**MINUTES OF THE WESTERN CONFERENCE OF GRAND LODGES**

**OPRYLAND HOTEL - NASHVILLE TENNESSEE**

**FEBRUARY 17, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 8:52 a.m. by Most Worshipful Brother Gareth Duggan, Immediate Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oregon. Right Worshipful Brother Robert Richmond, Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Oregon was then called upon to give the Invocation. After the Invocation everyone in attendance was given an opportunity to introduce themself. Those in attendance were:

MWB Marvin Fitzpatrick, Grand Master, Alaska

Samuel K. Medsker, Deputy Grand Master, Alaska

John R. "Bo" Cline, Junior Grand Warden, Alaska

MWB Fred Sorsabal, Grand Master, California

RWB Melvin B. Stein, Deputy Grand Master, California

RWB Dick Harper, Senior Grand Warden, California

RWB Larry Adamson, Junior Grand Warden, California

RWB John L.Cooper, Grand Secretary, California

MWB David R. Doan, IPGM, California

William Holsinger, PGM, California

WB Allan Casalou, Assistant Grand Secretary, California

MWB Raymond Wieckowicz Jr., Grand Master, Hawaii

RWB Bruce Bonnell, Deputy Grand Master, Hawaii

MWB Lee Skinner, PGM, Grand Secretary, Hawaii

MWB Lyle Phillips, PGM, Hawaii

MWB Erin L. Endicott, Grand Master, Oregon

RWB William A. Martin, Deputy Grand Master, Oregon

RWB Dennis Johnson, Senior Grand Warden, Oregon

RWB Robert M. Richmond, Junior Grand Warden, Oregon

MWB Aaron W. Harvey, PGM, Grand Secretary, Oregon

MWB Gareth Duggan, IPGM, Oregon

MWB Alvin Jorgensen, Grand Master, Washington

RWB Charles McQuery, Deputy Grand Master, Washington

RWB Wayne Smith, Senior Gand Warden, Washington

RWB Doug Tucker, Junior Grand Warden, Washington

RWB David P. Owen, Grand Secretary, Washington

MWB Sat Tashiro, IPGM, Washington

Most Worshipful Brother Erin L. Endicott, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oregon was then asked to make a few welcoming remarks. He welcomed everyone to the land of kissin' cousins. On a more serious note he then welcomed everyone to the Western Conference of Grand Lodge's and hoped that everyone would find it to be a fruitful meeting.

MWB Duggan then said the minutes of the last meeting had been mailed to each Grand Jurisdiction. RWB Bo Cline moved that the minutes be approved as written and disseminated. RWB William Martin seconded the motion, the motion carried.

The presentations then began with Alaska starting off with a presentation on Cornerstone Laying for the Non-Masonic Community. Most Worshipful Brother Marvin Fitzpatrick gave their presentation. His presentation gave a historical perspective of Cornerstone Layings, what buildings are eligible, why we lay cornerstones, how we get the word out that we do these ceremonies, that we have to practice the ritual in order to make a good impression, and the importance of having a reception after the ceremony in which the Grand Lodge Officers attend. There were a number of comments from others during the presentation and MWB Fitzpatrick was given a nice hand at the conclusion of his presentation.

WB Allan Casalou, the Assistant Grand Secretary of California then gave a presentation on e-Learning. He discussed the advantages of e-Learning such as time and resources, the ability to reach more people, and the ability to refresh the learning. E-Learning can be used to replace traditional training or to augment traditional training. He discussed some of the Grand Lodge web sites in this country that use technology such as streaming audio or streaming video. He discussed several off the shelf software programs that could assist in e-Learning and briefly discussed custom developed programs. There was discussion throughout his presentation and at the conclusion. WB Casalou was given a nice hand at the conclusion of his presentation.

MWB Gareth Duggan then called for a break until 10:30 a.m.

MWB Duggan called the meeting to order again at 10:30 a.m. MWB Ray Wieckowicz Jr, then gave Hawaii's presentation on Fundraising, The not so simple method of raising funds. He said most of the information for his presentation came from a book titled "It's a Great Day to Fundraise" by Mr. Tony Poderis. The presentation set out a good program for fund raising, from setting goals to the actual solicitations. There were comments and questions after his presentation. At the conclusion he was given a nice hand.

MWB Gareth Duggan then discussed the By-laws of the Western Conference of Grand Lodges. He mentioned the requirement of the Grand Master of the Host jurisdiction giving a report at the Grand Master's Conference. He then discussed making arrangements in another location rather than in their own jurisdiction. He discussed our decision not to have a banquet tonight, primarily because of the cost. There was considerable discussion about these issues, and a general agreement that we would continue meeting in conjunction with the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America.

MWB Duggan then called a break for lunch, to be resumed at 1:00 p.m. Upon being called to order at 1:00 p.m. RWB William A. Martin gave Oregon's presentation on Masonic Education Programs. He discussed Officers' Charges (Masters', Senior Wardens' and Junior Wardens'), Womens' programs, Torchlight, Basic Schools of Instruction, Fellows of the Craft, District Deputy Forum, and other programs and materials. Questions and discussion followed the presentation. RWB Martin was given a nice hand at the conclusion.

RWB David Owen, Grand Secretary of Washington then gave their presentation on Temple Associations. He discussed the historical perspective, what is a title holding corporation, Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)2, Current and Future Environment, Step to forming a building corporation, and Grand Lodge of Washington Forms. There were questions and discussion after the presentation. RWB Owen was given a nice hand at the conclusion of the presentation.

MWB Duggan then thanked the presenters for their work in preparing excellent presentations. He then led a discussion about the topics for next year. The topics will be:

Alaska - Membership

California - A continuation of e-Learning

Hawaii - Grand Lodge Committee Participation

Oregon - Continuity from one Grand Master to the next

Washington - Community Outreach

MWB Sorsabal said he would like to see more involvement from the Western Conference on the committee's of the Conference of Grand Masters'.

There was a discussion of registration fee's for the conference. This idea was rejected.

MWB Sorsabal mentioned that MWB Duggan had done a great job in organizing the conference. He was given a nice hand. The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron W. Harvey, PGM

Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Oregon