



# GFN CYBER MASON

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The Newsletter of the Global Fraternal Network -- VIRTUAL INTERNET LODGE

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Volume 3, Number 1 January 2008

Happy New Year

**Forums meet at the East Gate.**

**UK 9.00 pm GMT Sunday only**

**AP 9.30 am GMT**

**USA 3.00 am GMT**

**Time Conversion <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/>**

"The views expressed here (by Members of the GFN) are of those individuals who contribute them and are not of any Masonic Lodge, Grand Lodge nor of the Editors, Officers or Personnel of the Newsletter".

## **Editorial**

A big thank you to all those who have taken part in our meetings over the last few months aimed at getting the GFN back up and running again in its former glory. Your ideas have been noted and will be passed on to those concerned to try to put them into action.

By the exercise of Brotherly Love, we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family, the high and low, the rich and poor, created by one Almighty Being, and sent into the world for the aid, support, and protection of

each other. On this principle Masonry unites men of every country, sect and opinion, and by its dictates conciliates true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance.

*First Lecture, Sixth Section  
Emulation Ritual*

Any comments or articles to me please on [bwbutler@btinternet.com](mailto:bwbutler@btinternet.com)

If any brother would submit their Lodge Web Site to be included as a link in this News Letter please forward Lodge Name, No. And URL



**Asian Pacific**



**Writer 2nd. Row 1st. left Lodge Taringa 76 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Queensland Australia.**

Dear Bro Mills,

Thank you for your concern. I have not been in contact through no fault of your own or the Lodge in general.

I have read what the GFN has in mind to upgrade membership contact

I feel what has been suggested and perhaps moved upon is for the better for all those members of the brotherhood.

Unfortunately the situation is no different down here with regards to lethargy, *or is it lack of interest in the brotherhood in general?*

Recently I visited a Lodge in New South Wales [*over the border some 600 miles*]. There they have implemented a small festive board to be enjoyed by those who turn up to practice. The evidence is that it has doubled the turn-up?

Okay, nothing is to be written or engraved etc. But my experience is that the new candidates soon do not attend any of the lodge meetings, on questioning them we find out in the majority of cases their replies are the same and are straight forward enough, *"I haven't the time to memorize all that stuff"*.

The new generation have had more opportunity to learn, and to reach higher academic standards than we older folk so there is no lack of comprehension by them of our workings or the recall of any

of it, the reality of the situation I feel is that they do not see any importance in performing it. So they get otherwise involved.

As a businessman I say we are not competitive.

Having said that, I also wonder if we are selecting the right people to join a Brotherhood? Are we going "hell-bent" trying to amass members at any cost?

It is general military strategy to fall back and consolidate at times.

Why not back off our over zealous endeavors for greater numbers and concentrate on being what we are about, *being good men.*

Let others see us that way, and want to join us.

Get back to creating a demand.

I have always quoted Sir Thomas Harper OBE: "EXAMPLE IS BETTER THAN PRECEPT".

Remember also, as Freemasons we do not make bad men good. **We make good men better!**

Fraternally,

Edward George Harper J.P.Q.M.M. Qld. Aus.

Here is how Masonry works in Australia:

Here in Australia, all lodges open and conduct business in the first degree, no matter what the scheduled degree work of the evening may be.

All initiated brethren (EAs) are considered \*full\* members of the organization with full voting and "business" rights within the lodge.

From thence, depending on the degree to be worked, the lodge moves through each degree and then closes down through each degree.

So, for example, were a brother to be raised, the lodge would open in the first and conduct all its business, then open in the second to examine the candidate and then open in the third to perform the raising and then close down again through each degree before finally closing in the first in Peace, Love and Harmony.

Australian Craft lodges generally meet monthly and conduct all their business on the meeting night.

Unless they are a specific "daylight", most begin between 1900 and 1930, admit visitors at about 2000, and when say working a third generally finish at around 2130, have a meal and this generally ends at 2230 with those wishing to stay doing so.

A good lodge working the second should finish at about 2100 and the first is about the same.

Hope this is of interest.

Alan Gale

Secretary,

Western Australian Lodge of Research

This is the posting in response to a new Brother who put a posting on the AP TT about last Sunday's subject - Last Sunday night's subject proved to be quite stimulating with the various points of view put. I was especially interested in one of our newer members posting a comment on the AP TT – he is a Brother Jason from Canberra now living in Wollongong. I think picking up on his comment a continuum of the subject discussed last Sunday could be 'Should our Lodges develop a Mission Statement'? Brother Dennis from Western Australia suggested that we should send out an e-mail giving notice of the subject. This idea has merit and could also help in stimulating interest to have promotion for our weekly subjects in our newsletter. Of course it goes without saying that the introduction to our AP TT should change on a weekly basis with the 'weekly' subject being posted. Let's get with it Brethren and see if we can't make a difference.

Ron Cameron, GFN Asian Pacific Convention Master.



**UK Forum. DO WE NEED IT? If you think we do come and join us  
Every Sunday at 9.0pm UK Time**



**Your Editor with some members of Crayford Lodge at November Meeting**



**USA Forum**

Here are my comments regarding the proposals that you discussed.

Now...the fact is that Masonry worldwide as far as I can determine, is continuing to decline. It has bothered me for a long while. I have researched it fairly well. The worst of the problems that I have discovered thus far is simply poor leadership. Yes.... poor leadership. The leaders are all trying to improve things - but they will not admit that they are the biggest part of the problem. Why is the leadership so bad? In the first place, modern masonry has become so bureaucratic that it is impossible for anyone that does not support the current leaderships operational concepts to be elected to a policy position. The current leaders nominate the next group of leaders and that is a flaw that could be fatal. Thus, this problem alone is bad enough to destroy the fraternity. The current policy by a lot of (if not most) Masonic leaders is to focus upon increasing membership via all sorts of modern day gimmicks and marketing methods. I have been consistent in my claim that Masonry cannot be sold as a commodity like it was a pair of shoes or sack of flour. It instead needs no selling. If merely needs good leadership that provide honor, dignity, and progress in all communities by example and demonstrated wisdom and accomplishment. That is the Masonry that my forebears fought for and were proud to claim as their own.

There are other problems too that range from poor participation of members to the selection of members that are not the best Masonic materiel. In other words our members tend to stay away from lodge halls and feign away from saying anything negative about the fraternity for fear of being marked as a traitor or troublemaker. And, we are filling our ranks with mediocre members that do not know what masonry is all about and that are not interested in learning. It gets worse. Members often have the misconception that their political and social position in the community will be enhanced by quickly joining the ranks of the fraternity. Many of them do this so that they can claim what used to be an automatic excellent character and standing in the community simply by being able to say that they are a member of the Masonic fraternity that has counted as its members some of the most famous and decent of men over the centuries.

And....I think that there is one other serious problem with today's masonry. It is, has become, or is becoming a purely social organization. I don't believe that Masonry was ever intended to provide social harbor for its members. Instead, the Masonic order that I embraced over three decades ago when I was raised was one that provided structure for a few special men. The fraternity provided a forum and organization for good men to come together and to share the ideas that make for a good and better world. As far as I can determine, Masonry was

never intended to be purely social in nature.

There are other problems.... but I have mentioned the most critical. What it tells me is that Masonry has departed from its path. If the major problems are not dealt with, it will never return to its illustrious position in the world. I provide this background to address the things that you have discussed. I don't really think that an Internet 'lodge' per se will ever be successful as long as there are major problems in the concrete and wooden lodges of the world.

I do believe however, that an Internet Masonic forum could become an excellent temple mount for important news that impacts masonry worldwide. It could also provide an invaluable service to members in providing a forum for keeping track of important Masonic developments and in locating old friends and brothers that have gone missing or otherwise have been lost touch with. It can provide a much needed platform from which members can ask questions, contribute writings, stories, poems, and general original compositions about this the grand institution of masonry and the wonderful world that we live in. All of these things are much needed and are sufficient to provide much honor and prestige to Masonry as a whole. If done correctly, the Internet Masonic forum could provide critical help in solving the problems that I have discussed. So...I would conclude that such a forum is very much needed - now.

To make the Internet 'lodge' work, you will have to have good and valid contributors however. It will take some doing to come up with a network of 'Masonic reporters' that report the news. It will even more difficult to develop a capability for the reporting and discussion (in a true editorial style) of Masonic problems. One of the biggest challenges to making an internet 'lodge' work will be to abandon the recent day Masonic habit of avoiding problems and issues that are perhaps against the policies of modern day Masonic leadership. If we are ever to get masonry back on track, we must have real masons that speak out and say quite honestly and clearly what they think the problems are and what the solutions might be. This will require the Internet 'lodge' to get into matters that are political, social, and such. We must do this and we must do it now.

I don't have much time today to discuss the matter further. I do hope that I have conveyed my thoughts and solutions.

I stand ready to do my part and will to assist as best I can.

I have discussed the details of my views with a wide range of grand masters over the past ten years, and generally all I got from them were arguments about how 'they' are making improvements. Only one grand master listened, but he could not do anything because those that surrounded him overwhelmed him.

My observations do reflect the consensus of a large group of Masons that I have discussed current day problems with, but more especially that of a close circle of friends. My friends all come from strong families that sailed from the British Isles a long while ago and continued their lives in the colonies. They all were proud of being from Masonic families. However, they all have resigned from Masonry - every one because of the things that I point out. I am the only one that remains in the fraternity and that bothers me because they all are highly successful, well-respected, moral and ethical people. It is a tragedy...all way round.

Name and address withheld.



**Greece**



Panos Rigas GFN REP TO GREECE installed as Senior Warden in his local Lodge Pleias 78 in Athens Greece



**India**

This is a contribution from Brother Garakh. We appreciate his prompt reply.  
Steve Grant

(In 1717 A.D. when an era of comparative peace and harmony dawned on the European scene, the Grand Lodge of England took shape at a meeting of the local Lodges of London, to elect a Grand Master. A United constitution was drawn up and recognized by all the Lodges. A democratic tradition in the election of the Worshipful Master of a

Lodge was prescribed. The Worshipful Master was authorized to appoint his team of officers.

It is therefore of interest that within 12 years of the constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, constituted for the purpose of exercising supervision over the lodges in London, and its neighboring areas, a petition was sent by a few Brethren in India to constitute a Provincial Grand Lodge in Calcutta. The Petition having been granted, a Provincial Grand Master was appointed to supervise Masonic activity in India and the Far East in 1728 A.D. Full details regarding how the First Lodge was constituted in India, are preserved in the Minutes of the Grand Lodge in London. First a petition was presented on December 28, 1728 and at the end of the minutes of that meeting, the text of the "Deputation" from the Grand Master: "to Empower and Authorize our well beloved Brother Pomfret....that he do, in our place and stead, constitute a regular Lodge, in due form at Fort William in Bengal in the East Indies...." This was signed and sealed "the 6th day of February 1728/9 and in the year of Masonry 5732 (which shows that Grand Lodge used Usher's Chronology in dating the Masonic era - as the Grand Lodge of Scotland still . The Lodge at Fort William -- that is, Calcutta -- appears in the Engraved List of 1730, as No. 72. It was to meet at Fort William in Calcutta. The coat of Arms was adopted from the East India Company a golden lion, rampant guardant, supporting between the forepaws a regal crown. In 1729, Captain Ralph Farwinter was appointed "Provisional Grand Master for East India in Bengal" and also James Dawson as "Provincial Grand Master" for East Indies. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Madras was formed in 1752 and The Provincial Grand Lodge of Bombay was created in 1758. Although it appeared in the Roll of Grand Lodge there is no record of how it came into being. The first Indian Mason was Omdat-ul-Omrah, Nawab Carnatic initiated in 1775. The doors to Hindu Masonry was flung wide-open might one say, by the unstoppable determination of one Mr. P.C. Dutt of Calcutta to become a member of the craft. After much opposition from the Provincial Grand Master (Hugh Sanderman) and nine years after he was proposed for initiation Mr.Dutt became Bro. Dutt in Anchor and Hope, No. 234, in 1872. Twenty-three years later, he was Deputy District Grand Master.

**THE BIRTH OF THE GRAND LODGE OF INDIA** It was towards the end of October 1959 that the Most W. Grand Masters of England, Ireland and the Immediate Past Grand Master Mason of Scotland met in London to discuss the future of Freemasonry in India. The three Grand Masters considered that "an independent Grand Lodge of India is desirable and that its establishment should....be gradually but actively pursued." A representative Steering Committee was set up consisting exclusively of Indian Brethren in proportion to the number of Lodges under each of the three Constitutions, with R.W.Bro Lt.Gen. Sir Harold Williams, K.B.E., C.B., as Chairman, with the aim of establishing an independent Grand Lodge of India on the best possible foundations. The Steering Committee met at important centers of Masonic activities in the North, East, South and West of India and its report was unanimously signed early October 1960. On December 1, the three Grand Masters issued "Notes on the proposed Grand Lodge of India for the information and guidance of Lodges in India." Therein they reiterated their declared attitude towards an independent Grand Lodge of India, but left it to Lodges in India to decide whether to opt for or against joining such a body, adding that if the Brethren in India decided in favor of an independent Grand Lodge, they would accept the decision and establish with it the closest fraternal relations and that Lodges not wishing to participate would continue to enjoy the existing rights under their respective Grand Lodges. Out of a total of 277 individual Lodges in India (excluding Pakistan, Ceylon and Aden, which were excluded for the poll) 145 opted for the new Grand Lodge of India. This represented a little over 52 per cent.

#### INAUGURAL MEETING

The Grand Lodge of India was officially constituted at ten minutes to six o'clock on Friday the 24th November 1961 in the Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi. There were three delegations from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, Ireland and England in that order. After the three delegations were received and greeted, the Grand Master Mason of Scotland proceeded with the Consecration. Thereafter, The Deputy Grand Master of Ireland officially constituted the new Grand Lodge saying "in the name of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland and by the command of their Grand Master, I constitute and form you, my good Brethren into the Sovereign Grand Lodge of India, you are empowered henceforth to exercise all the rights and privileges of a Grand Lodge according to the ancient usage's and landmarks of the Craft. May the Grand Architect of the Universe prosper, direct and counsel you in all your proceedings." After the Consecration and Constitution, the Deputy Grand Master of England assumed the Throne and installed Major General Dr. Sir Syed Raza Ali Khan, G.C.I.E.,D.Litt., LL.D., His Highness The Nawab of Rampur, as the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India. The Aprons, Collars, Gauntlets etc. for the new Lodge were provided jointly by the three parent Grand Lodges. In addition to the three parent Grand Lodges, the M.W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodges of the State of Israel, the M.W. Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta (Canada) and about 1,491 Brethren from all over India were present at this historic event.)

#### **Congratulations on appointment**

Brethren,

My name is Lee Katz and a lot has happened in the past weekend. First of all, as most of you may recall I was WI state Rep to the GFN quite a while ago, wherein, I Chaired the committee to create the Emblems you see around

this site as Lapel Pins, Car Medallions and other brick-a-brack. Well, after speaking with a few individuals here in the GFN I have resumed labour as the Wisconsin State Rep again. This time, I have the added privilege of directing the new **Masonic Links Board**. I have extensive background in creating and managing HTML by being Webmaster for 2 separate sites outside of the GFN. I look forward to working with all of you and would love any input the brethren here could give on filling my board with Masonic Links...of course, it goes without saying that I leave you strictly in charge to govern yourselves accordingly when posting to my Board.

**Lee Katz AKA Square**

It is my privilege and pleasure to introduce the Newest member of the Global Fraternal Network Staff; W. Alan R. Sacks has been selected to serve as the **GFN Deputy Representative of New York State**

His e-mail address is; [gosacks@gmail.com](mailto:gosacks@gmail.com) "mailto:  
[gosacks@gmail.com](mailto:gosacks@gmail.com)"

### **Situations Vacant**

A number of vacancy's exist for UK County Reps

### **Some Euro Reps required**

Interested? In the first instance contact the editor

### **Non-Masonic**

During the American War of Independence the Fort-Detroit bar became the only American place name to appear on a British military medal. What is known of this action?

### **Masonic Buildings.**



Duffield Derbyshire England



In Alaska ?

Anybody have any details

Please let me have Pictures of your Lodge Buildings. Keep them coming.  
Ed

### **Lodge Links**

Arcadia Lodge No 278 California <http://www.calodges.org/no278/>

Collinwood Lodge #582, Ohio [www.collinwood582.org](http://www.collinwood582.org)

21st Masonic District of Ohio, <http://masonicoh21.net/>

Steubenville Lodge No 45 Ohio <http://www.steubenvillelodge45.org/>

Alba lodge No 315 USA <<http://www.albalodge315.org/>>

Statesville Lodge No27 USA. <http://www.statesville27.ncmason.org/>

Triangle Lodge No 708 Georgia USA [www.trianglelodge.org](http://www.trianglelodge.org)

Triangle Lodge Maine [http://www.bluelodges.com/blweb/site\\_main.aspx?lodgeid=10](http://www.bluelodges.com/blweb/site_main.aspx?lodgeid=10)

Solomon's Lodge No. 3, F. & A.M. Philadelphia, PA

[www.solomons3.org](http://www.solomons3.org) <http://www.solomons3.org>

**New** Lynnhaven Lodge No 220 Virginia <http://www.vamason.org/no220>

**New** Freedom Military Lodge No 1775 Washington DC <http://www.freedomlodge.org>

Crayford Lodge No 6336 England <http://www.crayfordlodge.org.uk>

Prov of Shropshire <http://www.pglshropshire.org.uk/>

Lodge Duyfken which is in the District of Carpentaria, in Queensland,

Australia. <http://www.tNewinyurl.com/omr8a>

Quote

“Make the most of now”

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