



NIPPON LODGE No. 9 GAZETTE



Free and Accepted Masons
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF JAPAN



The Official Trestle Board of The Brethren of Nippon Lodge No. 9, Sasebo, Japan

APR 2020



Schedule of Events

APR & MAY 2020

- 01 Apr Stated Meeting (CANX)
- 08 Apr LOI (TBD)
- 11 Apr Charity Work (CANX)
EA Conferral (CANX)
- 15 Apr LOI (TBD)
- 22 Apr LOI (TBD)
- 29 Apr LOI (TBD)
- 06 May Stated Meeting
- 13 May LOI
- 20 May LOI
- 22-23 May ANCOM (Tokyo)
(TBD)



The Value of the Masonic Family

A short presentation ceremony held after the March 2020 Stated Meeting was held to appreciate the invaluable support given by Bro. Raffy Crisologo and his family during their stay in Sasebo. Bro. Raffy is one of the gatekeepers of our webpage and has always been active in all labors of the Lodge. Wishing them the best in their next duty station as well his Masonic travel.

The Laws, Rules and Regulations of A Mason - Brief Synopsis

Do you know that there are two laws that govern our existence in the jurisdiction of the The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Japan? We have the written laws and the unwritten laws. In the progressive science of Freemasonry and our advancement to the sublime degree of Master Mason, we were told to commit to memory our obligations as well as portions of the degree lectures. In totality, the written and unwritten laws of the Jurisdiction and the obligations we committed to memory are the foundations of our governance and guide to walk upright as a true and faithful brother Mason. That is why it is very important to have a trestle board that serves as a means of conveying or source of information. You can be a "ritual purist"(see BSW corner), but if you do not know the guiding principles of our Jurisdiction your ignorance or innocence to these written documents does not excuse you against your witless or unmasonic conduct.

The Constitution (35 Chaps; 187 Articles) which was released together with the Code of Builders (or otherwise known as General Laws of the Grand Lodge; 17 Chaps; 131 Sections) in March, 1960. While the Constitution is more specific in the contents of its provisions, the Code specifies what chapter in the Constitution can you find a certain law or record and explains it in a limited and simplified scope. It serves as a tool to repeal any written law by amending any unacceptable provisions of the same. Added to these two documents, we have the edicts that are done during the reign of a Grandmaster and serves as an amendment to the two other written laws. Edicts stands as a written law until cancelled by a sitting Grandmaster. Moreover, we have our own by-laws which are adaptations of the written laws of the Grand Lodge, but in a more simpler form. There are 11 chapters in our by-laws with additional 17 Rules of Order.

Section 5 of the Code states that the unwritten law of the jurisdiction consists of time-honored customs and usages of Ancient Freemasonry of general and historic records of Freemasonry adapted to the conditions and time in which we live, together with such rules for application as will perpetuate its integrity and usefulness and are not repugnant to its written laws.

We will continue to explore the different parts of the laws of our Craft. We will make it a part of this trestle board for the benefit of all the members of our Lodge. We have a pending printing job due to the current pandemic, and as soon as the printing is done, we will have copies of these laws in the Lodge. We will also post the documents on our website for your reading pleasure and reference. As we are obligated to conform to and abide by all the laws, rules and regulations of Masonry, knowing them in addition to all our obligations enable us to be smart Masons.

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Worshipful Master's Corner



Brethren and Families,

Greetings from the East! I hope everyone is doing well and staying in the pink of health.

As we are treading in these uncharted territories during these unprecedented times, we can only implore the aid of the Supreme Grand Master to help us get through this situation. I cannot stress it furthermore to keep your activities limited within the confines of your abode together with your families. I hope everyone is keeping in pace with news, advices and developments regarding the guidelines that need to be followed in order to be safe and avoid the spread of the virus. Social distancing is very important. We will continue to monitor the information from the Grand Lodge together with the directives of the local authorities including the base commanders that affect majority of our members. It only takes one infected person to drive the hype and panic of the entire community, so we have to closely monitor the situation and enforce maximum precautionary measures to lower the probability of infection. Being Masons, our commitment to the betterment of our society especially in this chaotic time is a show of our commitment to our Masonic obligations.

On a different note, we have requested a Dispensation Letter for the cancellation of our Monthly Stated Meeting for April. Normally, the Lodge has to pay the Y1,000 fee, but the Grand Lodge waived that fee while we are still in crisis.

As discussed before, we intended to do a charity work with Wakatake Ryo Orphanage on the 11 of April celebrating Easter with the kids, but WB Ito informed them that we are canceling it due to the pandemic. As it stands, the Annual Communications for the Grand Lodge was rescheduled on the 22nd and 23rd of May 2020. That is still tentative depending on the favorable progress of the situation. We will continue to adhere with the guidance of the Grandmaster by considering the holding of any Masonic activities including Lodge of Instructions as well as charitable activities. With the unpredictability of this contagion, we can only hope for the best.

To all, let us welcome our newly installed Bro. Secretary. Having been a Past Master of the Harry S. Truman Lodge #694 in Naples, Italy, I am sure he has a lot to impart in enhancing the duties of his position in the Lodge as well as improving our communication to the brethren. He has a dedicated corner in this gazette to convey his messages to the brethren.

In closing, please continue to hone your proficiency in our Craft by dedicating some time to read your monitors. The Pillars and officers will provide Masonic educational matters to keep you all abreast to valuable information related to our Craft. Please let me know if you have anything worthy to be shared through this Gazette, and we will surely publish it to the Brethren. We are still working profusely to reach the members of our Lodge withersoever dispersed in order to improve our dues collection and keep them informed through our gazette. Again, please let me know of your inputs in improving our gazette.

May the Supreme Ruler of the Universe invoke upon us Thy blessings at this time of crises. Travel lightly, travel healthy and safely.

With fraternal embrace,
WBro. Ace R. Asuncion

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Honoring Bro. Raffy Crisologo before departing to Okinawa



Wishing you the best! The Crisologo Family



Token of gratitude to you and yours!

Peace...



Keeping its Light shining brightly for 63 Years and beyond !!!

... and Harmony

Celebrating it with togetherness...



... Against all Odds!!!



Lighting up the birthday candle

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WBro Manny Manipula
Past Master NL #9



Senior Warden's Corner



Masonic Education - A Subject Too Often Overlooked.

Brethren, please allow me to share to you part of an essay by MW Richard E. Fletcher's which I really find it fitting regarding Masonic Education. He wrote: "Conrad Hahn, a most distinguished Mason, once observed, "The lack of educational work in the average lodge is the principal reason for the lack of interest and the consequent poor attendance in Masonry over which spokesman have been wringing their hands for at least a century."

This quote stirs one to think about the importance and value of Masonic education within the Masonic Fraternity. It should further stir us to think about why this important aspect of Freemasonry has been so badly overlooked. We must not kid ourselves into thinking that Masonic education is playing the prominent part in Freemasonry that by right it should. Before we offer an answer to that question why has this situation come about, let us first ponder the lodge of our ancestors back 250+ years ago. What value was Education then and what kind of education was being proposed then? This leads to the all-important question, "Why has this situation come about?" The real problem in trying to answer this question is that there is no easy answer. We, as a Fraternity, have reached the point where far too few of our members have even the faintest idea of why they are Freemasons, let alone, have any real knowledge about our history and heritage.

To those of you who are "ritual purists" please do not let my next statement shock you. But the real truth of the matter is we have come to depend on the ritual as the basis for Masonic knowledge. The ritual does not make Masons. It only makes members! We cheat, wrong and defraud any candidate who is left hanging at the end of the 3rd Degree, having heard a lot of words and really not knowing what they mean. Until the Degrees are explained to the candidate, he has no idea of what he has gone through. To suggest that the explanation is complete with the lectures of each Degree is again burying our head in "Masonic Sand".

Brethren, I'll stop here, let's contemplate. First let me make it clear, no one loves the ritual more than I do and I know we all do. The ritual gives me so much pleasure, built my confidence as a Mason knowing that I know the rituals on top of my head, but above all we all know that it has an important place in the life of the person who is becoming a Mason. However, knowing the rituals does not mean there is no more to learn. It doesn't mean that we are already at our best. To me, it is far easier to memorize and recite the ritual than it is to study the history and meaning of Freemasonry, to practice the teachings. We tend to be far more comfortable in working the Degrees than in working with the candidate and teach him what our beautiful craft is all about. We all know what happened when we tend to forget the real essence of being a Mason, it not only divides us, worst, destroys us.

Has this always been like this? Of course not. But, we have drifted so far away from the truth that makes it very difficult to turn the tide. Now is the time that we revitalize our fraternity and strengthen our core, continue the bond that we have the pleasure of watching grow over the years, imbed Masonic education not only in our minds but more importantly in our "hearts". Brethren, we have a moral obligations not only amongst us, but to our Lodge to which we are beholden!

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Bro. Carl Caluya



Junior Warden's Corner CHAPTER XXIV OF THE CONSTITUTION THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF JAPAN Of Initiation In A Lodge



(PART I)

For the month of April, please let me share with your this chapter on Initiation In A Lodge. It shows the mechanics and the technicalities of what it takes to “knock” on the doors of Free and Accepted Masons. The following bits of information apply:

Art. 132. No Lodge shall receive an application from any person who, within twelve months next preceding, shall have been rejected by any Lodge, unless by dispensation from the Grand Master.

Art. 132a. All such applications, as well as those for affiliation or dual membership shall be in writing, signed by the applicant and recommended by at least two members of the Lodge in the forms prescribed. And those for degrees shall not be received unless the applicant shall have answered, in his own hand, the questions which are annexed to and part of the form prescribed by the Grand Lodge.

Art. 132b. PROVIDED, That a petition for the degrees by a person who has been rejected by a Lodge in this jurisdiction may be submitted only to the Lodge which rejected such applicant, so long as he continues to reside in this Grand jurisdiction; and if an applicant who has been so rejected by a Lodge shall petition another Lodge for the degrees, such petition shall not be reported for ballot until the investigation committee thereon shall have separately submitted to the Master of the Lodge a report, oral or written, showing that the entire committee has fully investigated the character and reputation of the candidate at the time of his rejection in the other Lodge, and all three report favorably upon him.

Art. 133. No Lodge shall ballot upon any application for degrees, dual membership, or affiliation until it shall have been referred to a committee of three, whose duty it shall be to make strict examination into the moral, mental, physical and other proper qualifications of the applicant and to report thereon to the Master at the next Stated Meeting, unless further time be granted. Which report shall not be read in the Lodge, except so far as the announcement of the character of the report is concerned, nor shall the names of the Brethren appointed on such committee be announced in the Lodge.

Art. 133a. No application shall be withdrawn after reference to a committee, even though the applicant, after applying, shall have removed from the jurisdiction of the Lodge, except as herein provided. If the report of the committee, or any member thereof, be unfavorable, no ballot shall be had, but the Master shall, upon the reception of such report, declare the candidate rejected. If the report of the committee, or a majority thereof be favorable, a secret ballot shall be had at once without any postponement, by the use of the white balls and black cubes. The ballot box shall be prepared by placing therein a sufficient number of white balls and black cubes, one-third of the whole number being black. It shall then be presented to the Junior Warden, Senior Warden and Master for inspection.

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Bro. Carl Caluya



Junior Warden's Corner

CHAPTER XXIV OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
GRAND LODGE OF JAPAN



Of Initiation In A Lodge

(PART II)

Art. 133b. When more than one candidate is to be balloted upon at the same meeting, a separate ballot must be had on each. If during the balloting, objection be made that the ballot box is not properly prepared, the Master must, before announcing the result of the ballot, examine it, and if not properly prepared, he must at once rectify the error and have a proper ballot taken. It shall require a unanimous ballot of the members present to elect. Before the ballot is taken there may be such discussion of the qualifications of the candidate and of the propriety of receiving him into the Lodge as may seem proper.

Art. 133c. If but one black cube appears in the ballot box, the Master without declaring the result, shall at once order a second ballot for the purpose of correcting a possible mistake, which ballot shall be the last; but in no case after one ballot has been had, shall any discussion be permitted in the Lodge before the second ballot is had, nor shall the second ballot be postponed to another meeting of the Lodge. If the committee find the applicant disqualified in consequence of insufficient residence or physical disability, or because his petition has been received within twelve (12) months after his rejection by a Lodge and find no other objection to him, they shall make a special report thereupon; in which case the Master may direct the withdrawal of the application without further action, and such direction shall be entered upon the record.

Art. 133d. There shall be no discussion regarding an unfavorable ballot, and no member of a Lodge shall be required, requested, or allowed, to divulge his vote upon an application for affiliation, dual membership or for the degrees of Masonry, nor to assign reasons for such vote, if it be known, except to the Master, for the purpose of correcting a mistake.

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Treasurer's Corner



HWBro. Bill Cloonan
Honorary Past Master
NL#9

As has been noted in previous correspondence, instructions for payment of Nippon Lodge No. 9 dues can be found on the Lodge website at:

www.nipponlodge9.com .

Note from the WM: Our beloved Bro. Treasurer is currently being pampered by his loving family while recovering from a procedure that was done early this month. HWB Bill continuously kept us informed on his condition. We are looking forward to see him soon, and let's invigorate him with the help of our prayers for his quick recovery and return to youthful state of health.



Secretary's Corner



WBro. Ed Burdios
Past Master
H. S. Truman Lodge #694



The last officer to be installed, WB Ed Burdios was officially installed during the March Stated Meeting .

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MASONIC EDUCATION

(Read & Heed)

After having been regularly elected to receive the three degrees of Masonry in our Jurisdiction, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Japan strongly reminds all Constituent Lodges to maintain the solemnity of the conferral while guaranteeing the safety of the candidate.



**M.W. GRAND LODGE OF
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF JAPAN**



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EDICT TWENTY-FIVE

Whereas, the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of North America, Southern Jurisdiction, has geographically restructured to whit; it has dissolved the Orient of Okinawa and Guam, and moved the Valley of Okinawa under the Orient of Japan and Korea,

And whereas this enables Free Masons of the Grand Lodge of Japan in Okinawa to freely join and participate in Scottish Rite under the Orient of Japan and Korea,

Therefore, I Robert H. Koole, under the authority granted me as the Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of Japan do hereby decree that Edict 15 forbidding membership in and or recognition of the Scottish Rite Orient of Okinawa and Guam, to be null, void and withdrawn.

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Lodge at the City of Tokyo, Japan this 15th day of January A.D. 2010, A.L. 6010.


Philip A. Ambrose, PGM
Grand Secretary


Robert H. Koole
Grand Master

Philip A. Ambrose, PGM
Grand Secretary

Robert H. Koole
Grand Master

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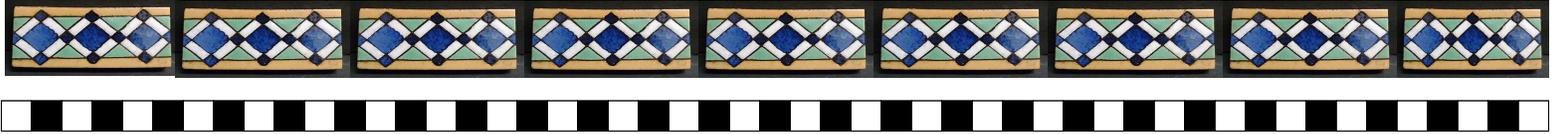
Free and Accepted Masons



MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF JAPAN



APR 2020



Points of Contact:

WEB: www.nipponlodge9.com

FB: NL9 Officers and Members

Nippon::9 (Non-Tiled)

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NIPPON LODGE No. 9

MASONIC YEAR 6020 (A.L.) OFFICERS

Worshipful Master	WB Ace R. Asuncion
Senior Warden	WB Manny Manipula (PM Nippon Lodge #9)
Junior Warden	Bro. Carl Caluya
Secretary	WB Ed Burdios (PM Harry S. Truman Lodge #694)
Treasurer	HWM Bill Cloonan (Honorary PM Nippon Lodge #9)
Chaplain	WB Ron Deguzman (PM Aomori Lodge #10)
Marshall	WB Mike Velarmino (PM Nippon Lodge #9)
Senior Deacon	Bro. Will Dispolo
Junior Deacon	Bro. Joseph Delacruz
Senior Steward	Bro. Nathan Wade
Junior Steward	Bro. Hero Jambalos
Tiler	Bro. Orlan Blanco



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