

GRAND LODGE OF HAWAII *Winter*

WINTER 2012

FROM THE GRAND EAST



Most Worshipful Monty J. Glover

Well first off I want to apologize for the delay in getting this issue of the Grand Lodge News Letter out. I've been so busy lately with not only the demands of my own life but also those of the Grand Lodge, various Masonic organizations and the renovation of the Makiki Temple I've just fallen behind in writing this article.

Things have been super busy with the Grand Lodge. This time of the year is always busy because of all the installations and visitations going on. I attended all the Lodge installations and I must say I'm very pleased to see the leadership that the Lodges have elected for this year and I'm sure they will guide their Lodges forward and we will have a stronger jurisdiction as a result. Congratulations to all the

newly installed officers and again if there is anything the Grand Lodge can do to assist you in your efforts please let me know.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
THE SPRING EDITION OF THE GRAND LODGE NEWS LETTER WILL CONTAIN VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR THE GRAND COMMUNICATION IN APRIL. BE SURE TO WATCH FOR IT!

The newly formed Masters and Wardens group is off and running. This is a much

needed association not only as a way for the Lodges to work more closely together but also as a source for the Grand Lodge to discover ways we can serve the Lodges better. One of the Major challenges we have ahead of us is including the neighbor island Lodges in these meetings. I am sure that the group is looking at how best to accommodate those needs.

I will be attending the Conference of Grand Masters of North America and the

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 18th 2012
Ko'olau Lodge Installation

January 21st 2012
Kauai Lodge Installation

January 21st, 2012
DEADLINE (90 days) for committees to return recommendations on proposed resolutions for 2012 AnCom along with committee recommendations. HMC 1108 #19(a)

February 19-21, 2012
Conference of Grand Masters of North America combined with the Western Conference of Grand Masters and Conference of Grand Secretaries.

April 20 and 21, 2012
Grand Lodge of Hawaii Annual Communications

Western Conference on Feb. 17 – 22. This will be the first time in a while that it will be attended by all the pillars as well as the Grand Secretary. These conferences are important as it's an opportunity to learn what other Jurisdictions are up to and ways to improve the Craft. It also allows the pillars to get to know and strengthen the bonds between them and their counterparts in the other Jurisdictions. I'm expecting some interesting conversation

concerning the situation in the Grand Lodge of France, The issues in a couple of the Jurisdictions with the Shrine, and one dealing with the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. So it should be very interesting indeed.

There are also a lot of challenging things going on at the moment that are great distractions for the Grand Lodge. It saddens me when I see things happening that are completely avoidable if our members would just practice

both in and out of the Lodge those important tenets of Masonry we are all taught. I urge you all to study and practice those lessons and let our Light shine before the world so they may see our good works and honor the Great Architect from whom all blessings flow.

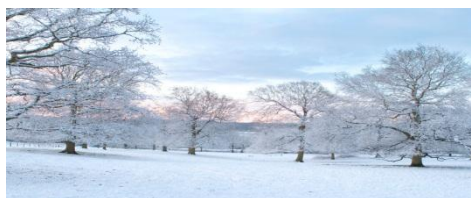
The annual communication is fast approaching so make sure you register early and get your RSVPs in for the installation dinner. It's sure to be a wonderful event and as always the Annual Communication is a

great opportunity to see and participate in the way your Grand Lodge is governed. I look forward to seeing you all there.

I'm sure in the Last installment of this newsletter you will receive lots of updates on everything that transpired at the Conference so stay tuned.

Fraternally yours,

Monty J. Glover
Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Hawaii
F&AM



FROM THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER



by Antonio M. Ligaya
Deputy Grand Master

Where did the time go? It seems we just started this Masonic Year, and we're already a third of the way through it! I trust it has been very productive for everyone, and I hope you and your families are staying healthy!

This quarter about to end was ushered in with arguably the largest Grand Master's Fast Class in recent memory with no less than 75 candidates going through it. A well-deserved note of appreciation is due Most Worshipful Dennis Ing, PGM and current Grand Lecturer for orchestrating the event, and the Grand Lodge Officers and Inspectors for its superb execution. Congratulations are also in order for our 75 new Master Masons; I hope it served as an inspiration to them to attend Lodge regularly in order that they may re-enforce their very limited experience in the Craft hopefully learned during the Fast Class, and educate themselves further!

For whatever it's worth, and to satisfy curiosity, information gathered in our *Records On-Line for Lodge Secretaries (ROLLS)* indicates a total of 150 Master Masons joined our Jurisdiction this year through raising, affiliation, reinstatement / restoration. However we also lost 75 due to demits, suspensions, and death. This leaves our net increase in membership to 75, or a little over 4 percent, which, interestingly, coincides with the number of candidates that went through the Fast Class!

The "Masters and Wardens Association" has been re-activated as a result of the meeting of the Long Range Planning Committee I reported in this Newsletter's previous issue. No less than the Grand Master kicked off the resurrected association held in early November at the Schofield Masonic Temple. Worshipful Brother Raymund Liongson, the newly-installed Master of Hawaiian Lodge was elected by those Masters and Wardens in attendance as the association's president. Your Grand Lodge eagerly anticipates inputs from them.

It certainly is Lodge Installation Season this time of the year, and currently most of our Lodges have already completed installing their officers for 2012. If I read the ti leaves correctly, we only have Ko'olau and Kauai left and theirs are scheduled on January 18 and 21, respectively. I encourage you to attend these installations; additional information is in our Grand Lodge's website (www.hawaiifreemason.org), in the "Events" tab. While on the subject, the Nobles of Aloha Shriners will also have their installation on January 7, 2012 starting at 2:00 pm at the Waimanalo Beach Club. Congratulations and best wishes to the new Corps of Officers, and to Worshipful Brother Manuel (call me Manny) Aquino for his election as the 2012 Potentate of Aloha Shriners!

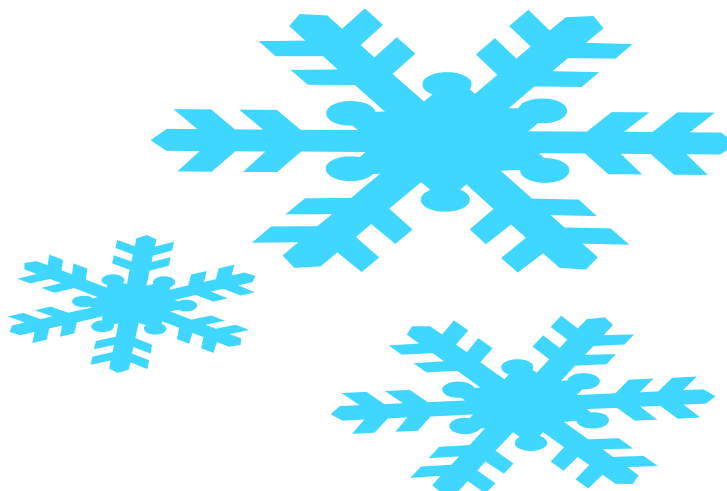
Makiki Masonic Temple's renovation remains in full swing, and the latest information is that it will be completed around the February / March timeframe. I am certain the Lodges, the Order of the Eastern Star, and the York Rite Bodies, currently temporarily situated elsewhere to accommodate the renovation, are all eagerly anticipating their return to Makiki.

In addition to the upcoming installations I mentioned earlier, I am reminding Masters and Secretaries to stay on top of reporting requirements in accordance with the Hawaii Masonic Code (HMC) – including, but not limited to, the submission of Annual Reports and the payment of Per Capita Dues to the Grand Lodge; please ensure they are completed, submitted and remitted, as the case may be, in a timely manner.

Finally, as we move on to the Fourth Quarter, I again enjoin you to always remember in your prayers our men and women proudly wearing the military uniform of our great country who remain "on watch" on foreign soils in the name of the freedom we all cherish, as well as the civilian personnel who support them, and their families – may God, the Supreme and Great Architect of the Universe, forever keep them under His Care away from all harm, and may they soon be back home safely to their families!

May everyone have a blessed, safe, and Merry Christmas, and a peaceful, more prosperous, and Happy New Year . . . and, never forget: He is the reason for the season!

God bless us all!!



FROM THE GRAND WEST



A NEW MASONIC YEAR

Frank M. Condello II,
Senior Grand Warden

Aloha brethren! I hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday season with your families. It is hard to believe that we are in the last few months of this Masonic year and our Annual Communication is coming up in April! There are still a few lodge installations to attend in January, but we have completed the busy month of December. I enjoyed attending all of the installations and seeing the wonderful work of each lodge. It confirms that we are bringing in motivated and inspired brethren who want to make a difference. Lodges that have struggled in the past to bring in new members or to get fresh blood in the officer line have done very well this last year. Keep up the great work.

Everything in our jurisdiction though has not all been rosy. We of course have to deal with issues that come up and make the best decisions we can considering the circumstances. We are always open to discussing business of the Grand Lodge if you have questions. I would rather have you ask us directly than listen to the rumor mill that is out there. Too often this occurs and we allow it to continue without questioning the validity of the information. Please challenge yourselves to walk honorably as Masons and do the right thing. I have always held myself to this high standard because I know it is the honorable and right thing to do. Lets walk the walk!

I very much enjoyed marching in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade with the brethren of Honolulu Lodge and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Hawaii. It is always an enjoyable time and an opportunity for us to literally walk the walk with our Prince Hall brethren and break bread with them after representing Masonry to the public in Waikiki.

In February, the elected Grand line will be traveling to Atlanta Georgia to attend the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. I enjoyed attending last year and look forward to the networking and educational sessions that are provided. I will be looking for new and innovative programs that other Grand Lodges have found effective in revitalizing Masonry.

I am very pleased that ROLLS is working well for our jurisdiction and that the lodge Secretaries are getting the hang of it. Much of the success of this programs is due in no small part to the dedication and knowledge of our Grand Secretary, MW Marty Alexander. He has been a God send to this Grand Lodge. Please continue to learn what ROLLS can do for you and your lodge. As we embrace technology, we also strengthen our lodges and their ability to prosper in the 21st century.

I am pleased to say that our jurisdiction is growing and has grown slowly over the past four years or so. We are not a dying fraternity as some may think, and as long as we keep working together to find solutions and try new and innovative things, we will continue to grow. Masonry offers something different to everyone. The key is to inspire our brethren to inspire others and to offer their talents and time for the health and prosperity of their lodges. I will continue to do anything in my power to assist you and the lodges during my tenure in the Grand line. Thank you for your continued support.



FROM THE GRAND SOUTH



MASONIC LEARNING THROUGH OBSERVATION

BY RW Rick Huston, JGW

In the military there is an acronym called OJT, On the Job Training. Part of this training consists of "hands-on" training, by actually doing or performing something. The other part is by observation and listening.

Let me address the second part of OJT, observing and listening.

These past few months I have attended 5 installations and attended 2 stated meetings. I am amazed, and proud of what I have seen and heard. At the first 3 installations it was almost as though the incoming Masters were speaking from the same script. And it all centered on how Masonry has changed them and what it means to them, being a Mason. I can sum all of it up in one sentence;

"A better man, husband, father, citizen, and a proud Brother to all who have risen to the sublime degree of Master Mason."

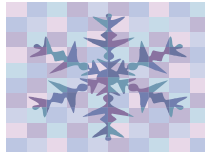
What is even more remarkable, perhaps amazing, is that none of these proud, brand new Worshipful Masters were actually speaking from a script, perhaps a note or two on a folded piece of paper, but the words they spoke came from their hearts. Occasionally pausing to look around the lodge at both their followers and their predecessors, then to their wives, who were sitting, smiling, often dabbing Kleenex on their eyes. Their voices were clear, strong and sincere. As I glanced around the lodge, I witnessed some very profound moments in the life of Masonry, and in my own life as a Mason.

As I sat listening, my mind kept returning to one obvious realistic thought; The very foundation of the Masonic Blue Lodge, the teachings from our degrees, from the time we enter the lodge room as a candidate, to the altar for our obligations, are as profound, realistic and meaningful as the very patriotism that has rocked this great Nation of ours, most especially in the past 11 years.

As I sat in the Stated Meetings as part of the Grand Lodge visitations, I listened to the new Worshipful Masters lay out their year. There were no promises of things that cannot be. No comments as to what should have been will now be. No allusions of things that can never be. You could not, at any stretch of the imagination, listen to these proud men and compare them to a political candidate running for some illusive government office. They spoke with the very tenants of Freemasonry. They did not allude to what the lodge could do for them, or what they were going to do for the lodge, but what, together and in unity with the officer's and brethren, they were going to do for the benefit of the fraternity in general, and for the betterment of their lodges.

Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, the three tenants of Freemasonry. With these tenants in our hearts, always on our minds, and practiced in and out of the lodge we will remain strong and united in Freemasonry - without them, we will fail.

What an OJT session it was for me!!



FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY

SO MOTE IT BE.

by MW Marty Alexander, PGM

Arguably, it is the most memorable and best known phrase in all of Freemasonry. It has numerous different connotations though. It may be used at the end of a prayer to mean "amen". It can also be used interchangeably with "So may it be" an acknowledgement of agreement. There are many variations of how this phrase can be used and meant.

But all too often I hear it muttered as a Brother throws his hands in the air and walks away from a situation that he knows is not right but does nothing to help make things better. Or maybe he just doesn't want to get involved and be seen with a non-popular point of view. These have meanings of blind submission, resignation of will and acquiescence. Far less nobler usages than our honorable phrase was intended.

I know, I know, as the Grand Secretary, I am supposed to stick to reports, information and statistics emanating from this office and blah blah blah, yaddah yaddah yaddah.

OK, fine, here are some preliminary statistics for the previous "Calendar" year. A more detailed report will be given at our Annual Communications on April 20/21, 2012 once all the lodges have reported in and the figures have been finalized.

Our demits were down from 20 to 13, our suspensions for NPD were up from 10 to 35, we had 1 suspension for UMC, and we had less brothers leave us for the Celestial Lodge above this year as that was down from 28 to 23. We raised 120 Masters Masons in 2011 versus 52 the previous year and after the affiliations, restorations and reinstatements are calculated in, we had a gain of 78 from 2010. As far as training goes, we had 1 lodge secretaries workshop and 2 ROLLS workshops which while we did not get 100% lodge participation, they were very well attended.

OK, so getting back to the original topic. The meaning of how we use "so mote it be". How does this relate to the Grand Secretary's office you ask? It's not so much as how it relates to this office but rather what is noticed when in this position. With today's technology, corporate requirements, and financial management, a lodge's administration is increasingly becoming more and more difficult to manage.

Why do we spend so much time to make sure our officers are proficient in ritual but then overlook the administration portion of it. An officer needs to be every much proficient in administration as he does ritual. Our lodges are not simply a fraternal organization but are also businesses that the business end of things are all too often ignored or thought of as secondary. Trust me, when this happens, confusion in the temple begins.

The less nobler connotation of "So mote it be" comes into play when I see some brothers progress through the lines of our lodges' leadership without being prepared in the Hawaii Masonic Code, Hawaii Business regulations, Roberts Rules of Order and even simply the 25 Landmarks of Freemasonry (many of whom have never even heard of or read the landmarks). Sure, because of our small pool of human resources, many go through the chairs rather briskly, but preparedness is paramount and should not be overlooked and ignored.

When unqualified brothers are nominated and elected, we have a tendency to look the other way in blind submission, resignation or acquiescence because we don't want to rock the boat or worse, step up ourselves to help make it better. We have many problems around our jurisdiction right now and I truly believe one of the primary reasons we have confusion in our quarries is a lack of readiness when people take a position that they have not been properly trained in or educated for. This is no longer a fraternity that you can advance a brother just because he is well liked, he needs to be well prepared also.

So, as a lodge, take responsibility and train your officers administratively as well as ritually before they go into a position and the next time you say "So mote it be", think of what you mean by it.

Have a happy, wonderful and prosperous New Year everyone,



IS THE BAN ON ELECTIONEERING NECESSARY?

by Dennis A. Ing, PGM

Grand Lecturer

Jurisprudence Committee Chair

Section 2074 of the Hawaii Masonic Code defines "electioneering" as distributing "any circular or other written communication to Lodges or Masons concerning legislation to be brought before the Grand Lodge . . . or the election of officers in the Grand Lodge". Electioneering is a Masonic offense.

We should notice first, that the prohibition applies to written, not oral communications. This means that while a candidate cannot send out an email or flyer promoting himself, it's okay for him or his supporters to speak personally with voting members of the Grand Lodge. They can make phone calls and visit lodges to promote their candidacy or a piece of legislation.

The conventional definition – found in the dictionaries and adopted by many other Grand Lodges -- includes both oral and written communications. There is no distinction between the spoken and written word – both communications are equally discouraged.

Second, our Code bans communication not only with respect to Grand Lodge office, but also as to proposed legislation. Again, the conventional (dictionary) definition of electioneering applies only to campaigning for or against election or appointment to an office; it does not involve proposed legislation. Indeed, most Grand Lodges which prohibit electioneering, are trying to prevent "politicking", since by custom and practice it is considered unseemly for Masons to compete for office. The rationale was well expressed in the proceedings of the annual communication of the Illinois Grand Lodge, in 1893:

"Preferment in Masonic office should be based upon character, standing, ability, and as an honorable reward for services rendered in behalf of the Craft. Gauged by this rule, we should say the office should and would seek the man – not the man the office."

Our rule is a remnant from the California Masonic Code, which governed our lodges for 137 years. The CMC, however, contains two major exceptions, not adopted by Hawaii: (1) the Grand Secretary has nearly unfettered authority to announce and explain pending legislation and information about candidates for Grand Lodge office; and (2) a Grand Lodge committee is permitted to recommend a candidate for Junior Grand Warden, and this vetted and "approved" candidate is regularly elected to that position. (A similar effort by our Grand Lodge several years ago met with a storm of protest.)

The Hawaii rule has resulted in several anomalies. First, we seem to have interpreted "concerning" as "campaigning for or against", which is the traditional meaning of electioneering. Thus, in the past several years the Grand Lodge has allowed candidates to declare their candidacy by listing their qualifications and credentials in a notice reviewed and distributed by the Grand Secretary. Although such a declaration may also contain a bit of propaganda (e.g., why you should vote for me), the notice is characterized as an announcement and not campaign literature.

The Grand Lodge has also reported on proposed legislation without arguing for or against its adoption. Curiously, the Grand Lodge (and no one else) is expressly permitted to distribute position papers and "informational" literature concerning proposed legislation. The theory, I suppose, is that the Grand Lodge will as a matter of course retain a sense of decorum and impartiality in distributing such information, which of course is not always true.

The prohibition against written politicking for office has led to the practice by some candidates of phoning each of the Grand Lodge voting members (several times, in some cases) or going to their lodges to ask for their votes. Isn't this electioneering in its truest sense? Moreover, those who think campaigning in this fashion is undignified, or who don't have the time or the means to visit other lodges, may be disadvantaged. In short, many of the objectionable aspects of electioneering are promoted by the very rule seeking to limit it. And in the end, the election of the Junior Grand Warden is reduced to a matter of name recognition and/or a popularity contest.

At the same time, limiting debate (or at least a dialogue) on proposed legislation has often resulted in an uninformed electorate. Since we are not allowed to argue in writing for or against pending legislation, our voting members are left to ponder the position of the proponent, the reports of the Jurisprudence and Policy Committees (and maybe the Finance Committee), and the three minutes or so of advocacy by the three people who choose to make their points on the floor of our annual communication. That's hardly enough time to give these matters full and well-considered treatment.

I was, for example, disappointed by the defeat of Most Worshipful Marty Alexander's proposal to allow reformed felons to join our fraternity. There were more safeguards in that resolution than in California, where such a rule has worked well to preserve "the goodness of our institution", while not shutting the door forever on those who might have made a youthful mistake. Personally, I am ambivalent on this piece of legislation, but I think it did not get the consideration it deserved.

Has the ban on electioneering outlived its usefulness? I think not, and I suggest that this prohibition should even be extended to offices in the Blue Lodge. It is indeed unseemly for us to be vying for office, to turn the spirit of "who best can work and best agree" into a contest. One who offers himself as a candidate should merely have to demonstrate his skill and dedication, and then say he is available. In Masonry, that should be sufficient, and if he is worthy, his time will come. I believe strongly in the progressive line and in maintaining harmony and team building as the best means of achieving all that a Lodge and Grand Lodge have to accomplish. We should not allow campaigns to turn into conspiracies. There should be no losers in a Masonic election.

At the same time, our voters need to be informed as to who would be the best officer, and as to whether any proposed legislation should be adopted. Rather than a ban on electioneering, I suggest that it should be subject to "reasonable regulation". There should be rules regarding both oral and written communication concerning elections and legislation. As is true of everything in life, there is a happy medium between rabid advocacy and impartial information. We need to find that happy medium.



Aloha and Happy Holidays from Lodge Maui and the Valley Isle.

By JM MartyAlexander, Lodge Maui Secretary

Like everyone else, we are in the middle of Officers' Installation Season and the first thing I would like to do is take my hat off to our outgoing Master, Worshipful Stew Enger. He has served our lodge and our members faithfully for 4 years as Worshipful Master. Yes, 4 years in a row! Some of it was easy sailing for him but at times a bit tumultuous. But in the end, he stayed the course and weathered everything we could throw at him and he stuck in there for us. Worshipful Brother Enger, on behalf of a grateful membership, our sincerest thanks go to you.

Now, moving on, the new Master of the Lodge is Worshipful Jerry Eiting. He has toiled in Lodge Maui's quarries over the years and has taken the reigns. He is a good man, true and trusty and I know that Lodge Maui will prosper under his leadership.

Quick quiz, can you spot which picture is the "outgoing" Master" vs. the "incoming" one?



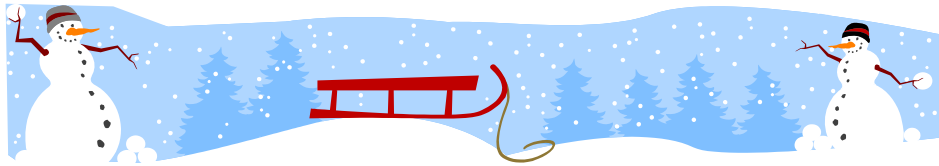
OK,... Lucky Guess!

Speaking of Officers' Installation, on behalf of Lodge Maui, we would like to thank Most Worshipful Monty Glover and his Grand Lodge officers for attending our installation on December 27th and sharing his time with us. Our newly installed Worshipful Master, Jerry Eiting presented a gavel which was hand crafted by Brother Loren Holmberg out of the wood from the old acacia tree that stood in front our lodge for over 50 years to Most Worshipful Glover. We hope that every time he sees it, it will remind of the time he shared with us at Lodge Maui.

After the installation ceremony was completed, we had a Hawaiian Blessing performed on the lodge and then settled into a scrumptious prime rib dinner and afterwards, the fellowship continued into the night. A huge thank you goes out to Brother Ed Baker for working in the kitchen quarries for the last several years. He has been the chef extraordinaire. But alas, he is retiring to the position of Jr. Deacon leaving our new Sr. Steward, Brother Josh Lindsey and Jr. Steward, Brother John Crowe, with some big shoes to fill.

So, as we say goodbye to 2011 and ring in the new year of 2012, we will look back on the passing year with mixed emotions. While 2011 had been a great year for us it did not come without a loss. On the one hand, we welcomed 7 new brothers raised in the lodge, but we also had to say goodbye to 2 brothers who will be missed dearly; Worshipful G. Richard Jordan and Brother Roy Merriman. Soft and safe to thee, my brothers, be thy resting place!

Until next time, Aloha everyone,



“This Vast Machine”

by WB Andrew L. Geiser, WM, Pearl Harbor Lodge

The word “vast” is a rather lofty one. Disagree? Well, when was the last time you used it in your typical everyday conversation? Vast: of very great area or extent; immense: *the vast reaches of outer space*; very great in degree, intensity, etc.: *an artisan of vast skill*. Not the kind of word used to refer to the mundane or ordinary, which probably explains why we so seldom use it.

The word vast is however used twice in the “G-Lecture”; furthermore, both times it is used as an adjective and refers to size. In one instance vast describes a “machine”, that machine being earth, I think. In the second instance vast describes an “expanse” with numberless worlds rolling through it, that reference being, I suppose, to the Universe. The point is that in both instances “vast” was used by some Mason guy whose writing was impressive enough to be used in a lecture for eternity who thought that the earth, and the universe were super big and all things therein contained in some way or another interacted with each other thus forming the larger whole as a living, functioning organism.

Now let's tippy-toe into the metaphoric and share the conclusion that both the earth and the universe, with all their glorious “vastness” can in this instance also represent, in a broad general sense, Masonry. “How so, Brother?” you ask. Well, the superstructure of Freemasonry is erected on the basis of Geometry and Geometry, per the “G Lecture”, pretty much explains the existence of just about everything. Assuming that is the case, Freemasonry must, on some level, be vast as well. Why does that matter?

First of all just about everything I can think of that is vast also has some degree of power attendant to it. Secondly, a younger brother once remarked to me that he was not “a pin collector”. Meaning that he was only the member of a Blue Lodge and that was that. If one does acquiesce to the notion that Freemasonry is vast, then anyone with any curiosity whatsoever should want to know what lies around the next Masonic corner. One of the best ways to discover what lies in the various windings and most concealed recesses of Freemasonry is to pursue “pins”. Each “pin” earned is one more degree, if you will, of knowledge, or Light. The pin itself is not the real benefit; they usually wind up in drawers or the abdomens of pets anyway. The real reward is the knowledge and Light that is obtained while travelling to the “pin”, both the literal pin and the metaphoric pin. So before resolving to never soil yourself by pursuing one of those goofy pins, just bear in mind how vast this wonderful Institution is and be forever faithful to that child-like enthusiastic curiosity that keeps the young'uns wondering just what it is that lies hidden in the most concealed recesses.

Hawaii Grand Lodge Officers to attend the Conference of Grand Masters in Atlanta Georgia.

Most Worshipful Monty J. Glover will take his team of Grand Officers and travel to Atlanta for the Conference of Grand Masters from the 17th to the 21st of February. The travelling Officers will include RW Tony Ligaya, Deputy Grand Master, RW Frank Condello, Senior Grand Warden, RW Rick Huston, Junior Grand Warden and MW Marty P. Alexander, Grand Secretary.

Safe Travels Brethren!!



I'd like to place into nomination the name of...

an article by WB Robert Schultz, PM Hawaiian Lodge

It's a new Masonic Year. By now all the elections should be completed and nearly every organization should have had their officer installations. Great expectations are being held by every member that their Lodge, Temple or Chapter will either continue its good health, or that the change of leadership will inject new life and order to that body of Masonry. In either case, how the elections were conducted says a lot about how healthy your organization is.

Our Masonic bodies utilize 'Progressive [officer] Lines' to Select, Train and Elect our leaders. It is a very important duty for us to elect willing and capable members to these progressive lines. Although 'Willing' is often easily proven without labors, 'Capable' begs historic proof that a member is able to lead and organize; using past 'Opportunities to Excel' as a measuring tool. Appointive line positions afford those opportunities, and they are used not only as learning opportunities, but also to demonstrate to the junior officers the demands which will be placed on them once they approach the East. Additionally, the years spent 'coming-up' through the line will provide a foundation of 'Support' for the future officer by allowing him to display his talents, assist others and generally become proficient prior to installation.

Progressive Lines are designed to be a vehicle whereby certain lessons are learned - one year at a time. By the time you reach the East, you will have hopefully been exposed to almost every aspect of running a Lodge, Temple or any other Masonic Body. *Unnecessarily* jumping into the middle of an Officers line, completely passing over a 'chair', or not being charged to perform the duties of the position you reside in, reduces the opportunities to gain those important lessons. Having a smooth progression of 'one year- one chair' allows the future presiding officer to learn time management, budgeting and social interaction as well as allowing time to plan for a serving as the Lodge Master or Shrine Potentate in a specific year. It allows him the best opportunity to build his calendar and execute a smooth year. If unnecessary modifications occur in the progressive line, causing the future Master to change or modify that calendar, it causes confusion, disorganization, possibly even disharmony.

When an organization (read: a majority of its members) elects a person to the Junior Warden's, Oriental Guide's or any other 'entry level' elected station, that organization is saying, in part, that aside from *unusual circumstances*, they will trust and support that member through to his Master's or Pote's year. It doesn't mean that if 'your' candidate lost the election, you should pull all support for the officer elected. But it surely does mean, that if you voted for the Brother who was elected, you owe it to him to support him through 'his' year. Similarly, if you run for an office and get elected; you are giving the Lodge or Temple your word that you will work diligently to support not only the organization, but also the officers above and below you. Progressive elected lines are essential to maintaining a healthy Lodge, Temple or Unit. A smooth progression through the chairs or stations ensures stability, efficiency and confidence in that organization.

When that expected progression is impacted; whether it be through the member's ballots or the officer resigning, it negatively impacts the organization for years to come. Officers that are accelerated to leadership positions too quickly may not be ready to lead. They weren't expecting to be the Master, Potentate or Commander for a year or more, and now they have to hustle. Even worse, if the member who was serving, or was preparing to serve an organization is 'pushed aside' by an

overzealous group of members, all the time and effort they placed in mutual support and planning (not to mention \$\$\$) is wasted. It causes disharmony throughout the organization. Very few benefit, but so many more suffer from these negative actions; and the most damaging is: you will disenfranchise a Brother who probably will never be interested in serving again; not even on a welcoming committee.

Most importantly, it causes many talented and very qualified Brothers to think twice, or possibly even totally deter them running for an office, filling an appointive chair or serving on a committee. "If unfair actions can happen to Sam - it could surely happen to me."

Look closely at a Lodge that is prosperous. Its Master serves for a specified term (1 year, maybe 2) everyone moves up in sequence, all the officer chairs are filled with new talent. There is stability in the Secretary, Treasurer and Trustee offices. And there are still a few brothers hoping to be appointed if or when a chair is vacated. When an election occurs, it is known well before that meeting, who are running for the offices. NO surprises, NO blind sides, NO hidden agendas. (You might call it, well - Masonic)

If you think you can do as good a job (or better) than the person currently installed in a static position such as Secretary or Recorder, let that be known. The Brother or Noble serving in that office may be just as happy to step aside to give you the chance to experience the job as he is to remain in that office. If you aspire to become the Master, Potentate or the Presiding Officer of any organization, look for a vacancy at the bottom on the progressive line. Not the top or the middle of the line. That may mean filling an appointive position for a few years. **If you think you are 'over qualified' to sit in a Steward's chair, you almost surly are unprepared to sit in anything above it.** If the Lodge or Temple needs you to augment a progressive line by being elected directly into a Warden or Rabban chair, let them ask you!

So, what is the message that I'm trying to convey? "Once you get into a progressive line your 'home-free'?" No. There are far too many possibilities for personal or professional problems that could occur. What we should focus on are the more plentiful possibilities for a person's success and help overcome those problems. "Does it mean that a vacancy in a progressive line should always be filled by [fill in the blank]?" Again, No. Each situation is unique. Sometimes it's best to fill a vacancy with a 'pro tempore' officer, other times it may require the officers above the vacant station to serve an additional year to allow the hole to close naturally. Still other times it may be best to elect or consolidate the officers already in the line. The important lesson is we should not 'cause' the hole through mercenary actions or the failure to support another Brother. "Does it mean that if the person in the middle of a progressive line is weak, we should still keep him?" If 'weak' is to mean he may not be the strongest in presenting ritual, or he may not be the best manager, or he needs to brush up on his social skills, then in a word - Yes! We should support him and help him to achieve his goals.

Who in our Masonic jurisdiction do you admire? Ask yourself: Was he as admirable as a Jr. Steward or an Outer Guard as he might appear now? Could it be that the opportunities he was afforded helped to elevate his confidence? Allowed him to learn what works, and what doesn't? Caused him to become a better man? Let us all exemplify those "Long Form Proficiencies" we admired in Lodge - both inside and outside of it.

EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!

NEWS BULLETIN

FLASH - Honolulu Hawaii, January 15th 2012.

Information has been received indicating that the officers and members of Hawaiian Lodge, under the leadership of Worshipful Master Raymund Liongson are packing rucks, checking working tools and preparing to launch to the Island of Kauai to conduct a courtesy 3rd Degree for Lodge Kauai. The assault, I mean degree, is scheduled for Saturday morning, January 21st at 1000 hours. It is reported that a full complement of Officers, accompanied by a few PMs - totaling some 12 members (that's 2 full squads!) will remain for Kauai installation later that night.

God's Speed!

HONOLULU LODGE MEMBERS MARCH WITH BROTHERS OF PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE COMMEMORATING MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY IN HONOLULU

Photos courtesy of RW Frank Condello

