

Bulletin No. 5

M. W. UNITED GRAND LODGE OF IOWA A.F. & A.M. (P.H.A.)
Office of Grand Master

1422 DeWolf Street

Des Moines 16, Iowa

May 25, A.L. 5943, A.D., 1943

To the Worshipful Masters, Wardens and Brethren of all Lodges Subordinate to the M. W. United Grand Lodge, of Iowa (P.H.A.)

GREETING:-

As my term in the office of Grand Master is drawing to a close, I have the desire to write you once again. However, first may I say again that I am most thankful to you and deeply appreciate this honor you have conferred on me. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving you, and have done so to the very best of my ability. I am particularly grateful to the Grand Wardens for their faithfulness in the work, their willingness to sacrifice their time and personal funds to be present with me on various visits to Lodges. Their encouraging words, timely and most useful council, have been very beneficial to me. For our Grand Treasurer I must say that his love for the institution of Freemasonry may be equalled but not exceeded, by any member of our Jurisdiction. In regards to all other past and present Grand Lodge Officers, I must say that they have all worked equally as hard as I for the upbuilding of our

Jurisdiction. However, I feel that I want to make special mention of our Sr. Past Grand Master, Bro. S. Joe Brown, for his willingness to furnish me any records or Proceedings I may have desired from his library; also for his generosity; his ability and his sincere desire to purvey the teachings of our Grand Old Order. His unhesitatingly compliance with and obedience to the several things the Grand Lodge and myself have required of him shall never be forgotten. I would though like to present you with a few excerpts from my address to be made to our Grand Lodge on July 13th, that you may carefully and diligently compare them with those as they now exist in the Code, at your leisure. I also would and do recommend that they be discussed in each and every Lodge in our Jurisdiction, and that each Lodge instruct its representatives, as to what if anything they are in favor of.

..... RELIEF DEPARTMENT

This branch of the business of our Grand Lodge somewhat resembles that which in some Jurisdictions is really an insurance department. However, for the information of those brethren who might not fully understand it, may I say that we as a Grand Lodge do not write or carry any insurance upon the lives of any members of this Jurisdiction. We simply and in accordance with the rules of the Relief Department, have and in accordance with the rules of the Relief Department, have for a number of years made little donations to the nearest heir of each member who dies in good standing in his local Lodge and on all records of our Grand Lodge. All donations, of course, have been made in excess to or supplemental to whatever a Subordinate Lodge may under its own regulations give to the family of a deceased brother.

Now, my dear brethren, your humble servant has been accused on several occasions of being a tool or implement of destruction, used by the Lodges located in Des Moines or by one of our Past Grand Masters in trying to tear down our Relief Department, simply because I have tried to, and I think and hope somewhat succeeded in

presenting to the Craft of our Grand Jurisdiction, the true condition and policy of this Department. A number of you know that for several years, a few members of the Craft have, after their way of thinking, been aware of the unsoundness of, or the impossibility of our continuing to make donations of these amounts, with the funds we have available for this purpose.

Now, believe me my brethren, the creation of the chart was the result of my studying the past history of our Jurisdiction. On my returning home from our Grand Session last July, instead of writing you a letter of this type, I began this study of the records of our past. I firmly believe that one may and should profit by past experiences. The chart, therefore, was the result of this studying, and was formulated by me. No one whatsoever had anything to do with its compiling; all accusations therefore to the contrary of the foregoing statement are absolutely false. In presenting this chart to our subordinate lodges as I visited them, I did not fail to take along the Proceedings of our Grand Lodge for the years tabulated, for my own satisfaction and absolute proof of figures shown. Not once have I had any of these figures disputed or contested. The display of the chart, my brethren, was done solely to impress upon the Craft of our Jurisdiction the necessity, in my opinion, of creating a more reliable or stable Relief Department. In order, therefore, to present these facts to as many members of our Jurisdiction as possible I did not wait until the sitting of our Grand Lodge, as I was told to do by some of our more illustrious votaries, but rather have done my best to present these facts to as many M. M. in our Jurisdiction as possible, that we may come together at this time with a greater realization and understanding of the problems confronting us, and have more ideas as to how we may go about to improve our condition. The synopsis of the situation is, that we cannot continually pay out more money than we are due to take in, not to mention the amount which is actually taken in, as we all know it has been less than what is due.

Now, my dear brethren, I firmly believe that each and every member of our Jurisdiction must share alike all benefits, responsibilities and obligations of our Grand Old Order. Under the law as it now exists, we are somewhat divided; however, to a small extent, it may be good that this has happened, for it has tended to bring the true conditions of things to light. I, therefore, believe that we should and without delay make necessary amendments, alterations or improvements of the laws, rules and regulations governing this department, that it may be more sound and practical. I, therefore, am making two suggestions, either of which I believe will be a step in the right direction, but first may I say that these are suggestions and not recommendations, as my intent here is only to give you something to work on.

- I. Every member in this Jurisdiction shall pay a certain amount of money into this department over a period of one year. At the end of the year these monies to be equally divided according to the number of deaths, and paid to the claimants, (the amount to be paid into this fund and the date due, to be determined by the Grand Lodge."

2.

- Every member of this Jurisdiction shall be assessed a certain amount upon the death of any member, and a sum equivalent to the amount to be taken in by levying such assessment shall be paid to the proper claimant.

Recommendations

- Under Article XIII, Section 1, (b) Be amended to read--for every candidate initiated, 75 cents; for passing, 50 cents; for raising, 75 cents; dispensation to confer two degrees in one evening, \$3.00.

My dear brethren, at present all the money the Grand Lodge receives for every candidate made in this Jurisdiction is only one dollar, which is far less than many of our sister Jurisdictions. I believe this to be a fair amount, if we had the populace from which to draw, but since we do not, and the Grand Lodge must exist in order for the candidate to be legally made a Mason, I do not feel that it is asking too much for the Grand Lodge to receive two dollars instead of one dollar as it is in dire need of these added revenues.

- Under Article XIII, Section 1, (c) Be amended to read--Every lodge shall pay into the general fund of the Grand Lodge one dollar (\$1.00) for every member on its roll on June 1st, and one dollar (\$1.00) for every member on its roll on December 1st of each year.

Now, my brethren, this does not represent any increase or decrease in amounts due in this case, as monies due because of the Special Tax have been used for this purpose for a number of years. The Grand Lodge can ill afford to decrease this amount at this time, and I do not feel it is urgent or necessary to increase it at this time. However, I feel that this recommendation will do much to clarify the payment of this Special Tax as it has been very confusing to a large number of the Craft, and it will greatly simplify bookkeeping in both the Grand and Subordinate Lodges.

- Under Article XIII Section 3, add - unless he be actively engaged in the armed forces of our country.

In this case, my brethren, a plan similar to this has been adopted in most all Jurisdictions with which I have communicated; however, under no circumstances are benefits paid in regards to relief because of death. It is almost an impossibility for a brother to remit these dues from the far flung battlefields of the world, and it is almost an imposition to require some of our smaller lodges to pay these dues for their members who are in the armed forces. In many of our Sister Jurisdictions members who are in the armed forces are given cards stating such facts, and showing them to be in good standing in the Fraternity that they may visit lodges of any Jurisdiction they may happen to be stationed in.

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Now, my beloved brethren, these are only excerpts from my address. I will naturally enlarge upon them much more at Grand Lodge, so please study and compare them carefully with the Constitution and Code. Instruct your representatives how you think they should vote in regard to them. If you send in any recommendations or amendments, remember THEY MUST BE IN WRITING; and if pertaining to Article XIII, must be filed on the first day of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. (see Article XIX) I think it not only wise but essential whenever possible, that all the Subordina

Lodges know of any suggestions or recommendations to be made to the Grand Lodge by the Grand Master in advance of its sitting, that the progress of our institution be not hindered by lack of understanding.

Yours for a Greater and Grander Jurisdiction,

Carl M. Mays
Your friend and brother,
Carl M. Mays, Grand Master

TRUSTEE-BOARD

- No. 35, They are taking on new life. Lets all pray that they are successful.
- No. 21, Bro. Holland Williams, W. M., health is improving.
- No. 34, Has fifteen members and pays \$15.00 per month rent on their lodge rooms, yet are not one penny behind in their obligations to the Grand Lodge in either Department. After the decision on having Grand Lodge there, they had the hall for the Grand Lodge to meet in rented within a week. How do they make so much money? They are 100% united for the good of not only No. 34 but for our entire Jurisdiction. They know they have a good W. M. and by helping him to be successful they are succeeding themselves.
- No. 30, Bought a \$500.00 War Bond the other day. This will surely help guarantee the safe return of not only some members of our profession but of our race.
- No. 39, Bro. Nate L. Black is improving. Write him some time if you can spare the time. I know he will be glad to hear from all his old friends and brothers. Address 115 W. Jefferson Street, Washington, Iowa.
- No. 19, Is growing fast. Their Master, Bro. Hearld Buckner, attends all degree work top hat and all.
- No. 32, Only has 8 members but meets regularly. Splendid!
- No. 4, Have received no word whatsoever in regard to their making any payment of any kind. What is the matter with them. The depression is over???
- No. 17, Is buying a new hall; moved in May 8th. Of a city of only about 800 of our people, they have a membership of 41 and working on a class of 10; very good I think!
- XXXX, We have two Lodges. 17 and 19, putting their man up for Sr. Deacon in 2nd degree. Each claim their man to be the best ever. This should be good, so come to Grand Lodge and see the fun. Who will get the job? Either I can assure you will be worth your trip to see.
- XXXX, HISTORY PUBLISHING FUND - All Lodges keep working on this you who have promised me a 100% subscription, keep trying that you may make a good report. We won't have any trouble selling them once we get the first printing off the press. This is truly a marvelous piece of work, and I know you will be proud to own one. You Lodges who can afford to subscribe for a copy for each of your widows to be given them by you as a gift. She will appreciate it.