



Kelso #94

Trestle Board

2024 | April | Kelso Lodge #94 Trestle Board

Kelso 94

As we kick off having a newsletter, I want to start off by apologizing for any error or oversights. If you have an idea for a story, or would like to contribute a story, please reach out to WB Mike Cunningham, Secretary Kelso 94.

Inside This Issue

From The East

Some Wisdom, Insight and Vision of the Worshipful Master, Frank Harju

Desk of the Secretary

Communication, updates and humor from the Secretary

Junior Achievement Award

The History and this year's event

Life Memberships

A Letter from VWB Gary Boyd

From The East

Greetings from the East, Spring has sprung and the land is awakening, the trees are blossoming, the daffodils are peeking out; and Kelso Lodge #94 is abuzz with lodge and lodge functions. In January we had a "Fifth Tuesday Potluck" and in February the Kelso Valley of the Scottish Rite invited local blue lodges to its annual "Sweetheart's Dinner". Both events were well attended and provided a good time for all.

The sound of youthful voices is once again ringing within the lodge as Job's Daughters Bethel #65 have gained enough members to allow the holding of meetings. With these meetings being held the young ladies can show to their peers the joys and benefits of being a "Jobie".

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF BETHEL #65 ON THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION!!

**“Our future is
BRIGHT!”**

From The East Continued

Several local lodges are actively looking to reactivate DeMolay in the area so stay tuned for more news of youth participation in our area.

Spring is the time of planting seeds and so we look forward to the growth that develops.... come join in!!

Lodge is held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7:30 PM, we look forward to those who would like to attend.

-Worshipful Master Frank Harju

Desk of the Secretary

Its Spring Time! Time for some sunshine and clear days. Spring Cleaning is upon us. As many will know, I recently took over for WB Dale, after his many years of service to the lodge as secretary. I am grateful for the trust of the brothers. I am cleaning up the office, to make it more “ME”. I love finding the old history of the lodge as I sift through everything. The history that is entrusted to the lodge is important. Equally important is our future, and let me tell you brothers, our future is BRIGHT!

We have a great leadership team in place here. We are actively managing our money through an investment committee. We have the building full all week it seems now!

Lastly, soon Grand Lodge will send out the proposed resolutions for the Annual Communication. They will be available in Lodge. Please review and let your Wardens and Worshipful Master know your thoughts on these topics!



Junior Achievement Awards

The Junior Achievement Award has been around for at least 57 consecutive years. It has been called the Masonic Student Awards Program in the past as well. Each high school in the Cowlitz County will select the top 5 boys and 5 girls for each school. In determining the winners, the application process will ask the students to describe their views on citizenship and service as well as to write a statement on their achievements and goals for the future. While GPA is a factor, the intent is to recognize students for achievement in all areas of their lives.

The Lodge Officers Association of District 18 will continue to present this award for the 2024 School year on April 29th at 7pm at Kelso High School. Most Worshipful Cameron Bailey will be providing the Key Note Address. It is the Lodge Officers Association's hope that all of our brothers will be present to help honor the Juniors as they receive this award. Please bring your apron, as we have been given permission to wear them for this event!

Upcoming Events

Take a look at the upcoming events!

Regular Stated Meetings:

Kelso 94 -2nd & 4th Tuesday

Regular Events:

Lodge Officers Association – 2nd Saturday at 9am (Kelso)

Kelso Coffee – Every Saturday and Monday at 730 am

Special Events:

Next 5th Tuesday Pot Luck on 4/30/2024 at 6:30 in Kelso #94 Dining Hall

Appendant Bodies meeting at Kelso:

Job Daughter Bethel 65 – 1st and 3rd Thursday

Eastern Star Maple Chapter #218 – 2nd and 5th Thursday

Scottish Rite Valley of Kelso – 1st and 3rd Wednesday

Life Memberships,

A letter from VWB Gary Boyd

I just deposited \$6,977.87 from the Grand Lodge Life Membership Fund for last year into our checking account. This is not pocket change but it definitely helps run the lodge's expenses for the year and got me thinking about one of our past practices: Memorial memberships back in the day.

The fund now has 185 on the list of Life Members on the south wall (which includes 31 Memorial Memberships that were purchased at \$200.00 by the members). These numbers reflect 1 member who moved his Life Membership to another lodge. We have 128 Life Members who have passed away and 56 who are current active members of Kelso #94.

When we heard about this fund that started in 1980, I mentioned to WB Jack Wormwood that, if the lodge members took part in this, it could really help the lodge finances.

The idea of purchasing Memorial memberships was started by WB Jim Chapman in 2000. WB Jim came from Ryderwood Lodge when they amalgamated with Kelso. He would come to coffee on Saturday and Monday mornings and sit out in the hallway (for a smoke) and, when one of us who were still working came up the stairs, he would say “hey, give me \$10.00 or \$20.00 -- we are going to buy a memorial membership for brother so-and-so who had passed on. He would do this until he got enough to purchase a memorial membership and turned it in to Jack. Jim would wait a little while and then start all over again for the next Memorial.

There has not been a Memorial membership purchased since 2008 (Memorials can only be purchased for members who have passed on.) When WB Jim was doing his collections, we had anywhere from 15-25 members coming up to coffee every Saturday and Monday and he collected \$200.00 in a short time without anyone getting hurt. I know I got touched 3 or 4 times in a one- or two-year period but I was working at the time.

I proposed at the March 12th meeting that we “Kelso #94” start purchasing Memorial memberships again, either by individual donations of \$10-\$20 - or by the Lodge to an amount to be determined by the response from the brethren. What this amounts to is honoring a passed brother while at the same time investing in our lodge’s future.

I would suggest that, if our finances are healthy, or above a certain amount, we should start purchasing Memorials.

The return on our investment is based on the stock market and this year our return was based on 7.5%.

As of 2012, the current cost for a Life Membership is as follows:

Age: 18-35	\$650.00
Age: 36-45	\$600.00
Age: 46-55	\$500.00
Age: 56-65	\$450.00
Age: 66+	\$400.00

If any member of Kelso is thinking of purchasing a Life Membership for themselves, now might be the time to do it as I think Grand Lodge has a hold-over resolution to raise the price of Life Memberships considerably. With this resolution on the agenda for the 2024 session, some of our members who do not have a Life Membership who are contemplating purchasing one should consider purchasing it now and avoid the rush.

Distribution of Life Membership Funds

March, 2024	\$6,977.87
March, 2023	\$6,726.49
March, 2022	\$ 6,734.89
March, 2021	\$6,262.08
March, 2020	\$5,939.75
March, 2019	\$5,738.66
March, 2018	\$5,455.69
February, 2017	\$4,150.05
February, 2016	\$4,492.04
February, 2015	\$4,259.14
February, 2014	\$4,517.57

The total is \$61,254.23 since I have been Treasurer. Previous records were lost.

-VWB Gary Boyd, Treasurer, Kelso #94

