

MEDFORD #103

Hello from the East, this past month Medford Lodge #103 was staying busy with building projects, evaluating our dues structure, dinners, community breakfasts, official visits, ritual practice and an EA prove up. Congratulations to Brother Saiz on his EA prove up! We will be planning for both an EA Degree and now a FC Degree in the month of March and/or April.

I want to personally thank REAMES for hosting the February family dinner. I look forward to continued partnerships with the Masonic bodies and bringing us all together as one big Masonic family. I firmly believe with our collaboration and collective intelligence, we can achieve so much for the good of Masonry. By building trust, adding value to what we do, strengthening commitment to our group efforts and sharing in the success of a “job well done” we will be able to raise the bar for the future of Masonry.

At the March Stated Communication, we received our District Deputy R.W.B. Kari who shared the Grand Master’s message with us. In summary the GM wrote that it is better to try and fail than not to have tried at all. The GM also quoted a NASA quote from the Apollo XIII mission, “Failure is not an option” although we do not have to worry about a space crew’s successful return to Earth. I found this ironic because after visiting the Kennedy Space Center this past year with my sons, I have the same NASA quote on a magnet on my refrigerator.

In that regard, I set a high standard for everyone in the Masonic family and myself. Why should we not set high standards? Why should we not dream big? The GM is correct that we may initially fail in what we try to do, but if we pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and learn from our mistakes, we can accomplish the unthinkable. I read a quote at our March Stated Meeting from Theodore Roosevelt that read, “The only man who never makes a mistake is the man who never does anything.” So let’s do something... let’s get involved and share in the footprint of our times. General George S. Patton also said, “It is better to fight for something, than live for nothing.”

To expand on this, I will discuss one of my favorite American Presidents, Andrew Jackson. The reason I like Andrew Jackson is not because of his politics or policy, but because he had a non-stop, determined, never quit fighting personality. Andrew Jackson said, “I was born for a storm and a calm does not suit me.”

At age 13 Andrew Jackson served in the American Revolution as a courier and was taken captive for two weeks by the British. Jackson then studied law at age 17 and received his law license in 1787. Jackson moved from North Carolina to Tennessee where he became a prosecutor. In 1796 at age 29, Jackson became Tennessee’s first representative to the United States House of Representatives. After one year in the house (1796-97) and one year in the Senate (1797-98), Jackson resigned and returned to Tennessee

where he became a Superior Court Judge from 1798 to 1804.

Jackson was then appointed as a Major General of Tennessee’s Volunteer Militia. Jackson was ordered to march his militia to Louisiana during the war of 1812, but when almost arriving in Louisiana Jackson received orders to disband his troops and return to Tennessee because the government did not want to pay the cost for the troops return home. Due to growing illness of his troops and not wanting to let “his boys” down, Jackson decided to stay with his men, pay all costs and see that they all returned home with him. This gained public support and earned him the nickname “Old Hickory” because he was seen to be as tough as old hickory. Jackson was later dispatched with his militia to Alabama to fight against the Creek Indian uprising. In 1814 Major General Jackson commanded then 21 year-old Sam Houston (also a Freemason and first Governor of Texas) during the battle of Horseshoe Bend.

With his successful victories, Andrew Jackson was promoted to a full Major General in the regular US Military and was sent to protect the United States from a British invasion in New Orleans. In 1815 Jackson led his forces to a stunning victory over seasoned British veterans who attempted an advance on New Orleans. In 1817 President James Monroe (also a Freemason) ordered Jackson to protect the United States from the Seminole Indian tribe in Florida who were being supported by Spaniards and the British. Jackson was once again victorious against the Seminoles. He then resigned from his military commission to remain in Florida to help set up their government as a new State.

From 1823 to 1825 Jackson was back in the US Senate for Tennessee and lost the 1824 election of the United States Presidency to John Q. Adams although Jackson won the popular vote. Jackson called it a corrupt election deal and spent the next three years campaigning. During this time, Jackson was the elected the sixth Grand Master of the Tennessee Grand Lodge (1822-24) and in 1828 General Jackson won the United States Presidency becoming the seventh President of the United States. Jackson was subsequently the first Grand Master to become President of the United States.

As an interesting fact, Andrew Jackson was the first and only President to eliminate the United States debt in 1835. Jackson served two terms as President and when there were disputes with his appointed cabinet members, Jackson took close advise from trusted friends who became known as Jackson’s “Kitchen Cabinet” because they all entered the White House through the kitchen door. Many of these trusted friends were believed to have Masonic ties. So you can see Andrew Jackson was a very determined individual. I hope we can all be inspired by the resolute Freemasons of our past and harness their enthusiasm to do great work today!

On the level,

John Lohrfink, Worshipful Master
Medford Lodge #103

REAMES CHAPTER #66

Sisters and Brothers of Reames Chapter

The year is flying by and the weather is trying to tell that spring has sprung. Our Chapter has been busy with a lot of different fundraisers and service projects.

In February we cooked and served for the Medford Lodge Family dinner. Eight of our members and Medford Lodge participated in a “Murder Mystery” at the Class Reunion of 54. It seems the eight had a great time and some of the others in attendance stayed with us until the end. We so enjoy the time we spend with all the Brothers of Medford Lodge and their families.

March brings our Friendship night and “Corned beef and Cabbage dinner before our meeting. We will be honoring our members of committees they have served on for the Grand Chapter. April we will be honoring our 25 and 50 year members. May we will have Elections and Drape our Altar.

I would like to welcome our newest affiliate members, Beverly and David Walden. We are so happy to have you in our Chapter.

It is with great sadness I report the passing of Sister Jan Brown. Her memorial serve was beautiful and well attended by our members, her church and friends. She will be missed. Brother Jim our prayers are with you and your family.

If you are having a Birthday this month Happy Birthday, and Anniversary, Happy Anniversary. If you are unable to attend Chapter know that you are missed, and we do need to hear from you. Send a note to the secretary, tell us what you are up to and how you are. If you are local, please call any of our members for a ride.

The Grand Marshal’s reception is March 28, 2015. Dinner at 5:30, reservations to Nancy Harper. Reception at 7:00. I look forward to seeing you all and appreciate all the support you have given me.

The latest, and the happy news is that Sister Lyn France has put her letter of intent in for the Office of Associate Grand Conductress of the Grand Chapter of Oregon. Reames Chapter will supports her throughout her journey to the Grand East and wishes her the best of Luck. Good luck to Brother Fred also.

Cindi Thompson, Worthy Matron
Billy Thompson, Worthy Patron

EVENT CALENDAR

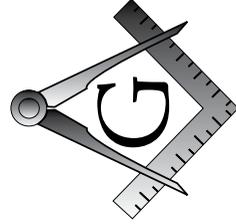
April 2015

- 01
- 02 Ashland Coffee 8am
Easter Egg Coloring Cascade Lodge 8am
Medford Lodge dinner & Stated 6pm & 7:30pm
- 03 Scottish Rite Reunion
Hillah Shrine @ Medford Lodge
- 04 Scottish Rite Reunion
Easter Egg Hunt Cascade Lodge 7am
Bahari 10 - 4pm
- 05 Easter Sunday
- 06 Lodge Coffee 8 - 10am
- 07
- 08 Reames 7:30pm / Warren Lodge @ Jville DD & our official visit
- 09 Ashland Lodge coffee 8am / Ashland Lodge Stated 7:30pm DD visit
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13 Lodge Coffee 8 - 10am / Scottish Rite Mtg @ SR Bldg
- 14
- 15 Reames Soc Club noon
- 16 Ashland Lodge coffee 8am / Medford Family Dinner 6:30pm
- 17
- 18 Breakfast 7:30 - 10am
- 19
- 20 Lodge Coffee 8 - 10am
- 21
- 22
- 23 Ashland Lodge coffee 8am
- 24
- 25 District wide School of Instruction 10am
- 26
- 27 Lodge Coffee 8 - 10am
- 28 Cascade Lodge 7:30pm @ Shady Cove
- 29 Officers & Bldg Board Mtg 6:30pm
- 30 Ashland Lodge coffee 8am

Corrections or additions to Howard 541-890-5625
or Howardleachman@gmail.com

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ISSUE 04
VOL. 123

APRIL, 2015