



Light from the Great Land

Volume 2, Issue 2

March 1, 2010

Grand Master's Message

Brothers all! Thank You for your support by electing me as your Grand Master for 2010. My promise to you is that we will conduct the business of our Grand Lodge in accordance with the constitution, laws, rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge of Alaska F.&A.M.

For those who were not able to attend the 29th Communication, you missed a great time to get together, renew old friendships, make new friendships and enjoy the great fellowship. Much business was conducted, resulting in many resolutions being passed, some carried over for next year and some failing, all for the good of Masonry. Many dignitaries were present from all parts of the United States, and shared information from their areas. It is always great to hear how other Grand Lodges are making a difference in this world we live in.

I am looking forward to a very busy year. The Lodges have received my travel itinerary for the official visits. Again this year we have planned several joint meetings in areas where it makes sense. This idea was well received this past year with many comments received in favor of the Lodge's meeting together. The Grand Lodge Team is looking forward to visiting your Lodge, and we encourage all brothers to attend the meetings, to learn more

about your Grand Lodge and enjoy the Fellowship.

This year it became necessary to fill all the District Deputy's positions, due to terms expiring and one Deputy not being able to continue another year. The new District Deputies this year are District No. 1 V.W. Bro. James R. Ujioka from Valdez, District No. 2 V. W. Bro. Billy W. Harris from Kenai, District No. 3 V. W. Bro. Glen E. Josey from Anchorage, District No. 4 V. W. Bro. Robert D. Alexander from Sitka, District No. 5 V. W. Bro. Frank Weiss III from Eagle River. Please welcome these Brothers in your Lodges and ask for their help when you need it. They are there to represent the Grand Master and assist you in any way needed.

My theme this year is Flying Near and Far for Fellowship. My life has been spent working in the aviation field working on all sizes and models of aircraft for the past fifty years. I still remain active in the aviation field working for an organization promoting safety in the industry. Aviation is to me what Masonry is, a way of learning new and better ways of improvement daily.

We, the Officers and members of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alaska F.&A.M., are looking forward to having Fellowship with you this year.

M. W. Johnnie L. Wallace

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Deputy Grand Master

First I would like to thank MW Brother Bo Cline for a great year and an outstanding Grand Lodge session.

I look forward to seeing most of you at some time during this year in our travels. This, I think is the fun part of being in Grand Lodge, meeting the Brothers and making lasting friendships. MW Grand Master Johnnie
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Deputy Grand Master (continued)

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Wallace has some great plans this year and I look forward to working with him.

I would like to thank all of you who voted for me this year and will continue to work diligently with all the brothers in Grand Lodge to help our fraternity grow and prosper. Congratulations to RW Brothers Jerry and Jim and all of the other elected and appointed officers. Under the leadership of MWGM Johnnie, we will continue to build upon

the solid foundation laid in place by our Brothers that marched ahead of us.

Fraternally,
Ron Ackerman, DGM

Senior Grand Warden

I give you greetings from the West, Brethren.

The Grand Lodge Communication came and went so quickly. It has been two weeks since we had our Communication and the time has really gone so quickly. I saw a lot of old friends and made many new friends at the 2010 Grand Communication. It's great to have new and old brethren visit us from other Jurisdictions as well as the brethren from our own lodges. The Communication was well attended and the time seemed to fly by. The Grand Master's and the Grand Lodge Awards Banquet were fun times and I think everyone enjoyed themselves very much.

The Awards Banquet was such a special time for many of the Brethren and Lodges who won the awards. The first award presented was the Grand Master's Award of Merit. This award is for the Worshipful Masters of 2009 who completed eight or more of the requirements specified to receive the Award.

The Worshipful Masters receiving the award were:

WB Montgomery Schefers – Glacier Lodge No. 10
WB Glen Faulkner – Kenai Lodge No. 11
WB Michael Leroux – Fairbanks Lodge No. 12
WB Nick Choromanski – Eagle River Lodge No. 13
WB Paul Gabbert – Aurora Lodge No. 15
WB Richard Grant – Iditarod Lodge No. 20
WB Jeff De Freest – Mt. Juneau – Gastineaux Lodge No. 21

Congratulations to the 2009 Worshipful Masters!

The second was the James A. Williams Award. This is presented to the Lodge with the most Master Masons Raised during 2009 and was presented to Anchorage Lodge No. 17.

The third was the Buckley C. Hazen Award. The award is presented to the Lodge that increased its membership percentage the most during 2009 and was presented to Mt. Juneau – Gastineaux Lodge No. 21.

WB Clarence Keto, Grand Orator, did a beautiful job in presenting the Military Recognition Award. Many of the Brethren and Sisters had a tear come to their eye during the presentation.

The Grand Master John R. "Bo" Cline announced the Mason of the Year. I will not say who won the award,

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but if you ask around you will find out the winner.

My new office is going to be very challenging to me. As I take on a lot more responsibility I will need your assistance to complete all of the tasks our

Grand Master MW Johnnie L. Wallace has given us. I have been working on several of the challenges already and I hope you have too.

In Brotherly Love and Friendship
RW Jerry W. Pinion, Senior Grand Warden

Junior Grand Warden

My Brethren,

I would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU for electing me to be the Junior Grand Warden of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Mason of Alaska. This is one of the HIGHEST honors I have ever received. I cannot tell you how I felt at that moment I was asked if I accepted. I was so overcome with happiness I could not talk for a few seconds. I also would like to promise you that I will do the best possible job I can. I also humbly ask for your help. If you see or

hear anything that can be improved upon in myself or Grand Lodge please do not hesitate to bring it to my attention. I am not above taking questions, suggestions and comments to improve myself, our Blue Lodge or the Grand Lodge. I cannot promise I will fix everything but I do promise that I'm willing to listen to what your concerns are and try to get you an answer. Thanks again and God Bless!

Fraternally,
James R. Herrington,
Junior Grand Warden

A Great Mason

Light from the Great Land is the official publication of the Grand Lodge of Alaska F.&A.M. It is published quarterly on the Grand Lodge's WEB page. Individuals who desire a hard copy of this newsletter should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: the Grand Lodge of Alaska, P. O. Box 190668, Anchorage, AK 99519. The opinions expressed in this publication are the opinions of the individual authors of the various articles only. They do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of this Grand Lodge or of any Grand Masonic jurisdiction or any other Masonic related body. All articles, letters and photographs should be submitted via email to the editor at don@chaffin.com. We reserve the right to edit submitted articles and columns.

Once there was a Mason who found it really hard to learn the ritual and he never was much help in conferring the degrees. He was extremely self-conscious and had no real ability to fill positions of authority; he was not officer material and he never held a lodge office. He never achieved financial success and so could not be one of the larger contributors to lodge charities or the building fund. In all these respects he was a rather insignificant Mason.

He did attend every lodge meeting he possibly could, always arriving early enough to assist the Tyler and Stewards in getting things ready.

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He was a steady and hard worker on the building and grounds committee; he mowed grass, repaired seats, patched the roof, helped paint the lodge, set out shrubbery, unstopped the plumbing - no task was too distasteful.

He visited the sick and the widows. He went to see and talked with that brother who had suddenly stopped attending lodge. He made sure that each visitor was never made to feel as a stranger. He praised the officers, encouraged new members, put his arm around the shoulders of any who were troubled or discouraged, and he had a smile and a cheery, "Hello, my Brother" for all he met every time.

Eventually he died. The church could not hold all those attending his funeral. Even the cemetery was

crowded. The next meeting of the lodge was just not the same; every member missed him terribly.

An insignificant Mason? Certainly not! He was a GREAT Mason! Perhaps no greater have ever sat in Lodge. Who was he?

Nobody in particular. Most lodges have known him, or his like. And he or someone like him is still around, attending his lodge, still doing those little things. Are we treasuring him and honoring him? Certainly, we ought to for he is a GREAT Mason!

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Thanks to Dave Oaks and Top Of The World Graphics for providing the graphics for this newsletter!