

MT. HOOD LODGE #32 OF VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

# Trestle Board

Established May 3, 1879

December 2014

2014-2015

## Lodge Officers

### Worshipful Master

Steve Thompson  
lawman451@centurylink.net

### Senior Warden

Jason Masuoka  
Jkmasu@gmail.com

### Junior Warden

Rob Pickett

### Treasurer

VWB Dave Daily  
Compnerd01@aol.com

### Secretary

VWB Dave Emmerton

### Sr. Deacon

Ben Thompson

### Jr. Deacon

Elliott Blood

### Chaplain

John Troth

### Tyler

WB James Wing

### Webmaster

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### Trestle Board Editor

Jason Masuoka

### Website

Lodge32.com

## Building a Better Brother Part 1 *The Caring and Feeding of Prospects*

*By WM Steve Thompson*

Over the last few months I have had Brothers come to me and express concern over why we have such a small attendance in lodge and why we don't seem to be initiating many new Brothers. This question is not new, nor is it confined to our Lodge. The answer is simple on the surface, but requires a number of specific things to make it happen. The short answer is – make the Lodge a place where people want to be. Any organization - no matter if it is a business, a government agency, or a fraternity – has certain elements that must be present in order to be successful. It must attract and recruit good people, it must train them effectively, and it must retain them. None of these activities are stand alone, they must function in concert to achieve the desired result – a strong and vital Lodge.

This month I will focus on attracting and recruiting good men with the objective of making them Masons. First ask yourselves, “What is it that attracted me to the Craft?” Speaking for myself, it was the desire to belong to something bigger than myself, to be a part of an organization with the professed goals of improving the character of its members and thereby making each of us better men, better husbands, better fathers, and better members of the community as a whole. In short, I saw men who made me say, “Wow, I want to be like him (or them). What is it that makes them comport themselves like that and how do I get it?” So the first element in attracting good men and Masons is, **Emulate the Values of Masonry in Your Daily Life.** Be a Mason every day, in every way.

Next, keep an eye out for men who you feel have the qualities that would make a good Mason and talk to them. Now, we can't shove a petition into someone's hand and tell them to join, but there is nothing that says we can't

# Mt. Hood Lodge #32 News

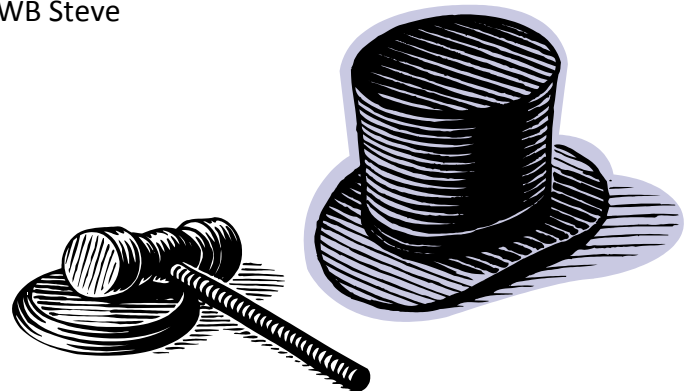
expose them to the Fraternity and invite them to dinners, events, or gatherings. Over the decades we have – as an organization – lost our brand identity. Most of the general populace has no idea what Freemasonry is, or they have gotten a warped perception of it through the media and entertainment industries. Know your craft, what it is and what it isn't, and what it means to you. Each of us comes to Masonry in our own way – for me it was through my sons' involvement in DeMolay – but the common deciding factor for every Brother I have talked to is the passion for the Craft they felt from the Masons they met. For many of us, answering a prospect's questions can figuratively turn into giving them a sip of water from a fire hose, but that isn't necessarily a bad thing – after all, how can you expect someone else to be attracted to something you aren't excited about yourself? Remember that a lighthouse that has a dim lantern or is hidden from view doesn't do much good. Its purpose is to shine brightly and guide travelers into a safe harbor. In Masonic terms, **Spread the Light Liberally!** After all, it's hard to find something that you don't know is there.

Finally, and I can't stress this enough – be involved. When we do get a prospect at a dinner or an event, it doesn't look appealing if there aren't many people in attendance. Part of the attraction of Freemasonry is the fellowship of kindred minds. One can believe in all the tenets of the Craft, but if we attempt to practice them from our couch in front of the television, it doesn't accomplish much. When we are together, we achieve synergy – the whole becomes greater than the sum of the parts.

This is one of Masonry's greatest strengths and we should revel in it. Being involved also helps to guard the West Gate. One of our most important duties as members of the lodge is to cast an informed ballot on a prospective Brother. Have you ever cast a white ball for someone you didn't really know? Or worse yet, someone whose face you couldn't put to the name on the petition? If you can emphatically say no, then you have my admiration and heartfelt thanks. For most of us however, this is not always the case. Being involved means establishing connections with these prospects before they even turn in that petition, building on that desire to be among like minded men as we work to divest ourselves of the imperfections in life, transforming ourselves from the rough to the perfect ashlar the Great Architect intended us to be. In this respect, a lodge should be like *Cheers* – a place where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came. We need to remember, first a friend then a Brother. So make the effort to **Make the Connection!** and it will pay dividends in the Lodge, in the minds of our prospective candidates, and in our own lives.

See you in Lodge!

WB Steve



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Brothers Joseph Bond, Harold Burdsall,  
Carlo Carlson, Lloyd Fries, Harry Furlong,  
J. Alex Gottwig, Louis Gray, Joseph Mackey,  
Jason Masuoka, Jesse McGuire, Robert Newell,  
Eric Olson, Aurilio Rios, David Talley  
and Michael Yamrick

## Upcoming Events

### December

#### 11- Stated Meeting:

*This is a very important meeting to attend, as we will be discussing the sale of the Vancouver Masonic Center. The VMC cannot be sold unless we get the consensus from our lodge members. Please attend, ask questions, express your concerns and vote!*

#### 13– Christmas Charity Dinner

*This year's Christmas Charity Dinner will be on December 15th at 5pm, and ALL proceeds will go to our chosen charity, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Tickets are \$25 each, and includes a prime rib dinner, interactive performance by the Dickens Carolers, door prizes and a visit from Santa for the kiddies! Tickets can be purchased from any lodge officer, or email me (Jason Masuoka, SW) at [Jkmasu@gmail.com](mailto:Jkmasu@gmail.com). Limited tickets will be sold at the door– contact me to make sure yours are reserved!*

#### 25 - Christmas, No Meeting

### January

TBA

## Masonic Anniversaries

Br. Loy "Jimmy" Dockery

10 Years!



*Thank you for your Masonic Service!*

**Mt. Hood Lodge #32 Trestle Board**  
**Jason Masuoka, Editor**  
**PO Box 542**  
**Camas, WA 98607**

**Important Meeting! Your Attendance is Requested:**  
**Go To Page 3 For Details!**

**Return Service Requested**