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Occidental Lodge #72, F&AM	Trestleboard ~ May, 2005
Serving Ballard for 114 Years	
Ballard Masonic Center ~ 2006 NW Market St. ~ Seattle, WA 98107 206-782-8289	
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UPDATED – REISSUED MAY 20TH

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FROM OUR WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

By WB [Al Mungin](#)

Greetings from the East!

The District Four reception for our Grand Master MWB Satoru Tashiro was held at Greenwood Masonic Center on March 26th 2005. There, MWB Tashiro presented Occidental Lodge #72 with a Pillar of Progress award for community involvement. Occidental was recognized for involvement and support of masonry and continued commitment to promote positive change, which is the “Key to our Future”. As master of Occidental Lodge #72, I accept this award with great pride because it reflects great credit upon masonry and our lodge.

We completed Table Lodge on the 7th of April. WB George Lofthus was our guest speaker and presented a wonderful talk about his experiences in masonry. An entourage of six brothers from Hercules Lodge made a surprise visit. WB Harry Ginther and Bro. Errol Scott prepared a fantastic halibut meal.

At our April Stated Communication, WB Harry Ginther was awarded his 40 year pin and WB Neil Sather was awarded his 25 year pin.

MWB Ken Robinson did a masterful job of presenting the 2005 Grand Lodge resolutions.

The highlight for the month of May is the Ballard Norwegian Day Parade scheduled for 5pm on May 17th. Occidental’s award-winning float will be one of the main attractions of this parade. Soup and sandwiches will be served at Occidental Lodge #72 following the parade.

After the parade will be an outstanding opportunity to sit in Lodge with the Job’s daughters.

Our Stated Communication is scheduled for May 19th at the Ballard Masonic Center, 2006 Market St, Seattle, WA. Dinner will be served at 6:30PM and lodge starts at 7:30PM.

Brother Shomps Williams has made arrangements for an evening of bowling with the Youth Groups for Friday April 29th at 7:00PM. Come and support our youth. Contact Brother Williams at 206-321-7050.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for ~~May 29th~~ **Friday, May 27th**. This is Family Night at Occidental Lodge #72. Come and enjoy a good movie on our big screen. A light dinner will be served and the admission is free. Come as you are and bring friends & family. The doors are especially open to non-masons. **Dinner at 6:30pm, movie at 7:30pm.**

Fraternally,

WB Al Mungin – Worshipful Master

FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN:

By Bro. [Errol Scott](#)

Greeting Brethren:

I LOVE A PARADE

Seventy-six trombones led the big parade. Well not exactly – maybe seventy-six Masons? We are talking about the 17th of May Parade, which strangely enough every year is on the 17th of May. You gotta admire the Norwegians for their consistency

– whether its Sunday or Tuesday (which is this year) they are admirably predictable. Occidental Lodge has won first place in the parade three years in a row but this year is a little chancy – nothing new and exciting to offer - but the same old thing seemed to work pretty well in the past.

The Norwegian spitting fish (scientists have not been able to confirm its existence, however) still seems to draw a lot of excitement and laughs. We squirt the kids and come close to the adults but no direct shots are permitted on the older generation. I think our Worshipful Master Al Mungin will be in the captain's seat but he really doesn't look a bit Norwegian. A few sea chanties, a Leif Ericson fishing boat and a smoke-breathing dragon is what we have to offer - so we hope it will be enough to stir a little interest.

Seriously, the 17th of May is Norwegian Constitution day or “grunnlostdag,” – or for you English speaking readers, “Syttende Mai.” It is the celebration of the day in 1814 when the Norwegian constitution was signed - even though it appears that both Norway and Sweden were both ruled by King Carl Johan at the time. Our Lodge is in the heart of “Scandinavian country” and we are proud of our members and relationship with the Scandinavian heritage. (Incidentally, we will be planning a trip to Norway next year.) So come out and join us to walk in the parade or ride along in our people mover. The parade starts at 6pm so assemble at NW 62nd St. and 26th Ave. NW near Adams School. Refreshments following the parade at the Lodge.



**Fraternally,
Errol G. Scott, Senior Warden**

PASSAGES:

The following Brothers were Memorialized at the April, 2005 Stated Communication.
Their names will be inscribed on a leaf for our perpetual Tree of Life at the Ballard Masonic Center.

B Frank Wilford Knott

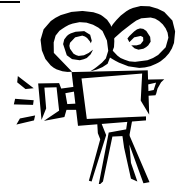
July 11, 1908 ~ April 18, 2005
34 Year Mason
6 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

B Earl Jack Bagwell

December 13, 1927 ~ April 10, 2004
41 Year Mason
23 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

FAMILY NIGHT AND MOVIES - CHANGED:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)



National Treasure 2004 (PG)

Starring: [Nicolas Cage](#), [Sean Bean](#)

Director: [Jon Turteltaub](#)

Synopsis: Archaeologist Ben Franklin Gates descends from a family of treasure-seekers who've all hunted for the same war chest hidden by the Founding Fathers of our nation. But not only does he have to look for the treasure, he also has to stay a step ahead of his ruthless competitor and the FBI. (Touchstone)

Runtime: 100 Minutes

MPAA Rating: PG for action violence and some scary images.

Genre: Action

At the next scheduled Family Night and Movie on ~~Saturday, May 28th~~, **Friday, May 27th**, we will be showing. **National Treasure**, the movie with a strong Masonic theme. Invite all your friends and fellow masons to join us. This should give us all something to talk about for quite a while. **Hope to see you there. Dinner will start at 6:30pm and the movie will start at 7:30pm.**

DISCUSSION ON INITIATION FEES:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#) and Bro. [Warner Edelman](#)

Brethren,

At our March Stated Communication, one of our members, WB Jerry Schor, stood and asked if the Lodge would **consider reducing the fees for initiation**, as he believed from personal experience this to be a deterrent to bringing new members into our Lodge. After a very brief discussion, our Worshipful Master wisely invited those who wished to be a part this discussion to take it up at the following Officers Meeting held on Thursday, April 14th. A lively and interesting dialog did take place on that date. Those present listened to a number of reasons both for and against making a change, and presented their own feelings on

the matter. By consensus, it was felt that the best way to involve all membership was to prepare a survey and ask you what you too think about this. The purpose of the survey and this article are to share ideas already heard, promote responses from you now, and to see if we can both reduce discussion time in future Stated Meetings on this subject, and to better prepare your state of mind on this subject should a proposal come to vote.

This article and survey do not constitute a written proposal. However, the proposition that has been heard boils down to this:

Reduce the part of our initiation fee that the Lodge controls from \$200 to \$100.

I am going to present the technical hurdles and timeline which must be met to turn a proposition into a written proposal, a vote of approval, and then a Grand Master's approval to make it work, but first I will present the pros and cons about the subject that have been voiced.

Opinions:

Here are some of the reasons given **in favor** of this proposition:

- **We are losing members to the Celestial Lodge above faster than we are making new members, therefore we need an incentive to bring more men in, and our cost might be holding them back.** In fact, membership in this Jurisdiction (and others) has been in a decline since 1959. We have as a group gone from 26,000+ members to somewhere around 1,700 this year. Occidental has gone from a Lodge of over 600 to somewhere around 325. We are lucky to have 20 regular and active members at most meetings.
- Since the baby-boomer cycle is over and other effects that are out of our control – like family and social lifestyle changes, **we can't attract as many men willing to sacrifice their time for the same initiation fees.**
- **Our initiation fees are higher than other Lodges,** and so when deciding which Lodge to join, men who are candidates are choosing cheaper Lodges to join. We should narrow or dissolve this differentiator to keep from losing more candidates. It would help Masonry in general by being more "on the level", or by providing a more consistent first impression of us. (Ask yourself, why are **we** more expensive?)
- **In order to draw younger men, we need to be sensitive to a younger man's ability to pay.** By the time you throw in the required Grand Lodge assessments (\$50) and our annual dues (\$50), the first year cost of becoming a full member of Occidental Lodge is **now \$300**. Young candidates have other expenses, and may be less likely to perceive the otherwise hidden values they may receive from our Lodge when initially exposed. They are also **less likely to be expecting to spend as much time in Lodge** or with their Lodge Brothers in social events as often as men from previous generations, so they may in general view this as too expensive.
- **We don't need the money from this source.** Occidental is financially speaking a "well to do" Lodge when compared to other Lodges, and the difference in initiation fees of \$100 – especially considering how few new members we are bringing in - doesn't make a dent in our financial position. If we were wishfully able to attract even 20 new candidates to this Lodge every year, (that's perhaps 15 more per year than in recent years) the difference would amount to a revenue "loss" of only \$2,000 a year.
- **As Grand Lodge increases it's assessments to new petitioners, the costs of joining will continue to rise.** When you get to reviewing our By-Laws below, please note that Grand Lodge is always mindful to exclude themselves from limitations on assessments they may pass on to new candidates for membership. Remember, the Grand Master must approve of any Lodge By-Law changes, and no Grand Master would ever let any lodge limit it's portion of the fees. In fact, they have increased their fee in recent years. Of the \$250 it costs to send in a petition, \$50 or fully 20% of the fees are owed to Grand Lodge, and they go directly to 3 specific charity funds and one memorial foundation, no matter what we charge. Grand Lodge has probably done more to increase the costs to new candidates in **every** Lodge in this jurisdiction than our Lodge has on it's own. **Will new candidates accept this, or are they drawing back?** At Grand Lodge's will and pleasure they (we) can add new assessments in any year a majority of its voting members wish to pass the

buck on to guys that aren't even members yet. That seems fair, doesn't it? Well, it's the easiest form of passing the buck on to make new members raise money for established members. It calls out: "If you want to join us, you should pay for the expenses of programs you weren't responsible for, even if you don't finalize becoming a true member". One of the few ways we can counter this pattern is by lowering the fees that go directly into our Lodge – by lowering the \$200 fee we charge.

- **The Washington Masonic Code dictates that a minimum fee for the degrees is \$50. Why should we be charging a total of \$250? It seems out of line.** This is actually kind of a negative response to an otherwise innocent question. Here is the deal however. The minimum of \$50 coincidentally covers the \$50 owed directly to Grand Lodge for its charities. Grand Lodge could care less whether a Lodge makes money or even covers its costs of putting on degrees. Review the logic presented in the previous point.

Here are some of the reasons given against this proposition. (As Publisher, I have added my own rebuttals, which you learned Brethren may debate if you wish):

- **I don't like change.** We have always charged \$250 to join. I paid \$250 when I joined, why should anybody else be able to join for less? (Maybe you think you haven't gotten your \$250 worth of lifetime free meals or friendship yet?. While I don't have hard facts, I can practically guarantee that \$250 has NOT been one of the Ancient Landmarks of this Lodge. If you doubt this, review the points brought out in the next to the last point for lowering the fees above.
- **It will take too much effort to change our By-Laws.** Really, it's not that hard, all it takes is a little time, patience, persistence, persuasion, and a willingness to change from you the membership. Our Grand Master, Sat Tashiro wants us to try new things to draw younger men in. Maybe this will work. (This was your publisher's initial reason, now debunked by me).
- **We will be attracting lower quality men.** In order to keep the quality of Masons high in our Lodge, we must make sure they are well to do, and generous with their money towards others. (If lower quality means less fat wallets, maybe so. But is that really the point)?
- **Why don't we just subsidize the initiation fees** with another loan, or find "suger-daddies" in the Lodge to help pay the fees of those not able to pay their way in? Couldn't somebody who has money pay the fees for candidates? (Seriously, re-read a petition for the degrees. In the petition a man promises that applying for membership will not become a financial burden on him or his family, and that we expect members to help shoulder the costs and charities of the Lodge. If he doesn't feel comfortable about paying the initial fees, then he isn't really being honest with himself or another benefactor, is he? So what is the point there? Do we want members, or do we want more money? What is most important? As one member said, "I won't pay for his degrees, because then he wouldn't be duly and truly prepared").
- **We already give candidates a good break by subsidizing their life memberships. Why give them even more?** (Of perhaps 325 members today, fully 90% of all members have converted modest annual dues into life memberships. This is an entirely different issue than initiation fees for candidates who wish to take the degrees. Life memberships are offered to members – not candidates. As much as it makes sense to tell a member we are giving him a break by helping him pay for a life membership, we subsidize them because the LODGE benefits from an **income stream in perpetuity** that continues to give back long after the individual has passed away. Quite simply, this brilliant financial strategy becomes a gift to the Lodge, by the member and Lodge, for both himself and his Lodge. The key to getting here is, **we must make new and young members** in order to achieve something).
- **But it costs more than \$200 to put on three degrees, we should cover our costs.** The argument about cost is correct, but the magnitude isn't. Occidental has traditionally put on free dinners for degrees and paid the Organist and Tyler for degree nights. Food for 20 plus paid positions is almost \$200 per degree, so we are already "losing" money, maybe we should raise the initiation fees to \$600. (Brethren, the truth is, the "business" we are in is making and retaining Masons, and the cost of getting them to dues paying status and keeping them members and becoming contributing members for our causes and charities is the cost of doing this business. If we don't find a way to increase or maintain our membership numbers, then there will be no next generation to carry on the work and good name of our Lodge).

Next Steps:

You have read the proposition and heard some opinions voiced. Now is a good time to remind you of what actions must transpire in order to change initiation fees or dues. **"Fees and Dues"** is the title of **Article III (3)** in the By-Laws of Occidental Lodge. As opposed to the 33 Standing Resolutions that generally form the operational characteristics of our Lodge - because they are decided entirely by our membership, the 6 Articles of the **"By-Laws"** are the most basic, and require approval by the Grand Master. They include our name, our meeting location and times, our fees, our standing committees, our Worshipful Master's right and limit to grant indigent charity without prior Lodge approval, and the rules for changing amendments. From **Article VI (6)** shown below, you can't just stand up in Lodge and ask for a vote that would change By-Laws. A change to them requires presenting a **written proposal** to the Lodge at a **Stated Communication**, and then **voting** on the proposal at a **subsequent Stated Communication**. Then, the **Grand Master must approve** them to place them into effect.

ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these by-laws shall be **proposed in writing at a Stated Communication**, and if adopted by a **two-thirds vote of all members present at a subsequent Stated Communication**, shall be immediately effective when **approved by the Grand Master**, whose action shall be conclusive.

The next steps are:

- receive feedback on this proposition by May 13, 2005 (before the May Stated Communication),
- have a written proposal developed and presented to Lodge at the May 19, 2005 Stated Communication,
- vote on a proposal at the June 16, 2005 Stated Communication.

Article III (3) is shown below. It is mocked up as something that **could come before Lodge at the May 19, 2005 Stated Communication in the form of a written proposal**. In this case both Sections 1 and 2 have been changed.

Section 1 would change the fee for the degrees from \$200 to \$100. Keep in mind that the "fees required by Grand Lodge" are currently \$50, and we purposefully **don't** say what those are here, because they can change outside our control. The petitions themselves have four lines printed on them that list these "contributions", and when a man receives a petition, those plus the Lodge fees are added up and totaled for the petitioner.

Section 2 has been mocked up as a reasonable change to suggest if Section 1 were to change. Section 2 has to do with what the Lodge charges when an Entered Apprentice or a Fellowcraft wishes to finish his degrees in our Lodge. An Entered Apprentice would pay 2/3 the fee or \$67, and a Fellowcraft would pay 1/3 the fee or \$34 dollars.

ARTICLE III FEES AND DUES

Section 1. The fee for the three degrees shall be ~~Two Hundred (\$200.00)~~ **One Hundred (\$100.00)** Dollars. In addition, any fees required by the Grand Lodge must accompany the petition.

Section 2. ~~If for any reason it becomes necessary to segregate the fees, the fee to accompany the petition of an Entered Apprentice for the Second and Third Degrees shall be One Hundred Thirty Four (\$134.00)~~ **Sixty Seven (\$67.00)** Dollars and in addition any fees required by the Grand Lodge, and to accompany the petition of a Fellowcraft for the Third Degree shall be ~~Sixty Seven (\$67.00)~~ **Thirty Four (\$34.00)** Dollars, and in addition any fees required by the Grand Lodge.

Section 3. There shall be no fee for affiliation except those fees required by the Grand Lodge.

Section 4. The annual dues of each member shall be Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars payable in advance on the first day of January of each year.

This might also be a time and place to suggest we tighten up the wording in Section 2 by removing the beginning wording that says **"If for any reason it becomes necessary to segregate the fees,"**. I for one feel this tends to give the impression there is some liberty for candidates to pay for degrees one at a time, and I don't think that is what our forefathers had in mind. I think the single circumstance where a different

fee is to accompany the petition is when the candidate is seeking to finish his degrees as either an Entered Apprentice, or as a Fellowcraft, period. If he isn't sure he wants to stick with us, is no reason to accept petitions on the "as you go" basis. I have stricken that preamble mentioned above from the mockup in this proposition.

Survey:

You will find a short survey about this proposition on the bottom of this page. There is nothing on the back half, so you can cut it out and send it in without losing anything else. **We urge you to get your written opinions in the mail before Friday, May 13th** and sent to either Brian Hardy or Warner Edelman so a written proposal can be prepared by the May Stated Communication. The addresses are shown below.

Brian Hardy
21403 – 2nd Dr. SE
Bothell, WA 98021-7553

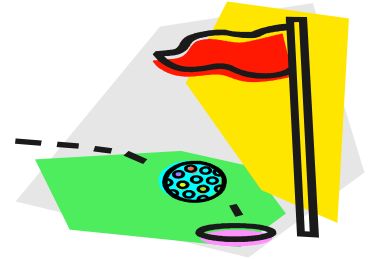
Warner Edelman
9753 Palatine Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103

GOLF OUTING - CANCELLED:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

**CANCELLED ! We couldn't get a course reservation.
We will try again in September.**

~~Mark your calendars ! Our Brothers of Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 72 in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia want to meet with us **on Saturday, May 21, 2005** for the purpose of having a good day playing golf and dinner with us, our friends, and prospects to Masonry.~~



~~The place has yet to be determined, but our Canadian brethren would like to invite us to play on a course in Canada this year. This is an excellent idea. Though it is our year to organize the place, prizes, etc., WB (Handsome) **George Gilder** has offered to find us the course, and offer the best possible Canadian hospitality. This is an event that should include ladies and friends. I need to have a rough number of golfers to George very soon. **Please call or e-mail me with your intentions ASAP.** Generally the fees for golf and dinner have been somewhere around \$30. Thanks.~~

Occidental 72 Initiation Fee Survey

Your Name: _____

Should initiation fees be reduced in an effort to attract new candidates (circle one): **YES** **NO**

If you agree they should, do you think \$100 would be a good figure? **YES** **OTHER** _____

Please indicate one or more reasons why you think we should or should not change the initiation fees.

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