

MT. HOOD LODGE #32 OF VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

Trestle Board

Established May 3, 1879

April 2015

2014-2015

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Lodge32.com

Greetings Brethren,

Last weekend I was fortunate enough to attend the 2015 Lodge Leadership Retreat in Pasco, Washington. This is a revamped version of the Annual Warden's Conference held by the Grand Lodge of Washington. As always, there were many excellent classes focusing on leadership and lodge management. In the upcoming Trestle Boards I will be sharing with you some of the valuable lessons learned so we may all benefit from this investment of time and money.

The first I will share is called;

Six Steps to Initiation

The "Six Steps to Initiation" is a class designed from our Brethren of British Columbia and the Yukon, and goes over a very intensive, yet doable approach to bringing in potential candidates. This particular class was presented by Right Worshipful Jim Mendoza, in which his passion for this program was made quite clear. Before I get into the meat of the process, it is necessary to address one thing. What is the problem with the way we do things now? Currently a candidate shows interest, and we invite him to a lodge dinner or function. Maybe one or two. We answer questions, spend a little time with him, and usually by the end of one of the dinner we hand him a petition, in which he is to get three signers. These signers which may or may not have met him before, and who are vouching for him.

We send out an investigation committee who meets with him and his family, asks and answers more questions and then reports back to lodge. Usually the report is favorable and we elect him to receive the degrees of Masonry. And then after the first degree is conferred, we have a 33% chance of ever seeing him again. What happened? I believe it boils down to a lack in time invested from the onset. The candidate was not properly vetted. Neither the candidate nor the lodge spent adequate time in learning about each other, and likely the lodge was too excited to get a new candidate to make a proper decision on whether or not this man would actually be a good fit for Masonry. The following six steps insures a proper investigation of the candidate, as well as giving the candidate a proper education on his roles and responsibilities should he be elected to receive passage through our ancient portals.

Briefly, here are the six steps. After listing them, I will give a little more information to each, and then provide links for further instruction on the topic;

1. The initial response to the candidate, by telephone or email (Set the meeting)
2. The first meeting with the candidate (provide homework)
3. The second meeting with the candidate (more homework)

Six Steps to Initiation continued from previous page...

4. The third meeting with the candidate (Introduction to other members)
5. The fourth meeting with a candidate (Social function)
6. The petition and sponsor signatures.

Right away we can see there were three meetings with the candidate before he was able to meet other members. It wasn't until the fourth meeting that he was invited to a dinner. This was plenty of time for the candidate to ask questions, have questions asked of him, and to discover whether or not he and the Lodge would mutually benefit from his membership.

Step One: First Contact

In this step we respond to the candidate by phone or email. We ask if he would like to meet, and choose a time and place. We inquire if the candidate is serious about a life in Freemasonry, (This addresses two important issues- number one, the candidate has already done enough research via the internet or other sources to make that first call. Secondly, this lets the candidate know that Freemasonry is not a social club, it is a lifestyle).

We ask the candidate what he knows about Freemasonry, and we ask him to write a list of questions to bring to the first meeting. IMPORTANT STEP: We ask him to contact us to arrange the second meeting after he comes up with his list of questions. We DO NOT call him back. If he does not contact us, he goes no further.

Step Two: First Meeting

We meet the candidate and ask him his reason for interest in Freemasonry. We also ask to see his list of questions. If he did not bring any, we have learned something about his commitment. If he did bring a list of questions, we can learn a lot about him by what he decided was important enough to ask. If one of his questions is how does he get his portion of King Solomon's treasure, or how we are able to control the government, then we can wrap up the meeting pretty quickly and each go our separate ways.

However, if his questions were well thought out, and we answered them to his satisfaction, we both learned something about each other. We then explain the traditional approach of Freemasonry, explaining from whence we came, and what we are here to do. We then give him some homework. A questionnaire, which I will provide a link to. We explain the questions and ask him if he is willing to answer them and meet us again. If he is, we meet again.

Step Three: Second Meeting

We now go over the answers to the questionnaire. We explain the lodge positions, the three degrees, a typical stated meeting and our dress code. We give him additional homework at this time, including a research assignment for the Grand Lodge Website, and some memory work. We set another meeting.

Step Four: Third Meeting

At this meeting we bring a brother from the lodge with us, and the candidate presents us with his research homework and recites his memory work. We, as in all our meetings, continue to take notes on our observations. We then, if we are satisfied, invite him to a social event.

Step Five: Social Event

We meet the candidate at a social event, Stated Dinner, Summer Picnic, 5th Thursday, etc... We always have somebody with him at this event to introduce him to brethren and to answer any of his questions. NEVER leave him alone. After the event we ask our brethren of their impressions of the candidate.

Step Six: The Petition

After two or more such events, when we are certain of his fit in our fraternity, we now hand the candidate a petition. You've been with him this whole time and are qualified to sign his petition, as well as the brother who came with at the third meeting. You can also find those who met him at the social events.

Six Steps to Initiation continued from previous page...

You can easily see how much better we can decide if the candidate is a good fit for Freemasonry, and we have learned enough about him, that maybe if he is a good man, but not a good fit for our lodge, we can even recommend a different lodge! I was very impressed with this approach, and RW Jim Mendoza's presentation. If enough brethren express their interest in this topic to me, I will happily ask Grand Lodge to present the lecture in full detail. Meanwhile, here is a link to the Six Steps and the Questionnaire, plus notes; http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/ddgm/tab_7_six_steps_to_initiation.pdf

Scholarship News

As we are approaching the last quarter of the school year, it is time to start getting those scholarships in! We have reinstated our Lodge #32 Scholarship this year, and are offering (1) \$1250 scholarship to be given out at our June Stated Meeting. The details for the scholarship can be found on theWashBoard.org.

Besides the scholarship that Mt Hood Lodge #32 offers to an incoming freshman from Clark County, there is also the **Charles Anderson Scholarship**, provided through the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington.

Our Brother, in his will, funded this scholarship to encourage and reward academic excellence. Eligible applicants must be currently enrolled in post-secondary education and must either be a lineal descendant of a life member of Mt. Hood Masonic Lodge #32 OR be the child of a member of First United Methodist Church in Vancouver, WA.

There are two scholarships of \$2000 each to be awarded for academic year: 2015 – 2016 and the application due date is 4/30/2015. Last year these went unclaimed. If you are a life member with kids or grandkids in school, let them know! Applications can be completed online at:

<http://washboard.org/ScholarshipDetails/Community+Foundation+for+Southwest+Washington/2015-2016/Charles+Anderson+Scholarship>



Brother Timothy Kaftanic, our newest Master Mason and Mt. Hood Lodge #32 member!

Welcome Brother, congratulations!

Upcoming Events

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| April 9 | Lodge 32 Stated Meeting
Dinner 6:30pm, Lodge 7:30pm
Presentation: The Lambskin Apron |
| April 23 | Special Communication
Refreshment: 6pm, Lodge 7pm |
| April 29 | Table Lodge co-hosted by
Washington 4, Dinner will
Be served. 6:30pm |
| April 30 | 5th Thursday (Location to be
Determined by Stated Meeting) |
| May 3 | Ladies Tea—All Masonically Affiliated
ladies are invited to attend a special
High Tea in your honor! Come and
Be pampered by the gentlemen
Of Mt. Hood Lodge 32! 1pm at the
VMC. Reserve by emailing our
Senior Warden at :
Jkmasu@gmail.com |

Mt. Hood Lodge #32 News

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Brothers Donald Benton, Carl Drewery, Winston Falls,
Harry Faulerson, Edward Hyde, Donald Krehbiel,
James Malott, Donald Miller, Peder Pederson,
Walter Peters, Donald Ray, Glen Scholl,
Worshipful Master Steve Thompson,
Berton Thompson, Maurice Townsend,
Donald Tubbs, Shawn Walker
and Robert Zoner

Masonic Anniversaries

Br. Harold Love, 60 years

WB. Gary Lentz Sr., 40 years

Br. Keith W. Christensen, 20 years



Thank you for your Masonic Service!

Mt. Hood Lodge #32 Trestle Board
Jason Masuoka, Editor
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Return Service Requested