



Missouri Lodge of Research (MLR) Meeting at GL in Columbia September 21, 2009

The Annual meeting of the MLR was held in the Windsor IV Room of the Holiday Inn Select Hotel at 4:15 PM on Monday, September 21, 2009. RWB Dale M. Bryan, Worshipful Master, welcomed the full room of Lodge of Research members to our Annual Meeting. He called upon our Chaplain, MWB Reverend Elmer Revelle, to lead us in prayer. The WM introduced all PMs and current officers of the MLR present, followed by PGMs and Grand Lodge Officers present. It was announced that our book editor had resigned and therefore there would be no MLR book published for this year. There was general discussion about substitute programs versus book publication each year as has been done. It was announced that the MLR would try to purchase sufficient copies of our distinguished visitor and tomorrow's guest speaker, WB Christopher Hodapp, writer of "Freemasons for Dummies" and several other Masonic themed books; book titled: "Solomon's Builders" for distribution to all MLR members this year.

Our Secretary/Treasurer, RWB Ronald Miller read and moved for approval of our previous meeting minutes. Seconded and Passed.

RWB Bryan stated he was honored to have served as Worshipful Master of the MLR and that he really enjoyed the time he spent working with his responsibilities toward the Lodge of Research. He thanked everyone for helping make his year as Master successful.

It was then moved that the entire line be advanced, except for the Secretary/Treasurer to be continued in that office, and the Chaplain and Tiler who are to be named by the newly elected Worshipful Master. That motion was seconded and unanimously passed. MWB M. Robert Berger, the WM-Elect stated that MWB Elmer E. Revelle would continue as Chaplain and Brother Sean Robertson would enter the advancing line of officers as Tiler. All of the new officers were then installed. The following are the officers MLR for the 2009 – 2010 year: M. Robert Berger as WM, Stanley M. Thompson as SW, Larry R. Houge as JW, Ronald D. Miller as Secy/Treas, James E. Snaveley as SD, Nicholas R. Cichiello as JD, Steven L. Harrison as SS, Gregory D. West as JS, L. LeRoy Salmon as Marshal, Elmer E. Revelle as Chaplain, and Sean Robertson as Tiler.

MWB Berger thanked the members present for having the confidence in him to serve for the next year and he promised to

give the best possible leadership for this next year. He stated that he had a new program to announce for this coming year. That every member who signs as recommender for 10 new members through the course of the year, will receive a "LIFE MEMBERSHIP" in the MLR, which currently sells for \$500.00. (NOTE: A copy of our "Membership Application Form" is on Page 4 and may be duplicated as necessary to give to new members!) He then announced that the MLR Breakfast tickets are available at a \$15 price at the MLR desk in the lobby. Breakfast would be held at 7:00 A.M. in the Windsor III Room.

The meeting was closed at 5:00 P.M following closing prayer by our Chaplain, MWB Revelle.

September 22, 2009

Our Worshipful Master, MWB Bob Berger thanked a room of 200+ Brethren for attending. Following prayer by Chaplain Revelle, the breakfast was served.

Following breakfast, RWB Berger introduced the head table, talked a bit about the popularity of our newsletter and then introduced our guest speaker for this morning, Christopher L. Hodapp, the editor of the "Journal of The Masonic Society." He is the author of "Freemasons for Dummies" and "Solomon's Builders: Freemasons, Founding Fathers and the Secrets of Washington D.C." He is the co-author with Alice Von Kannon of "The Templar Code for Dummies" and "Conspiracy Theories and Secret Societies for Dummies." He's has appeared on The History Channel on the subject of Freemasonry and its role in the founding of the United States and the building of Washington D.C. Worshipful Brother Hodapp is a Past Master of Broad Ripple Lodge No. 643 in Indianapolis Indiana and has spent more than twenty years editing, writing and directing as a commercial filmmaker. He has written scripts for corporate and non-profit clients, and his voice has appeared in many television and radio commercials. His new book, 'Deciphering the Lost Symbol,' will be out in November 2009. Brother Chris lives in Indianapolis, Indiana

He started off with some conversation about Dan Browns recently released new book titled: "The Lost Symbol." The book has been found this to be highly complementary toward Freemasonry and as a result, there will undoubtedly be a large number of men wanting to join a Masonic Lodges. He discussed what we, as members, need to do to attract and be able to keep new members actively coming to meetings, and gave recommendations of how we should be open to change. He kept the Brethren attentive for the better part of an hour to the listening enjoyment of all. You should have been there!

Following a closing prayer by MWB Rev. Elmer Revelle, Brethren were dismissed at about 8:25 A.M.

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

The short fortune teller who escaped from prison is a small medium at large.

“FREEMASONRY”

A WAY OF LIFE

The making of a Freemason consists in a continued course of education, training and character forming. While it may be accepted that it is an innermost desire, followed by obligations, that makes one a member of the Craft, yet in a truer sense, a man is not a Freemason unless he lives up to his obligations.

Keeping this in mind, you have to realize that as an organization Freemasonry has "Members" and it has "Masons" and the two are not the same.

The Mason goes into deeper research about Freemasonry and the more extensive knowledge of its hidden art and mysteries. The philosophy of Freemasonry, when discovered and then accepted and practiced, provides simple but profound solutions to the problems of human relationships. Freemasonry is a way of living to the Mason who is interested enough to appraise and value the wealth that is his by virtue of his Masonic Membership.

The best-informed Master Mason is the Master Mason who reads and studies about the Craft. He reads and learns to understand the "Volume of the Sacred Law" of his religion and he also should read and study the "Volume of the Sacred Laws" of other religions. For to be able to have some understanding of what others believe, you have to have some knowledge of what it is that they believe. It is with this knowledge and understanding that a Mason is able to find common grounds to come together with others, in Love, Peace, and Unity for the good of all mankind with any good man of any race, creed, or religion.

MAKING MASONRY MEANINGFUL

Freemasonry is not a religion even though it is religious in character. It does not pretend to take the place of religion nor serve as a substitute for the religious beliefs of its Members. Freemasonry accepts men, found to be worthy, regardless of religious convictions. An essential requirement is a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.

Freemasonry is not an insurance or beneficial society. It is not organized for profit. However, the charity and services rendered are beyond measure. It teaches the Golden Rule. It seeks to make good men better through its firm belief in the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man and the Immortality of the Soul.

The tenets of Freemasonry are ethical principles that are acceptable to all good men. It teaches tolerance toward all mankind. It is known throughout the world. Freemasonry proudly proclaims that it consists of men bound together by bonds of Brotherly Love and Affection. It dictates to no man as to his beliefs, either religious or secular. It seeks no advantage for its Members through business or politics. Freemasonry is not a forum for discussions on partisan affairs.

At our Altars, without any vanity or pretense, we assemble for work and fellowship and to learn to love and cherish one another. By so doing, we bring light out of darkness, beauty out of drabness, exaltation out of despair, so the end that every Brother's life may become more radiant and meaningful.

A Freemason believes that Faith is the foundation of justice, the bond of amity, and the chief support of society. He lives by Faith: he walks by Faith; by Faith he has a continued hope in the acknowledgement of a Supreme Being; by Faith he believes he will be justified, accepted and finally saved.

A Freemason believes that Hope is the anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast and center into that within the veil; let a firm reliance on the Almighty's faithfulness animate his endeavors, and teach him to fix his Hopes within the limits of His promises.

A Freemason believes that Charity is the brightest gem that can adorn his Masonic profession. Happy is the man who has sowed in his breast the seeds of benevolence; the produce thereof is love and peace. The objects of true charity among Masons are merit and virtue in distress, persons who are incapable of extricating themselves from misfortunes in their journey through

life, industrious men who, from unavoidable accidents, have fallen into ruin. Widows left destitute by lack of a husband's support. Orphans in tender years, needing a father's care. The aged, whose strength is exhausted, and who are thereby rendered unable to procure for themselves that substance necessary to nourish their declining years. This is CHARITY, the keystone of our mystic institution.

THE PRINCIPAL TENETS

The principal tenets of our profession are threefold, including the inculcation and practice of those truly commendable virtues, Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

By the exercise of Brotherly Love a Mason learns to regard the whole human race as one family the high, the low, the rich, the poor who, being created by one Almighty Parent, and inhabitants of the same planet, ought to aid, support, and protect each other. On this principle Masonry unites men of every country, sect, and opinion, and conciliates true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance.

To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly on Freemasons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. To soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with them in their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and to restore peace to their troubled minds is the great aim we have in view. On this basis we form our friendships and establish our connections.

Truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. To be good men and true is the first lesson we are taught in Freemasonry. On this theme we contemplate, and by its dictates endeavor to regulate our conduct. Hence, while influenced by this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us, sincerity and plain-dealing distinguish us, and the heart and the tongue join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity.

SUMMING IT UP

In my very short overview of what a Mason is I hope that I have cleared up some of the misconceptions that are out there about Freemasonry.

Now I will move on to what is a Member. A member is hopefully a future Mason. No one came into this world as an adult and no one comes into Masonry as Mason. It is the hope of every Mason that by his example he will lead the Members around him to also advance in Masonry to become the future Masons of our Order.

If all of us are not what you think we should be, just remember that, "God is not through with us yet", and that someday all of us will be just what, "God wants us to be".

No man can live according to the principles and teachings of Ancient Craft Masonry and do anything, knowingly and willingly, that is contrary to moral and upright principles. Freemasonry frowns on every wrongful act and admonishes the right actions between each of us and the world at large. Freemasonry is and should always be a guide to our actions.

Freemasonry is kindness in the home, honesty in business, courtesy in society, fairness in work, pity and concern for the unfortunate, resistance toward evil, help for the weak, forgiveness for the penitent, love for one another and, above all, reverence and love for God. Freemasonry is many things but, most of all,

FREEMASONRY IS A WAY OF LIFE!

By

WB Byron E. Hams, PM
Prince Hall Lodge #1
The MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri and
Its Jurisdiction

2010 GRAND LODGE OF MISSOURI OFFICERS

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

LARRY C. REYNOLDS, GM
 GAIL S TURNER, DGM
 JOHN W. HESS, SGW
 DAVID L. RAMSEY, JGW
 JON B. BROYLES, SGD
 DAVID HAYWOOD, JGD
 BRENT STEWART, SGS
 RICH L. SMITH, JGS
 RON(ALD D.) JONES, SGM

NICK CICHIELO, GT
 RONALD D. MILLER, GS
 TOM TRUMAN, JGM
 R(ANDALL) J. JONES, GL
 ROBERT THOMAS, GSB
 (GREGORY) WEST, GP
 (DALE C. WEST), GC
 JAMES R. FEITE, GC
 (ROBERT) BOB C. CARTER, GC

BRENT HUNT, GC
 (DALE R.) ROLLER, GC
 MURRAY W. HOCHBERG, GC
 G. SAM MONTGOMERY, GO
 (PAUL G.) GREGORY, GO

RULES FOR PLAY:

You must **circle the names of Officers ONLY**, 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 still used in another name. The name, or part of a name, within the parens (--) will **NOT** be found in the puzzle. When you have found ALL of the above names 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 Officer whose name is NOT on the list, PLUS the last two letters found will be the abbreviation for his office. Who is it? What office does he hold? Call a member friend who may have worked this puzzle and see if you got the same answer they did. If not, I will include the answer in the next issue.

Last Newsletters Answer: **Assiduously (What does it mean?)**

MISSOURI MASONIC LICENSE PLATES

One of the best ways to help advertise Freemasonry in Missouri is by your displaying a "Personalized Masonic License Plate." Missouri State requires a minimum \$25 per year tax deductible "emblem use fee" paid to **MO MASONIC CHILDRENS FOUNDATION**, which goes to the CHIP program for identifying children. Registration fee for your vehicle is the same as a regular plate EXCEPT you must pay an annual 'personalized plate' fee to the State which puts the Masonic Square and Compasses on your plate plus any available, acceptable, up to 5 letter/number combination you choose. The form for "emblem use" is available on GL Web Site www.momason.org and any state authorized license office will provide you the form and instruction for applying. It is relatively simple. Let's see a whole lot more Masonic License Plates on the streets and roads!!

MISSOURI LODGE OF RESEARCH
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RP 09-04

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I would like to become a member of the Missouri Lodge of Research

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email: _____

Date Sent: _____

Check Number _____ Amount of Check: _____

Yearly Membership Dues \$20.00. Recommended by: _____

(Please Print)

This includes the Missouri Lodge of Research Publication for the current year.

- OR -

You may also purchase a Lifetime Membership at the cost of \$500.00. **(One time for LIFE)**

This guarantees you will receive the Missouri Lodge of Research Book yearly and no future increase!

Please **make check payable to the Missouri Lodge of Research** and send to the following address:

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Columbia, MO 65202-6535