

Ashlar Lodge # 29

Quarterly Trestle Board

Fall 2015

Dee McAlister: Worshipful Master
208-465-7114
Secretary: Joe Kowalczyk
208-870-3099

Meetings: Our Stated meetings are at 7:30 pm on the **First Wednesday of every month.** (Except July and August, when we are "dark") This meeting will usually open on the 3rd Degree. The called meeting (third Wednesday of each month) will be used to prepare for degree work or education, and will open on the lowest degree necessary for the planned work that evening.

Practices: held on the Saturday's following the stated and called meetings if needed. We usually start with breakfast at La Baron's Café at 8:00 AM, then up to the Lodge for degree work, usually by 9:15 AM. All are welcome for breakfast, practice or both!

**** 2015 Lodge Officers ****

WM Dee McAlister

SW Howie Bloom

JW Bud Wethered

TR Bruce Wethered

SEC Joe Kowalczyk

SD Sean Fuller

JD Roger Gamble

ML Dale Winch

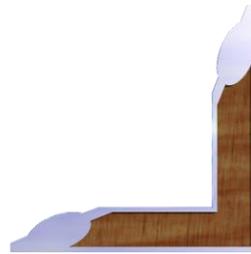
CH Bob Nelson

SS John Ransdell

JS Clinton Ransdell

TL Chris Wethered

Words From the Worshipful Master in the East:



Ashlar Lodge was well represented at the 148th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Idaho in Pocatello this year. Brothers Harold Bloom, Dale Winch, Bruce Wethered and myself were in attendance. We had a lot of fun! Five proposed resolutions were voted on and all were approved. One of the resolutions allows the use of open Monitors in Lodge during the conferral of a Degree for those desiring to learn the Masonic work. The three days of Grand Lodge were extremely informative and very well organized, thanks to our Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Art Shoemaker and the Officers of the Grand Lodge.

Ashlar #29 is having a busy fall season. Brother Jake De Berg has recently moved back to Idaho. Since his return he has very aggressively pursued his Wardens Certificate. He is to be congratulated on his accomplishments! At the Stated Communications on Sept. 2nd Brother Jake opened and closed a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons. At the Sept. 23rd Called Communication he opened and closed a Lodge of Fellowcraft Masons. Brother Jake will preside at the Stated Communication on Oct. 7th; he will open, conduct the business meeting and close Lodge in the Third Degree. Ashlar Lodge will have its annual election of Officers for the year of 2016 at the Stated Communication on Nov. 4th. After the Stated Communication on Dec. 2nd, the 2015 Lodge of Tribute will be closed.

Worshipful Master Dee McAlister

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

*** **September 30th, Wednesday;** District 8/9 meeting with our new MWGM. Dinner at 6:30, lodge at 7:30PM. Be sure to attend, we don't want to put on the bean feed! (This event is over and Meridian is hosting the bean feed)

*** **October 7th;** stated meeting at 7:30 PM. Brother Jake may open and run this meeting for his Warden's proficiency if all goes as expected!

Congratulations:

*** The new District Deputy Grand Master for District 8 is our illustrious "Deputy Dawg" himself, Brother Steve Zimmerman. Many thanks to past DDGM Glenn Lovell for all his time and effort, all much appreciated by the district members.

*** To our new MWGM John Warner of Pocatello, who we all met and received his pin at the District 8 meeting in Emmett.



And From The West

Brothers, Fall is here and our Masonic duties are getting back in gear. We have returned from being dark, Grand Lodge was held, the Fall District Communication is September 30, Elections and Installations are all coming up. WM Dee, Bruce,

Dale and myself attended Grand Lodge and a lot of good information and news came from that. Be sure to attend our October stated meeting to hear all the news. Brother Jake Deberg is making great progress towards his Wardens certificate and by the October Stated meeting he should have his proficiencies for the certificate completed. Good job Jake and keep up the good work. It was good to see everyone at Septembers' stated and called meetings and I look forward to our continued fellowship.

By Senior Warden Howie Bloom

An Obituary printed in the London Times!

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, **Common Sense**, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens

suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault. Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; by his wife, Discretion; by his daughter, Responsibility; and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers;

I Know My Rights

I Want It Now

Someone Else Is To Blame

I'm A Victim

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.



And the South!

Instead of an article by our Junior Warden for this edition, we would like to thank him for all the meals he has prepared for us during the year. They have all been VERY tasty and we hope that he would consider doing it again in 2016.

Besides the initial cooking, there is a considerable amount of work involved in this task; getting everything delivered to the lodge, up the stairs, and set up for dinner. Then there is clean up and getting everything back down to transport home again. If you think it's easy, try it for a meal or two!

All of us who have joined him for a meal and good conversation at 6:30 want to offer a sincere "Thank You" at this time.

By the Lodge Members

Idaho Masons

In 1972, there were over 12,917 Masons and 2,560 Royal Arch Masons, 995 in Council and 1,924 in Commandery in Idaho. Today, there are 3,422 Masons, 395 Royal Arch Masons, 311 in Council and 318 in Commandery.

February 26, 1972, was a day to remember. Six Nampa Chapter DeMolay received the Entered Apprentice Degree in Ashlar Lodge No. 90 (Bruce Wethered, Chris Wethered, Marvin Askey, Chris Kirk, Mike Moon and Brad Faloon. This was an event that had never been seen before in our Lodges and has not been seen since. The Masonic Lodges and concordant bodies were thriving in Nampa. Nampa #29 had 234 members, Ashlar #90 had 212 members and Cyrus Chapter #2 had 141 members.

We had two Eastern Star Chapters, One Amaranth Chapter, two Job's Daughter Bethels and one DeMolay Chapter. The DeMolay Chapter won most of the awards at the DeMolay Conclaves during the years that I was involved. We held our meetings in one of the finest Masonic buildings in the state.

Today, there is one Masonic Lodge in Nampa, Ashlar 29, with 62 members. Cyrus Chapter #2 has 16 members. Eastern Star, Amaranth, Job's Daughters and DeMolay are all gone in Nampa.

This story has played out across our state and across our nation. What is the story in your Lodge and your Masonic community? When we talk about membership, we need to consider a much bigger issue than the membership in Chapter, Council and Commandery. We need to consider the membership in our Blue Lodges.

One thing I have noticed is that the active York Rite Masons around the state are also the active core in their Lodges. Every Lodge has 2 to 4 guys doing most of the work in the Lodge. It's a safe bet that most of these guys are York Rite Masons.

We, as York Rite Masons, need to ask ourselves what we can do to help our Lodges grow. We need continue to spread the message of York Rite Masonry within our Lodges. The Average age of Masons in Idaho is 67.

Idaho Masonic Membership

	1972	2015
Idaho York Rite Membership		
Masons	12,917	3,422
Chapter	2,560	395
Council	995	311
Commandery	1,924	318

Bruce A. Wethered
Grand King, R.A.M.

Words you might hear while in lodge:

Tenets; Principles held true without proof.

Esoteric; That secret portion of Masonry which is known only to the initiates, as distinguished from that which is Monitorial or written out.

Exoteric: Open, revealed. Those parts of the ritual which are printed and may be read by anyone. Monitorial.

Secretary's Table

Now that we are in the Fall season and Summer came and went somewhere, ok it's gone, I must say this, there is a real CRISIS in Idaho, it's membership in Freemasonry.

As the Excellent High Priest (EHP) of Cyrus Chapter 2 of Royal Arch Masons (RAM) in Nampa, part of the York Rite bodies of Masonry in Idaho. I want to take this opportunity to express concerns that were discussed during our September 2015 meeting or RAM's. Which was a joint meeting with the Royal Arch Masons of Caldwell #19, at that meeting we had a very long discussion around Membership. Just to make this point clear, this was NOT a discussion around recruiting for the York Rite body of Royal Arch Masons, the discussion, was on increasing membership in the Blue Lodges. For the brothers of Ashlar #29 not involved in the York Rite, we RAM's want to express our concerns: of the very active members in Ashlar, the majority are York Rite Masons, as such, we are very proud and enjoy being active in our lodges. As the EHP of RAM's in Nampa and your Ashlar #29 Secretary, let me say this, Freemasonry in Idaho is currently in a CRISIS with membership. There have been plenty of discussions around this topic through the years and there should of been and they should continue. Time used only for talking and/or doing very little to improve membership and attendance MUST change NOW. I'm asking all lodge members to put on your thinking caps, as this is a very serious issue, we need all your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas into what can be done to improve attendance and membership in Idaho's

Blue Lodges. As I say the word Lodges, I'm sure we all agree, the Blue Lodge is the Foundation of Freemasonry in the Great state of Idaho. Please, our wonderful fraternity is in need of your support and thoughts, come to lodge, express your ideas and if you can, be part of the solution(s) moving forward. I know, as Masons, each and every one of us have thoughts, concerns and possible ideas; please come to lodge and share them. if nothing else, send an email with your idea's, or call and let's talk, I know together brothers we can make things happen.

Joe Kowalczyk

Ashlar #29 Secretary and EHP of Cyrus Chapter 2 of RAM's of Idaho

On the light side:

GREAT TRUTHS

1. In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three or more is a congress. -- **John Adams**
2. If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed. -- **Mark Twain**
3. Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But then I repeat myself. -- **Mark Twain**
4. I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle. --**Winston Churchill**

5. A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul. -- **George Bernard Shaw**
6. A liberal is someone who feels a great debt to his fellow man, which debt he proposes to pay off with your money. -- **G. Gordon Liddy**
7. Democracy must be something more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner. --**James Bovard**, Civil Libertarian (1994)
8. Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer of money from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries. -- **Douglas Case**,
Classmate of Bill Clinton at Georgetown University.
9. Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys. -- **P.J. O'Rourke**, Civil Libertarian
10. Government is the great fiction, through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else. -- **Frederic Bastiat**, French economist(1801-1850)
11. Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it. --**Ronald Reagan** (1986)
12. I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the

facts. -- **Will Rogers**

13. If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free!

-- **P. J. O'Rourke**

14. In general, the art of government consists of taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other. --**Voltaire** (1764)

15. Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you! -- **Pericles** (430 B.C.)

16. No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session.
-- **Mark Twain** (1866)

17. Talk is cheap, except when Congress does it. -- **Anonymous**

18. The government is like a baby's alimentary canal, with a happy appetite at one end and no responsibility at the other.
-- **Ronald Reagan**

19. The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of the blessings. The inherent blessing of socialism is the equal sharing of misery. -- **Winston Churchill**

20. The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin.
-- **Mark Twain**

21. The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools.
-- **Herbert Spencer**, English Philosopher (1820-1903)

22. There is no distinctly Native American criminal class, save Congress. -- **Mark Twain**

23. What this country needs are more unemployed politicians
--**Edward Langley**,
Artist (1928-1995)

24. A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have. -- **Thomas Jefferson**

25. We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office. -- **Aesop**

Remember to vote next year!

And as Brother John would say:

**All good things must come to an end,
so we bid you ...**

Do Svidaniya