Message from the Grand Master By MW Richard B. Huston, Grand Master

Aloha Brethren! This is not only the Winter edition of your Grand Lodge News Letter, but it will be my last submission as the Grand Master! I cannot believe that I only have two and a half months left! Where has the time gone! It seems as though I am just now getting my feet on the ground and able to coordinate/ plan/lead/implement, and oh yes, enjoy being in this honorable position in which I have been very proud and humbled to serve. A year hardly seems long enough to really lead but especially support our Masonic Lodges and the Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Hawaii. I believe "support" is the key buzz word here, because after all, the mission of the Grand Lodge and the Grand Master, along with the Executive Committee and all the Grand Lodge Officers is really "Support".

Leadership, of course, plays a large role in the mission of the Grand Lodge, but it is in the form of guiding and supporting. It means providing guidance or advice to our Lodges and our Masters and Wardens of these lodges, in executing a successful Masonic Year, then supporting them as they carry out their plans and goals for that year. I believe that for my year, I have been very fortunate as the 2014/2015 slate of Blue Lodge elected and appointed Officers have been energetic and eager to make a difference in Masonry, within their lodges and within this jurisdiction. I have also been very pleased with the support I see coming from within these lodges in the way of Masons seated in the columns in the lodge, by turning out and supporting their lodges and officers. I know that we need to continue the campaign to get our Master Masons into the columns and attending and supporting their



lodges. Stated Meetings most certainly, but also during degree work. After all, raising new members to the sublime degree of Master Mason Most Worshipful Richard B. Huston, Grand Master of Masons in Hawaii.

is our future, and we realize this. But also, if each and every one of you will reflect on when you came up through the degrees, and in each degree, brought from darkness to see the light, looking around the lodge room and seeing all those Masons who were in attendance for your initiation, passing and raising, had an everlasting masonic impact.

Of course this Grand Lodge year has not been without its issues and problems, and to date

we have had to deal with several. I thank the Great Architect that, for the most part, they have been issues that were readily resolved. either within the Blue Lodge with the assistance and guidance of myself and the Executive Committee, or in a few cases, resolved by the Grand Lodge alone. This sort of thing happens at every level of an organization, regardless of how large or small, and is in fact just a part of it. We are Masons, and we are human. There are times when personalities, temptations, frustrations and disagreements will temporarily overpower or replace the tenants of Freemasonry, and those obligations we have all taken. However, I also believe, and have witnessed, that in more instances than not, being on the level and whispering good counsel has persevered. In some cases, where it wasn't resolved, more serious or unpleasant action was needed. But again, this is something that happens, and upcoming leaders of both the Lodges and Grand Lodge should be aware of this, and prepared.

I have strayed somewhat from the initial subject I had in mind. Let's go back to my "year" as Grand Master. I can remember during Most Worshipful Tony Ligaya' s year where, on several occasions, he made a statement in passing, "I wish I had more time".

"It will include an exemplification of the First Degree by Brethren from the United Grand Lodge of England."

-MW RICHARD B. HUSTON

Now I know to what he was alluding. Allow me to digress a little. There are jurisdictions in the mainland and elsewhere, where the "tour" of Grand Master is two years. This mean of course that the progressive line from election as Junior Grand Warden, and in some cases, Senior Grand Deacon, is 6 to 8 years, then each Grand Master serves 2 years. To me, this prepares the upcoming Grand Master with even more information, tools, and experience that he will need once he reaches the Grand East. The first year is experience and indoctrination and lessons learned as he tests the waters, the second year would be one of a strong, experienced and knowledgeable Grand Master. As the upcoming Jr. Past Grand Master, I am considering submitting legislation for the 2016 Annual Communication implementing a proposal to have the elected officers of the Grand Lodge serve a two year commitment starting with the Junior Grand Warden. I realize full well that there are a lot of variables to consider in implementing such a proposal, not the least of which is the amount of time and out of pocket expense that these Grand Lodge Elected Officers would endure during their advance to the Grand East. To that end, what I would ask you to do is submit comments either to the Spring edition of the Newsletter, or even an email to myself, with your comments and concerns, pro or con, to this proposal. After all, it is YOUR Grand Lodge. If proposed and passed at the 2016 Annual Communication, it would have to be ratified as to "when" and "how" it would be enacted.

I want to speak to the 2015 upcoming Grand Lodge Annual Communication which will be held in Kailua-Kona at the Waikoloa Marriot, 16, 17 and 18 April. This is going to be an outstanding 3 day "get-a-way" for not just our

Lodge Officers, but for all Master Masons in our jurisdiction. It will include an exemplification of the First Degree by Brethren from the United Grand Lodge of England. Masons will also enjoy a traditional English Festive Board performed by our British brethren. The Marriott is providing us with the banquet rooms, meeting rooms, and a very reasonable room rate for our event. I am encouraging all Master Masons, but of course particularly our Blue Lodge Officers and voting delegates to go to the Grand Lodge web site where you will find additional information and a registration form.

As an update to information I provided in the last quarterly newsletter, on December 9th. I signed Grand Master's Edict 2014-10 establishing the Kwajalein Square and Compass Club! As I write this article I am waiting in anticipation for the first set of official minutes from their first meeting. Worshipful Brother David Saunders, a Past Master from Arizona is at the helm, and all former correspondence from him indicates he has several Master Masons on Kwajalein and in the Marshal Islands waiting to hold their first meeting on December 29th. This is great news for Masonry in general and your Grand Lodge in particular. Military personnel and Department of Defense Civilians rotate in and out of Kwajalein on 6 and 12 month tours. There is not a lot of things you can do on this island except work and fish, now there will be an opportunity for Master Masons assigned there to enjoy and participate in Brotherly love and Masonry! If all goes well, myself and one or two other Grand Lodge Officers who are retired military, may travel space A to Kwajalein and visit these Brethren in the coming months. I am sure, more to follow.

I have saved some of the best news, from my perspective anyway, for the last. Through the efforts and Masonic dedication of the brethren of Lodge Le Progres d' Le Oceanie, and MW Dennis Ing, they are ready to complete officer qualifications, hold elections and installation, and have their charter returned by the Grand Lodge. Congratulations to these brethren who have persevered and worked so diligently to bring this historic lodge back to its time honored position amongst blue lodges in Hawaii. This will also mean that for the first time in 3 or 4 years, they will have representation at the annual communication in April.

I hope all of you had a great Christmas and New Year, and were able to spend quality time with family and friends as we move into 2015. I ask all of you to remember all of our members in the Armed Forces who were unable to be with loved ones as they stand on the front lines defending the freedoms we have in this great nation.

From the Deputy Grand Master

By RW Michael P. Baker, Deputy Grand Master

The greatest benefit of being a Mason may be happiness.

We are all familiar with polls, especially around election time, however there are all kinds of polls done all the time. It seems that every day we see a poll on TV, in the newspaper or on the internet that reflects a percentage of how people think about this, that or the other thing. Few are earth-shattering, as most simply confirm what we already know. However, I recently saw a poll that caught my attention: It said that only 47% of working age men felt



they were successful. It continued on with the percentage who were optimistic about the future, those that were happy in their professions, happy with their home life and a poll over overall confidence. There was a link to the internals of the poll where is was broken down by age, education, income, etc. If you remove men of all categories except age the poll shows that those men over 55 feel more successful, optimistic, confident and happier than those younger.

We all know that a poll is simply a snapshot of conditions at a certain time and they can and do change as external conditions change. What really struck me is how vastly different that poll was when compared to my brothers, not only in my Lodge, but in those I visit. While no organization polls Masons it is obvious to any Mason that the brethren in no way mirror

the statistics of the poll referred to above. Although just an observation, it seems to me that the vast majority of fellow Masons are successful, optimistic, confident and happy. And, if I had to pick a number reflecting the success, optimism, confidence and happiness of Masons I would place it above the 85 percentile.

So the question becomes "Why?"

Some may say it's because of the method of entry into our Craft; taking only good men of an ethical character. Others may point to Masonic teachings. While both may have something to do with the success, outlook and happiness of fellow Masons, I believe the real reason is something else.

Most brothers, regardless of their education or profession are easily deemed successful. It is well known that obtaining real success does not matter so much on how intelligent, welleducated you might be or how hard you work. Real success is generally vested in the ability to make good decisions. Those who make good decisions are successful. That ability can come from experience: making bad decisions and then learning from you mistakes. We all know that is the long road to success. We most often learn to make good decisions through the counsel of those who have obtained success. We have all heard the saying that; "Success breeds success!" Having brethren that you can confide in (in confidence), brethren who will give you good and honest advice, is invaluable. Personally for me, it has always given me great comfort to know if I have to make a decision. large or small, that I have brothers I admire and respect that I can go to, to aid and assist me. I can do this knowing they will always act in my best interest. It's pretty easy to be optimistic about the future when you have that type of

resource to count on. It also gives you an easy confidence: No matter what comes my way I can rely on my brothers. I can plainly see that success, optimism and confidence can be a direct result of, or those traits are greatly enhanced, by being a Mason.

What about happiness?

This is a fuzzy one! It is plain to see that most brothers are, as a general rule, pretty happy people. Here I don't mean the "I just got a new car" happy ... I'm talking about the everyday down deep, happy inside. The quick smile, glad greeting and jolly disposition are just the outward signs of a happy fellow and are most common among us. It is in conversations where that real inner happiness is discovered and it seems to extend to all faucets of life; work, home family and friends.

When I say "fuzzy" I mean that for "happiness"... I can't find a direct tie to Masonry. However, if you're successful, optimistic and confident I suppose it would pretty hard to be unhappy!

From the Grand West

By RW Andrew Geiser, Senior Grand Warden

What Is The "Lodge of the Holy Sts. John at Jerusalem"?

Originally, lodges were dedicated to King Solomon. Later--at least as early as 1598--Masonry connected her name with that of St. John the Evangelist. Dedications to the Sts. John were made by other organizations as early as the third century, when the Church adopted the two pagan celebrations of summer and winter solstices and made them our St. John's Day in Summer and St. John's Day in



Winter. It was wholly natural for operative Masons, having dedicated their Craft to the Holy Sts. John, to begin to believe that both Johns were themselves Craftsmen. Craftsmen must have a lodge--where should that lodge be, but in Jerusalem? Hence "The Lodge of the Holy Sts. John of Jerusalem" came into imaginary existence.

No such lodge ever existed in fact, and yet it is not a fiction- -it is an ideal, and without such ideals our life would be dim and drab. The thought back of the question and answer, then, is that we come from an ideal lodge into this actual workaday world, where our ideals are to be tested. Today, we use the phrase as the starting point for a Masonic career, Masons mean only that their Craft is dedicated to these holy men, whose precepts and practices, ideas and virtues, teachings and examples, all Freemasons should try to follow.

From the Grand South

By RW Albert Alvarez, Junior Grand Warden

Brethren, The holiday season has come and gone and I wish that this new year brings upon us happiness, good health and prosperity. I would like to share this story I received from WB Dwight D. Seals, Camden Lodge #159, "Masonic Did You Know?" communication. What a great read.

Fidelity, Masonry and Christmas – A True Story

The following story was forwarded to us by RW Bob Cunningham, PDDGM-2010, and distributed to the December meeting of 17th District Master's and Warden's Association at South Seminole by outgoing M&W President Wor. Ed Rees PM-Mokanna. The author is unknown, as are many of these types of communications, but, this story, sadly, rings as a true statement for many Lodges, not only those close to us, but also others all around the world. The question is: After reading this, can we continue to allow this, and other similar oversights to happen? The answer lies within every true Mason's Masonic Heart..... What does your heart tell YOU to do??? What will you do to rectify this easily alleviated oversight that we all have much too often, overlooked?

Every Mason needs to read this and then pass it forward!!!!

Fidelity, Masonry and Christmas - A Story

There it sat, wrapped in green paper with drawings of little candy canes, surrounded by a carefully-tied broad red ribbon. The smell of the cookies inside the package lingered in the air. The Master's wife had baked several dozen of the Christmas treats and put them into little



parcels to be delivered to the widows of members of the Lodge. The Master had driven around to drop them off, along with a card and a holiday wish from their late husband's brothers in Masonry. But one package remained on the dining room table.

"All of the guys jumped up and volunteered at the last meeting to take these to the widows, but I'm the only one who's been doing it," thought the Master to himself. "I know! I'll call around and see who can deliver the last one."

He punched some numbers into his cell phone. The Senior Warden answered. "Dave, it's Rick," said the Master cheerfully. "Mrs. Wilson's cookies are over here and I was wondering if you could drop them off? We talked to her a few days ago and told her we'd do it tonight, and..."

"Yeah, I'd like to," replied the Senior Warden, "but tonight's a really bad night. You know Thursday's my Warcraft night and I'm kicking ass."

"Can't you play some other night?"

"Not now. I'm the middle of this. Maybe tomorrow, if I'm not at a new level in a few hours."

The Master thanked him and put a call in to the Junior Deacon. "Steve, remember you said you could help deliver the widows' Christmas presents? Mrs. Wilson's is sitting here..."

"I'm sorry," said the Junior Deacon. "I know I said that, but my office Christmas party is tonight and I have to go to that. The boss kind of expects it."

"Can't you say 'no' to him?"

"Well, you know he doesn't have a high opinion of us to begin with because he wants me to work late all the time and I can't if something with the Lodge is happening. Besides, drinks are free. Talk to you next meeting."

The Junior Deacon hung up. Somewhat forlornly, the Master tried a few other members, all of whom had promised they would personally hand out gifts to the widows. But one was going out with some buddies that night. Another was too tired after work. Yet another said the widow lived too far out of the way for him. Still another had a concordant body meeting he wanted to go to. Finally, the Master tried the last person on his list, a Past Master of the Lodge.

"I need your help. Last meeting you said you'd help deliver the widow's gifts. Mrs. Wilson's is sitting here and..." "Wilson?!" he interrupted. "Did you know her husband? He dumped on me the whole year I was in the chair. He kept giving me hell for all kinds of little things."

"That doesn't have anything to do with his widow. It's a Lodge tradition we go out and deliver..."

"And another thing," butted in the Past Master.
"Last meeting you came down to the altar at
the wrong time. And you gave the wrong
knocks to close the Lodge. Can't you follow
traditions? Don't you pay attention at practices
or know what's in your ritual book?"

"We were talking about Mrs. Wilson..."

"Wilson. The hell with him." With that the cell went dead.

The Master prepared to pick up the lonely little parcel when the phone rang unexpectedly in the other room. He picked up the receiver.

"My name is Mrs. Lane," the feeble old voice at the other end quavered. "I live next door to Gladys Wilson. I thought I'd better call you. She has been taken to the hospital."

"What!?" answered the stunned Master.

"I had invited her over for dinner tonight, but she said she couldn't come because she was waiting for the Masons. She got a little tired while waiting and went to call someone to see if there was a problem, but she slipped on the carpet and fell. I think she had been on the floor for a while. It looks pretty serious. I thought I'd better call you."

"My father was a Mason a long time ago," Mrs. Lane went on. "He didn't talk about it much,

but all I know is when I was a girl during the Depression, the Masons helped us.

One Christmas we had nothing. And there was about two feet of snow. But a bunch of the Masons came over with a tree and a huge baked turkey. They put up the tree and decorated it, then we ate the turkey and they sang Christmas carols to me and my three sisters until it was bedtime. It was so wonderful. I learned then that when times are tough, you can depend on the Masons."

"Thank you for calling me, Mrs. Lane," said the Master.

"It's just too bad someone didn't get here a little earlier because this probably wouldn't have happened," added the old woman. "But God bless you Masons."

"Yes, thanks again," replied the Master, and gently hung up the phone.

And as the Master put on his jacket, and picked up the little wrapped parcel to take to the hospital in the clear, moon-lit evening, he wondered if the Masons today really were as dependable as their forefathers. Or, if the admonition of not letting "public and private avocations" interfere with Masonry had turned into nothing more than a convenient excuse.

Look into your heart and see if you truthfully can answer this question: "Am I a Mason who follows my Obligation?" or, "Am I a Parrot Mason who say's what I will and can do, but doesn't follow what I say??"

If you can "Talk the Talk, then, Walk the Walk!"

Floorwork Manual, Past Articles & Book Recommendation

by MW Dennis S.A. Ing PGM, Grand Lecturer

Floorwork Outline To Be Distributed. By next week I will have distributed to our jurisdiction the Floorwork Manual Outline. It consists of four parts: (1) Floorwork Basics: how to sit, walk, give signs, rodwork, etc.; (2) 1st Degree; (3) 2nd Degree; (4) 3rd Degree -- first section; (5) 3rd Degree -- second section.

I have been struggling with how much of the manual to distribute and to whom. The lay public will not be interested in our ritual -- much of which can be found online and in books like Duncan's Monitor. But I am concerned that if an applicant or a candidate gets ahold of this, the full impact of our "mysteries" will be dampened. Therefore, I am distributing only an Outline, and only to Inspectors and Coaches, with the admonition not to distribute electronic copies, and to retrieve copies when the officers are finished with their studies.

Rest assured that all ritual words are coded, and unlike the full version of the Manual, most readers will not really understand what is being described -- even officers -- without guidance from Inspectors and Coaches. (In researching floorwork manuals from other jurisdictions, I found a site online with small automatons which move on screen and which are much more revealing than ours. This must have been very expensive to produce.)

Inspectors and Coaches will also receive a booklet with text descriptions, but, again, only in outline form. These cannot be distributed to others. The full Floorwork Manual will be kept at the Grand Lodge office, and may be examined by any Inspector or Officers Coach,

but may not leave the office. It will contain photos and more complete text descriptions.

The Appendix to the Floorwork Manual will contain illustrations of the Installation Service, the Funeral Service, Reception of the Grand Master and Flag reception and retirement. Please consider the Floorwork Manual a "living document", subject to correction and additions.

Past articles you should read. We save hundreds, maybe thousands of dollars distributing Grand Lodge information online. Printing, binding and postage are simply too expensive and time-consuming these days. The down side of online publishing is that the articles are difficult and tedious to read. Indeed, in my visits around the jurisdiction, I have learned that only a few of our current officers are aware of the following articles, all of which can be found in past issues of the Grand Lodge Newsletter:

"Masonic Protocol in Hawaii" is a description of how to address officers, how to conduct yourself in lodge, the order of speaking, and so on. While not ritual, protocol is often just as important, especially when visiting other lodges.

The "Masonic Funeral Primer" describes what a Master needs to do in case of a death of one of his members, and how to conduct a funeral service. But even non-officers should know what is expected of him (and his survivors) in case of death. This article, by the way, has been reprinted (with Oregon modifications) in one of the York Rite publications in Oregon.

Finally, "Embracing the Ritual", "Planning Ritual Study", and "The Good Ritualist" is a series of articles, which offers suggestions on how to learn and recite ritual. Each person has his own approach to memorization, but I believe many officers will find these suggestions very helpful.

A good read and reference. If like me you don't have a lot of time to read the Bible, try Stephen M. Miller's Complete Guide to the Bible (Barbour Publishing, 1967), a book I discovered during my many visits to Long's pharmacy. It's in paperback, paperback deluxe, and e-book -- \$9.99 to \$19.99. In easy-to-understand language, it surveys all 66 books in the Old and New Testaments, and even discusses some of the writings that were

"Masonic Protocol in Hawaii is a description of how to address officers, how to conduct yourself in lodge, the order of speaking, and so on."

left out. It is thoroughly indexed, with citations, maps, and beautiful illustrations. Miller describes each book's principal themes, its author (as best is known) and the historical context in which it was written. He also compares parallel passages and prophesies in the Old and New Testaments, and how they are interrelated. It easily accomplishes Miller's primary intent: to interest you in Biblical history and in reading the Bible itself. (I'm on my second way through, this time with the Bible right next to me.) If you're a Mason who's interested in Biblical history and Scripture, especially if you're in Scottish Rite or York Rite, this is a "must read".

From the Grand Secretary

by MW Marty P. Alexander PGM, GS

Aloha My Brothers and Welcome to 2015!

I am sure other articles in this newsletter will expand on the happenings and goings on in

this jurisdiction so I will stick to some informational news.

First a quick note. The New Lodge Secretaries' Manual is finally complete, well except for a little spell-checking and pagination, and should be out to the secretaries.

Next, our Annual Communication is coming up on April 16 thru 18 and both on-line and manual registration is ready. If you haven't already registered you can register on-line at the Grand Lodge website at GrandLodgeHl@Hawaiiantel.net_Manual registration forms are also available on the web-site or thru your lodge secretary.

This year, our Annual Communication will consist of a special 3 day event as opposed to the typical 2 day experiences in the past. This 3 day festival is scheduled for April 16, 17, 18 (Thur. – Sat.) and will take place in Kailua-Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii at the beautiful Waikoloa Marriott Resort (just north of the airport).

The 16th will host a First Degree
Exemplification by a group of Brothers from the
United Grand Lodge of England. Brethren will
also enjoy a traditional English Festive Board
performed by our British brethren. The 17th will
host the opening of the Grand Lodge of Hawaii
and the Grand Master's Appreciation Dinner.
The 18th will conclude our festivities with the
completion of business and elections, Grand
Lodge Installation and Installation Luau!

Hotel accommodations: All of our evening functions will be held at the Waikoloa Marriott Resort on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Discounted hotel reservations can be made at

https://resweb.passkey.com/go/ HAWAIIGRANDLODGE

or call them directly at <u>1-506-474-2009</u> or <u>1-800-266-9432</u> and tell them you are with The Grand Lodge of Hawaii.

Event Synopsis:

Friday & Saturday, April 17 & 18 - Annual Communication Business Sessions

Thursday, April 16 7:00 PM - Night of English Masonry

Friday, April 17 7:00 PM - Grand Master's Banquet

Saturday, April 18 7:00 PM - Installation Luau Banquet

There is more detailed information on the website as well as in the registration packets.

Happy New Year everyone!

Quotes to Ponder

by Worshipful Bro. Mark P. Leo PM

"People don't care about how much you know until they know how much you care." - John C. Maxwell

"Change is inevitable, growth is optional." - John C. Maxwell

"People may hear your words, but they feel your attitude." - John C. Maxwell

"Everything rises and falls on leadership." - John C. Maxwell

Thanks for Reading!

Remember to submit your articles to

newsletter@hawaiifreemason.org