MINUTES OF WESTERN 1 CONFERENCE OF MASONIC GRAND LODGES

2 Sheraton Downtown Hotel

3 Denver, Colorado

4 Saturday, February 19, 2011

5 MORNING SESSION:

6 M.W.B. D. Arthur “Art” Bush, I.P.G.M., Grand Lodge of Oregon, A.F. & A.M., Conference Chair, called the

7 meeting to order at 9 a.m. He welcomed the attendees to the annual meeting of the Western Conference of

8 Grand Masters.

9 The invocation was given by R.W.B. Richard A. Martin and then M.W.B. Art Bush, I.P.G.M., asked that the

10 members remain standing and give the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country.

11 M.W.B. Ed Bousquet, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oregon, A.F. & A.M., was then introduced to welcome

12 the delegates to the conference and said he hoped the meeting would be productive and harmonious. He also

13 wanted to keep the greeting short since there was a lot of work to do and thanked everyone for being there and

14 hoped they all had a good time.

15 The Grand Masters were then asked to introduce their officers and any other visitors from their Grand

16 Jurisdictions:

17 Grand Lodge of Oregon:

18 1. M.W.B. Ed Bousquet, Grand Master

19 2. R.W.B. Rich Martin, Deputy Grand Master

20 3. R.W.B. Hunt M. Compton, Senior Grand Warden

21 4. R.W.B. Dave Fryday, Junior Grand Warden

22 5. R.W.B. Paul Temple, Grand Secretary

23 6. M.W.B. Art Bush, Immediate Past Grand Master

24 Grand Lodge of Arizona:

25 7. M.W.B. Jim Rowan, Grand Master

26 8. R.W.B. Brook Cunningham, Deputy Grand Master

27 9. R.W.B. Michael A. Meier, Senior Grand Warden

28 10. R.W.B. Richard G. McNeill, Junior Grand Warden

29 11. R.W.B. Wilbur E. Robertson, Grand Secretary

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31 Grand Lodge of Alaska:

32 1. M.W.B. Ron Ackerman, Grand Master

33 2. R.W.B. Jerry W. Pinion, Deputy Grand Master

34 3. R.W.B. James R. Herrington, Senior Grand Warden

35 4. R.W.B. David Worel, Junior Grand Warden

36 5. R.W.B. Jerry Wasson, Grand Secretary

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37 Grand Lodge of California:

38 1. M.W.B. Bill Bray, Grand Master

39 2. R.W.B. Frank Loui, Deputy Grand Master

40 3. R.W.B. John Lowe, Senior Grand Warden

41 4. R.W.B. John Cooper, Junior Grand Warden

42 5. R.W.B. Allan Casalou, Grand Secretary

43 6. M.W.B. William Holsinger, Past Grand Master

44 7. M.W.B. Ken Nagel, Past Grand Master

45 8. W.B. Glenn Woody, Grand Treasurer

46 Grand Lodge of Hawaii:

47 1. M.W.B. Charles L. Wegener Jr., Grand Master

48 2. R.W.B. Monty J. Glover, Deputy Grand Master

49 3. R.W.B. Frank M. Condello II, Junior Grand Warden

50 Grand Lodge of Washington:

51 1. M.W.B. G. Santy Lascano, Grand Master

52 2. R.W.B. Michael Sanders, Deputy Grand Master

53 3. R.W.B. Dean Heinemann, Senior Grand Warden

54 4. R.W.B. Jerry Lingle, Junior Grand Warden

55 5. R.W.B. David P. Owen, Grand Secretary

56 6. M.W.B. Gale H. Kenney, Past Grand Master

57 The following guests were asked to introduce themselves:

58 1. M.W.B. Carl “Bud” Banks, P.G.M., Grand Lodge of Nevada, F. & A.M.

59 2. R.W.B. Simon R. LaPlace, Junior Grand Warden, Connecticut

60 3. W.B. John Turner, Junior Grand Deacon, Grand Lodge of Oregon, A.F. & A.M.

61 4. M.W.B. Earl J. Washburn, Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Vermont, and Executive Director of the

62 National Masonic Foundation for Children

63 A welcome was extended to all.

64 M.W.B. Art Bush, I.P.G.M., then asked if there was any sickness, distress or issues to report within the

65 conference, or any Past Grand Masters or Past Grand Lodge Officers with problems to report. There were no

66 reports of sickness or distress. M.W.B. Bush asked for approval of the 2010 minutes of the Western Conference

67 of Grand Masters and asked if there were any corrections or addendum. The Grand Lodge of California

68 requested that the spelling of M.W.B. William Holsinger’s last name be corrected. (Later in the meeting, after

69 the break, it was also noted that R.W.B. Richard G. McNeill, from Arizona, did not attend the 2010 conference

70 meeting.) There were no other corrections or amendments so the 2010 minutes stood approved as amended.

71 M.W.B. Bush explained that Grand Lodge program presentations were encouraged to be 20- or 30-minutes long

72 and in order to be able to answer questions it was required that presenters bring printed versions on paper, or

73 recorded copies on CD, to share with other jurisdictions.

3

M.W.B. Bush asked if there were any questions on the agenda. There 74 were none, so he then introduced R.W.B.

75 Dean Heinemann, Junior Grand Warden, Masonic Grand Lodge of Washington, F. & A.M., who presented the

76 topic:

77 **Masonic Communication Or the Lack Thereof: The Bad, The Ugly & The Good.**

78 R.W.B. Heinemann gave Power Point examples and showed two Web pages that lacked vital information. On

79 one page the heading, at the end of the 2010 year, was “2010 Grand Lodge Officers” but there were no officers

80 listed. This would be sure to throw off would-be, new, or younger Masons. What does it say about this Lodge

81 and Freemasonry in general? The same website, on another page – at the end of the 2010 year – had a blank

82 2008 Lodge calendar. No officers and no calendar.

83 Another page, with a listing of Lodge meeting dates, had no addresses for the Lodges. Locations should be

84 posted to help a GPS navigation system, which many people use, to find outlying Lodges. Revisions to addresses

85 or Lodge meeting dates should also be updated often. It was noted that in order to communicate we must know

86 our audience, whether we are standing in front of them speaking, writing something for publication or talking to

87 people on the telephone.

88 A good point was made that we tend to put people on committees without asking what their qualifications are.

89 They are appointed without knowing their strengths or weaknesses, so we get what we deserve. Making

90 assumptions is always a mistake.

91 And this is important to emphasize: We must start referring to – and treating – Masonry as an organization

92 manned and staffed by volunteers. Often, in missing the target, people don’t aim too high, they aim too low. We

93 seem to have the expectation that 10 or 20 percent of our Lodge membership will participate. As supervisors or

94 managers would we expect more than 20 percent of our employees to show up and work on any given day? Of

95 course we would.

96 Washington came up with a series of tools. One is a low-tech approach and takes a long time – visiting each

97 Brother face-to-face – but it is extremely effective, especially at the Lodge level. Another low-tech option is

98 “snail mail,” which can also be effective. Mail is a little more difficult to discard immediately, whereas an email

99 message can be instantly deleted. One tip on email however: It is better to be slow to respond to a “touchy”

100 subject. Think a little longer about your response and don’t respond at all if you are upset or emotional. Be

101 careful how things might be received or perceived, because sending a certain “tone of voice” in an email is very

102 difficult.

103 We have new tools and the opportunity to communicate with about five different generations. Each generation

104 has a different background, education and expectations and they communicate differently. This goes back to

105 “knowing your audience” and being able to interact with them appropriately. The “newer” generation depends

106 upon cell phones so we need to find the best ways to communicate this way. First impressions are important,

107 and it’s great to utilize these new techniques, but face-to-face is best. This is what men expect from their

108 Masonic mentors.

109 The Grand Lodge of Washington sent out a letter to all Masons who were over 62 years of age, regarding

110 OutReach services. There are roughly 16,000 Masons in Washington. Grand Lodge sent out almost 10,000

111 letters. How does that vast majority of older Masons want to communicate? Maybe that is why there are so few

112 active Masons attending Lodge; they want the meeting times and offers of help to come in letters, cards, phone

113 calls or in person, and not by email.

114 Washington has found the more activities on Lodge calendars, the more interest it generates among those

115 young men wanting to participate. They want to have fun and be active. But in order to have more activities you

116 need more participation – which means more volunteers. Activities, community support and youth groups are

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keys to involving more people. Lodge ideas that are “filtered up” tend 117 to work better than Grand Lodge

118 programs that are conceived and “pushed down.”

119 In closing, be aware of tools available for use. Remember the “older techniques” of communication. If that’s

120 what your older members want, then that’s the way to do it. Know your audience and communicate

121 electronically with younger members in some form or another.

122 There was a question and answer session, with the final thought being – Find out how your membership wants

123 to communicate.

124 M.W.B. Bush made a few comments and then the Masonic Grand Lodge of Oregon, A.F. & A.M., gave their

125 report:

126 **Lodge of Excellence Achievement Award**.

127 R.W.B. David Fryday presented an overview of the decreasing number of men joining Masonry in Oregon. (This

128 reflects changes throughout the United States and is not unique to Oregon.) It does not seem to be just the

129 “Sixties,” either, which is often cited for declining membership. The downward spiral has been happening for the

130 past 50 years. To get Lodges active with work, the Oregon Grand Masters Achievement Award was instituted.

131 Lodges earned the award by completing 10 requirements. Lodges participated quite well, R.W.B. Fryday said,

132 and those Lodges that completed the requirements encouraged training of the primary officers, participation in

133 Grand Lodge, public outreach and Lodge visitations.

134 Participation has recently fallen off, however, because with decreasing Lodge membership it’s not possible for

135 some Lodges to complete all 10 requirements. The award was renamed the Lodge of Excellence Achievement

136 Award and there are now three levels – six, nine and 12 requirements – bronze, silver and gold. This allows more

137 Lodges a chance to earn an award.

138 To earn the award Lodges need to: 1. Two elected officers must attend Annual Communication; 2. Five members

139 must attend Blue Lodge Training; 3. Two elected officers must hold current Basic Proficiency cards; 4. Lodge

140 must host or participate in one Public Education event; 5. Lodge must hold one friendship or youth recognition

141 event; 6. Wardens must complete Torchlight course (these six earn Bronze Award); 7. The Lodge, as a group of

142 five, must visit five other Lodges; 8. Organize a widows program; 9. Complete one of six listed optional events

143 (these nine earn Silver Award); 10. Lodge must host or attend a Saints John Day observance; 11. Lodge must

144 confer or exemplify each of three degrees at least once during the year; 12. Complete one of seven listed

145 optional events (with these 12 requirements, Lodge earns Gold Award).

146 These awards encourage training, education and interaction with other Lodges and the public.

147 Questions were then taken and answered.

148 The Masonic Grand Lodge of Hawaii, F. & A.M., gave their report next:

149 **Harmony or Disharmony in the Lodge; Conflict Resolution.**

150 Speaker was M.W.B. Charles L. Wegener Jr., and he suggested that conflicts happening within the Hawaiian

151 jurisdiction were not isolated to their jurisdiction only. That is, the conflicts and differences of opinions that

152 happen within or between Lodges exist to some extent in every jurisdiction. He noted we all come together for

153 the same purpose and represent the same values. We need to help one another and others.

154 How Lodges and Grand Lodge handle the disagreements can also be a problem. We should work for the benefit

155 of our Fraternity and put our egos and personal feelings aside and try to meet on the level. If the Master of the

156 Lodge can’t resolve a problem it will sometimes get thrown to the Grand Master. Some decisions work for a

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time, but problems can also go “underground” and when a new Grand Master 157 takes office they may surface

158 again.

159 Arresting a Lodge charter is not a pleasant option, but if Lodges are told this is what they are looking at as a

160 solution to quarrels, officers and Past Masters can come together and hold something like a pow-wow so

161 everyone can voice their disagreements. The members must function as Masons and continue to work as

162 Brothers. There are many cultures, ideas and beliefs and the Family of Masonry should work for the betterment

163 of the Lodges. It must be decided how best the conflict should be handled.

164 At the close of the brief presentation, M.W.B. Bush commented that we should always look for the truth in

165 conflict and go from there.

166 It was then decided to take a 15-minute break and meet again at 10:45 a.m.

167 -BREAK168

At 10:45 a.m. the meeting was called to order by M.W.B. Art Bush and the Masonic Grand Lodge of Arizona, F. &

169 A.M., presented its topic:

170 **Masonic Education Arizona Style**.

171 R.W.B. Brook Cunningham spoke on the various training programs the Arizona Grand Lodge utilizes. They have

172 done away with the Wardens Academy Course and established an Education Academy for everyone. In January

173 and February Lodge officers attend seminars and learn more about their duties and responsibilities. The fee for

174 the seminar pays for meals and the facility. Seminars are held in three different cities in Arizona to make it easier

175 for officers to attend. Group discussions are encouraged. One popular meeting is the discussion on generational

176 understanding, including millennials and Baby Boomers.

177 There are morning meetings everyone attends, and then in the afternoon the officers are free to attend any of

178 several gatherings. The secretaries and treasurers also have their own meetings, but are welcome to attend

179 others as well. Attendees are very interested in esoterica, jurisprudence, philosophy of law, Masonic charges

180 and trials and the Landmarks.

181 Arizona has also had the Grand Line officers take questions from everyone, and this seems to be a part of the

182 occasional meetings that everyone enjoys. The Worthy Grand Patron and Worthy Grand Matron also answer

183 questions in a separate meeting.

184 The Grand Lodge is looking ahead for ways to keep District Deputies engaged and interested in their interaction

185 with the Lodges. The Grand Lodge of Arizona encourages other Grand Lodges to visit.

186 There was a question and answer session and then the membership was asked if they wanted one more

187 presentation before lunch. The Grand Lodge of Alaska announced they were ready to make their presentation at

188 this time and they were invited to address the group. It was decided the California Grand Lodge paper would be

189 presented after lunch.

190 At this time, M.W.B. Ronald L. Ackerman, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Alaska, F. & A.M., was introduced and

191 spoke on this topic:

192 **How Do We Bring Back Our Older Members?**

193 M.W.B. Ackerman asked, “What do we do for our old members and our widows and widowers?” He noted one

194 Alaska member from Juneau is 103 years old. “He is knowledgeable and the information he has is fantastic. We

195 can’t allow him to ‘go by the wayside.’“

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However, how does this member physically get to Lodge 196 when it’s upstairs? Older members really, really

197 appreciate it when someone goes to pick them up and get them up the stairs. He told the other Conference

198 members that Alaska is one of the newer Grand Lodges; 30 years old and beginning their 31st year in February,

199 so many of the Lodges are in buildings with stairs. In some cases Alaska Lodge members have put the older men

200 in a chair and carry them up the stairs. Stair chairs are a good idea, but can present challenges because of fire

201 code regulations on the width of staircases and emergency exits.

202 We have to figure out a way to get these older members to Lodge. We can’t lose the knowledge these older

203 members have. Don’t give up on bringing in the younger members, but make sure and give all of that knowledge

204 to our younger members. Bring the older ones in to teach the young ones.

205 The Lodge in Whitehorse, Alaska, is finally getting some newer members and getting the membership numbers

206 up, but they don’t have the knowledge the older ones do. We need to bring in those older members too.

207 He then passed out copies of a poem, “The Old Master,” sent to him by a friend in Quebec, Canada, that he

208 thought was appropriate. The poem follows:

209 **The Old Master**

210 He was sitting in a wheelchair,

211 Looking down at the lawn;

212 I thought he might be asleep,

213 Then I saw the old man yawn.

214 I told him I’d come to visit,

215 A big smile lit up his face;

216 He said it’s not very often

217 People visit this old place.

218 Pardon my manners, young man,

219 As he offered me a chair;

220 Would you like a glass of tea?

221 It’s on the table over there.

222 I begged off the offer,

223 But I said I have a surprise;

224 I’ve come to take you to Lodge,

225 You should’ve seen his eyes.

226 You know, I’m Past Master,

227 About three or four times

228 He said, as a matter of fact,

229 I can work any chair in the line.

230 I felt proud to push his chair,

231 As we headed for my car;

232 I had already checked him out

233 And signed his pass card.

234 When we drove into the lot,

235 You should’ve heard the cheers;

236 I had a lump in my throat,

237 Down his cheek rolled a tear.

238 The Lodge was filled with Brothers,

239 Who had come to celebrate,

240 Our guest of honor had arrived,

241 The Eastern Star had baked a cake.

242 We made a special presentation

243 That brought laughter and tears,

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244 For tonight our wise old Master

245 Had completed sixty-five years.

246 With countless years of service

247 In this Lodge in his hometown;

248 He did it all with a gentle heart,

249 And the strongest grip around.

250 His tired old voice cracked

251 But his mind was sharp and clear,

252 As he took the microphone,

253 Sitting there in his wheelchair.

254 We all sat down at tables,

255 With hot coffee in our cups;

256 He said I’d like to take you back,

257 To when I was just a pup.

258 You see, there’s been times

259 This old Lodge almost went dark;

260 We were down to just a few,

261 And some didn’t know their part.

262 But we kept on working hard,

263 And doing everything we could,

264 To get more men interested,

265 In the Craft of Brotherhood.

266 Oh, there’s all kinds of things

267 That’s changed over the years,

268 But younger men not coming in

269 Is one of our biggest fears.

270 You see, it was different then

271 Than it is this day and time;

272 I remember how strict it was,

273 You didn’t dare cross the line.

274 About asking a man to join,

275 When you knew he was good;

276 God and family came first, this

277 The Lodge understood.

278 We had to wait until he asked

279 About how to become one of us,

280 Then we could tell him the truth

281 About fellowship, honor and trust.

282 We worked hard and did our best,

283 To be good examples among men;

284 We all know from reading the Bible,

285 There’s not a man without sin.

286 So we’d take the best men

287 And gently show ’em the light;

288 Just look at all the Brothers,

289 That showed up here tonight.

290 If I could live my life all over,

291 And I could rewrite every page,

292 I’d hit a few bumps a little softer,

293 But there’s nothing I would change.

294 Each time I was asked to teach,

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295 Oh, it made me feel so good,

296 To lead you gently to the light,

297 Until I knew you understood.

298 I love you all, my Brothers,

299 I enjoyed being there for you;

300 And I’ll tell each one tonight,

301 You’ve been there for me too.

302 He talked for half an hour,

303 As we traveled back in time;

304 He had taken us on a journey,

305 And we hung on every line.

306 It was late when we got back

307 But he was still wide awake;

308 As I pushed his wheelchair inside,

309 He gave the nurse a piece of cake.

310 Until the Old Master is called

311 To the Grand Lodge on high,

312 His memories will be filled

313 With the celebration tonight.

314 A few years have come and gone

315 Since we honored him that night;

316 The Old Master even helped me

317 Raise my grandson into light.

318 His kind and gentle manner,

319 Stands tall among the best;

320 Today he made the final journey –

321 We laid the Old Master to rest.

322

323 He then offered to answer any questions, and advised other Grand Lodges to bring in their older members, too.

324 M.W.B. Art Bush, I.P.G.M., then asked R.W.B. Hunt Compton to give the noon blessing.

325 **Invocation:** R.W.B. Hunt Compton: Grand Architect of the Universe, be with us through this Western Conference

326 of Grand Masters, Conference of Grand Masters in North America and our lodges. We thank you for the

327 provisions about to be set before us and the hands that prepared the meal. Make us ever mindful of the needs

328 of others and in the end let us hear the welcome words, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” All this we pray

329 in His name. Amen.

330 Adjourned to reconvene at 1 p.m.

331 **AFTERNOON SESSION – 1 p.m.**

332 M.W.B. Art Bush, I.P.G.M., introduced the R.W.B. Allan Casalou, Masonic Grand Lodge of California, F. & A.M.,

333 whose topic was:

334 **Engage Members with Web 2.0.**

335 It was noted that for almost 20 years now we’ve all been experimenting with the Internet in our private lives and

336 professional lives. Web 2.0 is simply a name of the next generation of Internet usage that implies two-way

337 communication, where the users can participate and interact, such as with Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. This

338 allows people to collaborate, interact, comment and share information and it’s not just a one-way conversation.

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In California we asked how do we make this technology work 339 for us and our Fraternity? At the beginning and

340 end of the day the Internet shouldn’t be overlooked as a way to advance your organization. We look at ways we

341 can expand our programs and communications, foster fraternal relationships and make them better.

342 This is a way to bridge the generation gap that exists today in Freemasonry. Half of Lodge membership now is

343 the World War II generation and the other half is under 40. The second half wants immediate access to

344 information. They want the Fraternity to be relevant in a way that makes sense today.

345 So in California, in the last few years, we have used many ways to communicate. We produce a magazine, and

346 it’s the largest vehicle to communicate, every two months. It’s sent to members, widows, and others who

347 request it. Every magazine has a theme and members can suggest content. Digital magazines can be accessed by

348 computer, cell phone or iPad. Additional information and more links can be included in this digital format. This

349 creates an environment where people can navigate and explore more and send out links to their friends. So the

350 magazine goes out to even more people.

351 To this we add smart phone applications, an electronic newsletter, Facebook, YouTube, email and “eblasts” and

352 websites. These work together in meaningful ways and integrate communication tools to reach members and

353 prospects. To allow members to participate and engage we go to Facebook and tell members the new magazine

354 is out, explain how the magazine cover was done and explore symbolism. They can discuss this and share with

355 friends on Facebook. The success of email messages can be gauged according to how many of members open

356 the emails, how long they read it, other links they go to, etc., and there are programs that do this.

357 With electronic communication to Lodges it’s possible to get quick feedback on which Lodges will participate

358 with a new program and it builds excitement. There are very few problems with our Facebook page, but we

359 monitor it on a regular basis.

360 The Grand Lodge of California launched its own YouTube “channel.” This is supported on all the other

361 applications such as the magazines, Facebook, etc., and drives the membership to it. Members are encouraged

362 to upload a one-minute video on “their story” of becoming a Freemason.

363 So the magazine guides members to the website, the website draws them to Facebook, and Facebook takes

364 them to the YouTube videos. We can coordinate all these communications so no matter what time of day, no

365 matter where our members are, we can reach them.

366 It was noted the California Grand Lodge museum & library is online for research at Masonicheritage.org and you

367 can research museum artifacts. R.W.B. Casalou then demonstrated downloading iPad and iPhone applications of

368 the California Masonic publication and took questions.

369 M.W.B. Art Bush asked if there were any further questions and then asked if there was any old business. There

370 was none, so he opened the floor for the discussion of new business.

371 He asked that jurisdictions be thinking about their topics for next year. He also discussed visitors to the Western

372 Conference and asked if there was any reason to not have an “open invitation” to the yearly meetings.

373 There was a brief discussion on the conflicting dates of the annual communications of Arizona and Oregon, but

374 neither Grand Lodge will be changing its meeting date soon.

10

M.W.B. Bush asked if there were any proposals to the by-laws which were received 375 by the Grand Lodges. He

376 noted that “As we evolve as a group, the bylaws need to evolve too.”

377 R.W.B. David Owen, Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Washington, made a motion on Section 5 of the bylaws,

378 “Host Jurisdiction,” Paragraph B, subparagraph 2, be stricken. There was a second.

379 It was proposed to change: 1. The Immediate Past Grand Master of the Host Jurisdiction shall be responsible for

380 making preliminary lodging arrangements for the participants (having enough rooms set aside for reservations

381 until three weeks prior to the conference). It was proposed to read: 1. The Immediate Past Grand Master of the

382 Host Jurisdiction shall coordinate with the Executive Secretary of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in

383 North America for lodging and a meeting space.

384 Subparagraph “a” will still read: Hotel reservations shall be the responsibility of each individual member

385 attending. Subparagraph “b” will still read: Payment for hotel rooms will be made directly to the hotel. Only the

386 first paragraph would be changed.

387 It was proposed and seconded to make this change. A vote was called by a show of hands; with 18 in favor and

388 four against, the amendment carried.

389 M.W.B. Art Bush asked if there were any other proposals.

390 M.W.B. Holsinger, P.G.M., Grand Lodge of California, reported he will be a representative to the Commission of

391 Recognition on other Grand Lodges, which meets annually in conjunction with the Conference of Grand Masters.

392 They will meet next year in Atlanta, Ga.

393 The standards for recognition are: 1. Legitimacy of origin; 2. Exclusive territorial jurisdiction; 3. Adherence to the

394 Ancient Landmarks: Allegiance to God and the Volume of Sacred Law and prohibition of discussion of politics or

395 religion.

396 The commission determines these standings and then it is up to each individual Grand Lodge to grant

397 recognition or not. Holsinger’s seven-year term will expire a year from now and he recommended that each

398 Grand Lodge go back home and talk about their choice for a nomination for a representative on the commission

399 for the Conference of Grand Masters in North America. Two will be nominated and the conference will vote on

400 who will lead the commission. Incorporate basic guidelines in our bylaws so future conferences will have

401 something to follow:

402 Holsinger proposed a resolution:

403 **RESOLUTION**: Be it resolved by the Western Conference of Grand Masters assembled in Denver, Colorado, on

404 February 19, 2011, that the by-laws of said organization be amended by adding the following provision:

405 Commission on Information for Recognition of the Conference of the Grand Masters of Masons in North

406 America:

407 In order to provide a representative to the Commission on Information for Recognition, every seventh year,

408 beginning in the year 2012, each member Grand Lodge of the Western Conference shall submit to the Western

409 Conference at its annual meeting the name of one member of its Grand Lodge to serve a seven-year term on the

410 commission.

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The Western Conference shall select, by election, two names 411 from said nominees to be submitted to the

412 nominating committee of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America for final selection of a

413 single nominee to be submitted to the Conference for election.

414 Should the Brother thus selected be unable to complete his seven-year term, the Western Conference shall, in

415 like manner, select a Brother to complete the unexpired term.

416 A motion was made to adopt this resolution. It was seconded and passed.

417 M.W.B. Holsinger noted that for the years he has served on the Commission, the Grand Lodge of California had

418 underwritten his expenses. He then emphasized that not all Grand Lodges are able to assist financially;

419 therefore, the Brother nominated should be aware that he may need to pay some of his own expenses while

420 serving in this capacity.

421 M.W.B. Bush asked what the speakers’ topics would be for the Western Conference of Grand Lodges for 2012.

422 They will be:

423 Oregon – MasonicAid

424 Arizona – The Arizona Masonic College: An Integrated Model for Masonic Regeneration

425 Alaska – Effective Communications – I’m OK, You’re OK

426 Washington – Tools for Success for JGW and other Elected Officers

427 Hawaii - Freemasonry in a Transient Population

428 California – Revisions to Candidate Mentor Program

429 Under other business: The following question was presented: “During the next year, why don’t our Grand

430 Lodges begin the process of building a culminated document of our previously presented papers and programs

431 for historical purposes?” It was the general consensus of those assembled that this is commendable idea, but no

432 further action was taken regarding this issue during this meeting.

433 M.W.B. Art Bush thanked the members assembled for their help and attendance and adjourned the meeting at

434 4:00 p.m.

435

436 Respectfully submitted,

437

438 R.W.B. Paul Temple

439 Grand Secretary

440 Masonic Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Oregon