active in Freemasonry?" There have been several things recommended and tried during those same decades. "Let's make the proficiency easier to learn by requiring the Obligations, due guards, signs and words only." (Or "Let's do away with the Proficiency" – as was *done* in Missouri!) "Let's do away with the waiting time between Degrees so that the candidates do not lose interest before getting the next Degree." (Or "Let's give all the Degrees for multiple candidates in one session." ((Or "Let's have a 1 day Chance-to-Advance (multiple candidates getting 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degrees in 1 day) with no proficiency for those who don't have the time." - - As was also done in Missouri.))

And even though we have been relatively, I guess, successful in obtaining new members for the past 10 years, (Missouri has been one of the few states to increase total numbers or stay nearly steady in overall membership during this time) one of the distressing aspects is that only the "old" 10% of the membership ever attends any meeting (although some of them are the newer members.) I guess the thing I am trying to point out, is that although we are getting *new* members to join, it doesn't quite exceed the number dying, dropping out or just not being active in, what we like to call, this Great Fraternity.

Could it be that we just aren't getting the message across of what Freemasonry is really about? I think they hear the words Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth – but without really understanding what is being said throughout the Ritual. It sounds good and when meaningfully recited by Brethren who have learned and memorized the words, it can be impressive to new candidates. But what if that is where the explanation of the words used in Freemasonry stops, at the end of the Degree(s).

I would venture to say, that probably 90% (or maybe more) of the Freemasons we have today do not really understand the words which are spoken to them throughout the Degree work. Even those who speak those words might not know what is meant by the word being used. This is possibly because *older* (England) English words were used in all the rituals, even before Freemasonry was brought to the US. Our history tells us many of our country's forefathers were Freemasons. And in many instances, some of the older language meanings are still used today.

How many of us heard, in the EA Degree Lecture, "The furniture of a Lodge consists of the Holy Bible, Square and Compasses"? Well, it's not the kind of furniture I know, but I guess that's what they call it. And IF you never look the word up in the dictionary, you don't know what the first definition (in the Merriam-Webster On-Line Dictionary) is. And maybe *then* the description as furniture has a new and realistic meaning. Have you ever been "Tried"? (Probably means tested or something similar!) But did you know, again, one of the first definitions is: "Found good, faithful or trustworthy."

Was that you, in the First Degree, who said you will not

"indent". Did you know (or ever find out) what that meant by how it was used? It means simply to draw up two or more exact copies.

And this could be our fault as the older heads in the Fraternity. Here, let me try to help a little. I am going to include a short list of words that come to mind just thinking about the different areas in Ritual and Ceremonies where I'm NOT sure the meaning of the words are easily understood. (This, of course, is **NOT** all of *those* words, only a few samples):

| <u>Masonic word</u> | <u>Dictionary meaning</u>  |
|---------------------|--|
| Appurtenances       | A subordinate part or adjunct, another thing but not essentially a part of it                            |
| Degree              | A Step or Stage in a process - a rank or grade   |
| Delineated          | To indicate or represent by drawn or painted lines   |
| Equivocation        | Language to deceive or avoid committing oneself to what one says   |
| Furniture           | Equipment that is necessary, useful, or desirable  |
| Hieroglyphically    | Writing mainly in pictorial characters   |
| Imprecation         | a prayer or invocation for harm or injury to come upon one   |
| Mote                | May or might   |
| Sublime             | To elevate or exalt especially in dignity or honor   |
| Tenet               | A principle, belief, or doctrine generally held to be true. A teaching                                   |
| Tile                | To cover, a high silk hat  |
| Vicissitudes        | The quality or state of being changeable, mutability, natural change or mutation visible in nature       |
| Whence              | From what place or source  |
| Worshipful          | Notable , distinguished (chiefly British) – a title for various persons or groups of rank or distinction |

Of course, the above are *not* the only "not understood" words. Each member will probably have their own. What I am saying is that many of our Brethren, and this includes me, may never question the meaning of the words he hears, in *thinking* that he really knows *what* the word means or that he *thinks* it means what he thinks it means. And in many cases, of course, this is wrong. Sometimes it may have to do with the pronunciation of a word. In the First Degree for instance, how many of us had heard said: "The *tenants* of Freemasonry are. ...!", thinking it means the occupants or something similar. The *proper* word listed above does not mean what tenants mean (one who holds or possesses real estate by any kind of right, or one who has the occupation or temporary possession of lands or tenements of another; *specifically* : one who rents or leases, as a house, from a landlord).

Could these understanding problems be solved as simply as using "what is meant to be said" by just saying it that way?

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## WORDS USED IN LODGE INSTALLATIONS

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

Appointed  
 Badge  
 Behold  
 Charges  
 Consequence  
 Craft  
 Disinterested  
 Dissenters  
 Duty  
 Esteem  
 Evinced  
 Excess  
 Examination

Formed  
 Hitherto  
 Homage  
 Impress  
 Innovations  
 Investiture  
 Jewel  
 Lead  
 Magistrates  
 Mystic Art  
 Patron  
 Piques  
 Preferment

Private  
 Propagate  
 Proxies  
 Recurrence  
 Rule  
 Strictly  
 Suffice  
 Superintendence  
 Testimony  
 Unanimity  
 Veneration  
 Virtuous  
 Vouchers

### 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 another word also. When all the words in the above list have been lined through, you should then have 11 letters left in the puzzle which have not been circled. Write down **these letters only**, from upper left to lower right sequentially and this will spell out the word which is the answer! You should know you have the right answer, and can find it in the “Ceremonies” booklet, “Installation of Subordinate Lodge Officers” within the charge to the Wardens. It would be a good word to look up in the dictionary to see if it means what you think it means!

June’s answer: **APPURTENANCES**, which means : That which appertains or is annexed to; a subordinate part or adjunct; a term for what belongs to and goes with something else, with the **appurtenance** being less significant than what it belongs

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Couldn't we say, "To guard against the approach of unwelcome or play like members and those who try to listen to what is being said during our meetings, and allow only those members to enter or leave who have permission of the presiding officer." Or: "By being found good, faithful and trustworthy and I am willing to be tested again." Could maybe: "... to the highest dignity or honor of Master Mason" be said instead of: "... to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason"?

Well, maybe not! But wouldn't it be great to have an established Masonic education program to review the Ritual with each Brother (new or older) to impress upon him - - what the "secrets" in Freemasonry really are, and to insure that he knows what the Ritual is really meant to convey. That It is not just words, but *words* with real meaning; that, if properly understood and applied in his everyday life, can give his life a structure and purpose that will go a long way toward achieving our avowed purpose of "making good men better!"

by MWB Bill Soutiea, PGM 99-00

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**We Salute You,  
Our U.S. Military!**

It is the **VETERAN**, not the preacher,  
who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the **VETERAN**, not the reporter  
who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the **VETERAN**, not the poet,  
who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the **VETERAN**, not the campus organizer,  
who has given us freedom to assemble.

It is the **VETERAN**, not the lawyer,  
who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the **VETERAN**, not the politician,  
who has given us the right to vote.

It is the **VETERAN** who salutes the Flag,

It is the **VETERAN** who serves under the Flag,  
ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD,  
AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.