



# Light from the Great Land

October 2013

## Grand Masters Message

Greetings my Brothers-

*This issue I would like to present for your consideration an article written by W Bro John K Bishop, I hope you enjoy it:*



### The 15 Fellowcraft

In the Drama of the third degree there are 15 Craftsman, three of whom become ruffians.

What lessons do we learn from them? As you read this, reflect on yourself and events in your life. I suggest that you will find many instances which relate to

the character of the Craftsman.

In our lives we confront the various personality traits of these Craftsmen on a regular basis. Some are positive, others negative, how we interact and respond defines our own character.

History; of the eighty thousand Fellowcraft employed in the building of the Temple evidently fifteen were to some extent disgruntled and impatient. One of these obviously had leadership qualities, and his closest Brothers were loyal followers. The other twelve were followers among whom there was at least one whose moral character inspired him to

leadership in a time of need. Jubelum was the leader, and he solicited the support of his most loyal friends Jubelo and Jubela they in turn solicited twelve additional friends.

Jubelum has a strong character and a strong leader with loyal friends who trust and follow him. However he is also impatient. His two Brothers are loyal and stand behind him. The other twelve recognize Jubelum as a leader and fall in with the others. Sometime following at least one of the twelve, (the first Craftsman) had second thoughts and reminded the others of their obligations. They then recanted. And when they realized the horrid deed had been done had the character to come forward.

The three Ruffians meanwhile realizing they have no future are overcome with guilt, are captured and forlornly admit to their crime. The twelve Craftsmen were ashamed that they had initially associated with the ruffians, but had the moral integrity and honesty to come forward.

Analysis; Jubelum was in all probability a Strong charismatic personality; he was a leader of sorts and had loyal friends. However was dissatisfied and impatient, and his pursuits were self serving. His two Brothers as loyal as they were lacked the quality of discernment and the strength of Moral character. On the other hand the twelve Craftsmen, lead by the first reflected with discernment on what was proposed and had the strength of character to recant. I venture that their honesty would be respected, and they would in time be forgiven. In the future however they would be much more cautious in their associations and who they chose to follow.

Leadership is a strong personal Character, it should be discerning, balanced and honest. Serving the need of those who have chose to follow. It should not be self serving. Some have great leadership qualities others develop them over time. In our Craft we should endeavor to develop these qualities, not only in our lodges but in our communities. Good leaders have strong moral integrity; they share the credit for achievements and take the blame for failures upon themselves.

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## Deputy Grand Master's Message



My Brothers,  
Wow- can you believe we're almost through this year? Where did it go? I'm starting to feel the Holiday Spirit.

I've really enjoyed visiting with the Lodges this year. I hope you all remember what we've talked about. Please remember we are here to help you have a successful Masonic Lodge. One tool is to have a Long Range Plan.

If you haven't started your LRP, now is a good time to start. We are here if you need help.

Our Lodges should be having elections soon. If I can ask the Lodges to please send me a message to let me know when your Installation of officers are- If I can I would like to attend.

My advice to the new officers would be to please manage your lodge as a team with a plan. When you do, your Lodge will grow!

Our Grand Lodge session is just around the corner. Please register early and support our Grand Master.

Finally, Kathy and I wish you and your families a very Happy Holiday!!!!!!

Remember if we work as a team we can grow!

Fraternally Yours,  
R W David Worel  
DGM  
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## Senior Grand Warden's Time

Hello Brothers,

I just returned from attending the Grand Lodge of Idaho, where I was made to feel very much at home. V W Brother Robert Wiseman was there; I found out that he has been attending as Alaska's representative for the last (15 ) fifteen years. Bob has always brought salmon with him that he has smoked. They just love him for that gift. Way to go Bob!



I represented our Grand Master, and as I listened to the talks and messages from the other Grand Masters and Grand Representatives, it became quite apparent that we

all have the same problems. First, all have steady declines in membership and loss of revenue. The second problem is finding ways to attract new members, keep existing members and bring back lost members.

Most agree that we need to change our attitude toward recruitment. First- through advertising, we need to let the public know what we do to contribute to society, let the people know what good we do. We need to wear our Masonic hats, jackets, and shirts. Tell them how we were Freemasons before we were Shriners, Scottish Rite, or York Rite Masons. Let them know about the other appendant groups that are part of the Masonic Family, let our charities shine, and keep in mind, without members we have no Lodges

I must take time to show my appreciation for the work of Steve Stewart, and the brothers in Juneau, for their efforts in starting a DeMolay chapter, They have the promise of a sponsor, and enough men willing to work as dads and advisors. Brother Dale Gillilan, our state's national representative, has received these applications for sponsorship, advisors, and dads and they have been sent to National headquarters. Background checks will soon be implemented. Checks for this service will be sent to National headquarters. All of the necessary information, concerning requirements and training of advisors, will be sent to Juneau

My challenge, as Grand Lodge Officer, is to help our youth groups. Until now, our DeMolays have been nonexistent. We have one Bethel of Job's Daughters and three groups of

Rainbow Girls. All are in need of adult participation and new members. The only way we can keep these youth groups going and growing is to have dedicated adults. Our cities have hundreds of young people who are in need of quality environments in which to grow, learn leadership skills, develop good social skills, and learn to show respect for their parents, the law, their country and others.

My challenge to all of our lodges is, to supply four men to dedicate time to our youth groups. I do know that some lodges are having problems filling their own chairs, but do what you can. Remember, we want good men and women as members in our lodges and other groups, what better way to get them than teaching them while they are young.

I try to attend each of these youth group meetings as I can, and I am truly impressed with their work and attitudes, I don't want these groups to just fade away, so step forward and be there for them!

Thank you,  
R W Douglas C. Teninty  
Senior Grand Warden





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## From The South



Hi Brethren,

Worshipful Ralph Sterling, Junior Steward of Kenai #11 and I had an exciting Official Visitation in Valdez. We decided to take the ferry out of Whittier.

A five hour ferry ride, rather than a 10 hour drive from Sterling. The ferry ride over was great, comfortable seats and good food in the cafeteria. On the return trip, we were 2 1/2 hours out of Valdez when a passenger had a heart attack. The decision was made to turn the ferry around and go back to Valdez. While we were at Valdez they had to unload the vehicles for any passengers who wanted to leave the ferry.

A five hour ferry ride turned into a 12 hour ride.

The good news was- the passenger looked good when he left the ferry, and a friend of mine from Anchorage who knew of him said that he is OK. When time permits the ferry is a great way to travel.

At all of our Grand Masters Official Visitations I have talked about my theme, which is Recruitment, Mentoring, Retentions. If this Great Fraternity is to survive for our sons, grandsons and great grandsons, we need more young members. Recruitment for membership is essential for survival. This can be a monumental task for some of our Lodges due to the population bases in their areas. When we do recruit new members they usually have families, children, and work. This scenario can make it very difficult for them to attend meetings and other functions. This is happening in my Lodge, many Brothers work out of town or they get off work too late and cannot make meetings. What can we do? Maybe change our meeting times. One of the Masonic groups that I belong to changed it's meetings to Saturday mornings and this has helped.

Please, if you have any ideas let the Grand Lodge Officers know.

How can we recruit?

What does recruit mean? My pocket dictionary says:

- To seek out and engage for work or service.
- To strengthen or raise.

Here are some ideas: (I know there are a lot more)

- We need to be known in the community- Here are some things my Lodge does:
  - In my Lodge, we have 2 or 3 dinners a year for the public where we have Masonic information available.
  - We repair or paint homes for people that need assistance, we do not charge for this service.
  - We donate food at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We label "Donated by Sterling # 22 Masonic Lodge."
  - We are involved in The Sterling Senior Center's Halloween Party.
- Let people know who we are and what we do:
  - Shriners Hospitals
  - The Masonic Fraternity donates millions of dollars each day.
- Recruiters
  - Our ladies are our best recruiters, we cannot ask, but they can.
- Masonic youths groups.
  - We need youth groups, this will help us gain new members.

I know the preceding ideas do not even scratch the surface. Let all of us work together to overcome the lack of new members.

Please, let the Grand Lodge know what we can do to help you.

We work for You!!

Fraternally yours

R W Carl Lindstrom  
Junior Grand Warden





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## District News

### District #5

District #5 Article for October 2013 Newsletter



Well, it has been a delightful summer so far, but not a lot of activity with the exception of the Alaska State Fair. Since we no longer have the information booth, many Brothers were freed up to assist at the Scottish Rite booth helping to sell the Fish and Ice Cream. It rained almost every day of the fair, but that did not dampen the spirit of the workers. Earnings were down a little, but still a resounding success raising a lot of funds for the Clinic.

As we begin preparations at home for the cool weather coming our way, District 5 Lodges are getting ready for their Lodge elections and the following installations. Matanuska Lodge will be holding their Officer Installation on December 14th at 11 am. The other two Lodge dates are not available at this time.

The members of Matanuska Lodge wish to express the heartfelt thank you to the Brothers of Tanana Lodge for their gift of the antique Lodge furniture, it is now all in place, and is a real change in the look and atmosphere of the Lodge room. It is very impressive.

Well, that's about it for now. We look forward now to the holidays and I hope everyone has a wonderful season.

Respectfully submitted,

V W Dennis N. Oakland  
District Deputy for District No.5

*"A man only learns in two ways, one by reading, and the other by association with smarter people." — Will Rogers*

### District #2



A problem was reported to a member of the Sterling Masonic Lodge #22 which was a 50+ year old widow was receiving her drinking water through a garden hose which was just laying across the ground. It was further reported she had been without water all last winter and would be again this winter because she did not have the required resources to the repair the broken buried water line.

A check with the person and an inspection of the water system by members of Sterling Masonic Lodge revealed the problem. Also, it was discovered the house and other buildings were too close together as not to allow an excavator safe operation. Thus, a water chase with a heat tape was the obvious answer to her problem.



At the August 21 stated meeting this need was reported to the Members. In true Masonic form, the Brothers went into action

immediately. Spenard Builders Supply, Soldotna, AK was contacted and they sold us 380 feet of green treated lumber at a very reduced price. Schock Builders, Sterling, AK was contacted and they furnished the foam insulation. The Brothers furnished the additional material, i.e. 100 feet of 1" water tubing, plumbing parts required for joining the old pipe to the new one, 100' round grey pipe insulation, spray foam insulation, caulking, screws & nails, electrical





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tape, electrical boxes and etc... to complete the project.

On September 13 the Brethren built five each 12-foot long connecting parts of the water chase and then transported all the material to location. On September 16 and 17 the Brethren built and installed the water chase. A change in the plumbing design & positioning of the pressure tank both were needed to

allow the new water system to be connected properly. Further, a new electrical line was run and two new electrical boxes and plug-ins were installed for the heat trace for the water tubing and for the heater in the insulated well house.



After overcoming some difficulties on the project, it was finally completed and is now operational. The home owner is very happy & absolutely ecstatic with her new water line and water pressure.

Fraternally yours,  
V W Bro Bill Roberts,  
DD#2  
Sterling Masonic Lodge #22



(Continued from page 1)

Loyalty; is a quality admired by all of us, it is a strength which we can rely on among our friends, brothers, and families. A true, trusted and loyal friend is truly a great asset. But such a true friend should be analytical and discerning. He would cover your six while upholding the moral law. And he would be honest with you, "reminding you in the most friendly manner".

Morality; This discussion revolves around the moral integrity of all the characters portrayed. As Masons our obligations revolve around the moral law. It is what our degrees are all about, what our lectures and allegory try to impart. We need to make this a center point of our mentoring programs with our new Brothers. It will strengthen their character, build their self confidence, and develop their leadership abilities.

Finally my Brothers;

- Be discerning- choose your leaders wisely
- Be discerning in your loyalty to your chosen leaders, your Country, family, and Brothers.
- Be honest with yourself
- Serve

Questions for discussion:

- What strengths of character do you perceive in the third degree drama?
  - Is King Solomon's anger appropriate?
  - What do you feel the future would hold for the twelve Craftsmen, how would you relate to them in the future?
- Apply the lessons of the drama to your Lodge, and your life?

15 Craftsman

Qualities:

- Leadership
- Character
- Morality