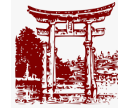




NIPPON LODGE No. 9



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

October 30, 2020



Be Safe !

Be Well !



Vested with the cardinal virtues of fortitude, temperance, prudence and justice, WB Ace Asuncion with the brethren of Nippon Lodge No. 9 keeping the Light of the Lodge lit even during the pandemic.

Preparations For The Upcoming Lodge Elections

In light of the forthcoming Masonic elections, we will discuss in this edition the articles of elections are detailed under Chapter XIV of our Constituion. These articles need to read in a Stated Meeting before the actual day of the elections in order to communicate the mechanics of the election as well as the installation of the newly elected officers of the Lodge. The articles are as follows:

Art. 100. The Master, Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary of each Lodge shall be elected annually by ballot at the Stated Meeting next preceding the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist; and a majority of the votes of the members present shall be necessary to elect respective offices until their successors shall

have been duly elected and installed. They shall be installed as soon as practicable thereafter and shall hold their Installations may be either public or private.

Art. 100a. There can be no installation by proxy. No Master of a Lodge shall be installed until he shall have produced to the Installing Officer the certificate of the Grand Lecturer or of the Inspector of the Lodge certifying that he has personally examined such Master-elect, and that he is qualified to give the work and lectures entire in the three degrees, and that he is thoroughly proficient in those portions of the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Lodge which relate to the government of a Lodge.

Such certificate, endorsed by the Installing Officer, shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary, to be kept on file in his office.

Art. 100b. No Senior Warden of a Lodge shall be installed until he shall have produced to the Installing Officer the certificate from the Grand Lecturer or the Inspector of his Lodge certifying that he has personally examined such Senior Warden-elect and that he is qualified to give the work and lecture of the First and Second Degrees and that no Junior Warden shall be installed until he shall have produced a like certificate of his qualification to give the work and lecture of the First Degree. Such certificates shall be sent to the Grand Secretary and filed in his office.

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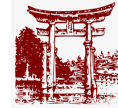
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Preparations For The Upcoming Lodge Elections (continued)

Art. 100c. In case any Lodge shall fail to hold such election at the time above named, upon good cause being shown therefor, the Grand Master may issue a dispensation to hold such election at another time, and in case a vacancy shall at any time occur in either the office of Master or Warden(s) in any Lodge, upon proper presentation of the necessity therefor, the Grand Master may issue a dispensation for an election to fill such vacancy. But, in either of these cases, such dispensation shall be issued only upon the application of the Lodge, setting forth the reasons therefor, to be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at a Stated Meeting, and to be properly certified by the Secretary; and of the special election which may thus be ordered, the members shall have due notice; PROVIDED, however, that in case of the failure of a Lodge to hold its annual election by reason of force majeure or other causes beyond the control of the Lodge, the Grand Master may, in his discretion, waive the fee for a dispensation to hold the annual election at any time as provided in this Chapter (XIV).

ANNOTATION. Notwithstanding the references in Article 100c to the Master and Wardens, no elective officers may be elected and installed at a time other than that specified in Article 100, except by dispensation of the Grand Master. (Jur.Com., 1973, pp54).

In addition to these articles in the Constitution, other stipulations regarding the election of officers are discussed in the General Laws of the Grand Lodge. We will put that in detail in the succeeding pages of this month's gazette.

It is important to remember that no member present and entitled to vote during the election shall be excused from that duty. The positions of the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Secretary are the elected positions and a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect. The rest of the officers of the Lodge is appointed at the will and pleasure of the Worshipful Master. Let us all be ready for the MY 2021 elections during our December SM.

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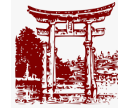
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MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF JAPAN

The Official Trestle Board of The Brethren of Nippon Lodge No. 9, Sasebo, Japan October 30, 2020



Worshipful Master's Corner



Greetings from the East with fraternal embrace! October is passing, and two more months until the new year comes around. With all the restrictions lightening up lately, the threats of the pandemic can drastically affect the changes of everyone under the governance of our military commanders. I can only imagine if we are not a "military Lodge", and what Lodge labors can we do while under the spell of this virus? I will let you picture that.

It was nice to see the Lodge again, and able to meet with the brethren during our OCT Stated Meeting. While we can, I encourage everyone to actively participate and continue to support our Lodge activities not just the monthly Stated Meetings, but the upcoming LOIs in preparation to the degree work that are pending since this pandemic started.

Another IMPORTANT REMINDER that I would like to address to our PETITIONERS and PROGRESSING brethren in the EA and FC degrees is to dedicate some time to engage in our Lodge activities. Your sense of dedication and belonging are the most important attributes that show your sincerity to the Craft as well as the Lodge that you will be holden. I am sure that every brethren has been through this transition and process to be tested on their sincerity to learn how shall we all work under the true tenets of Freemasonry. Moreover, all EAs and FCs may always exhibit these attributes by RE-ENGAGING their times as what we have taught in our EA lecture particularly the 24-in gauge and the common gavel. Through your involvement and fellowship will develop your insight about how Mason work and experience the true meaning of how we best work and best agree. We want to ensure that your progression to the sublime degree of Master Mason is not just memorizing the rituals, but rather practice it while keeping it memory. As before, we did learn that Masonry is a progressive science developing better men not by just belonging in a clique nor being a ritualist who do not keep the good deeds of our Craft in their inner selves nor recognizing the true meaning of their sense of belonging in the inner circle of real Masons. In short, be involved. Communicate. That is the main reason why we do not recruit members.

As we are nearing the end of this year, please keep in mind the upcoming election for our 2021 Lodge officers. We will continue to monitor the requirements of congregating in a group in accordance with the base directives. That dictates the amount of brethren that can be present in our events, and hopefully, it will allow us to accommodate everyone in our December SM.

I would like to remind everyone that we are restrictively sharing our Lodge with our Prince Hall (PH) brothers particularly the brethren of Tomodachi Lodge 111 in the area of Sasebo. We have signed a comprehensive memorandum of understanding to ensure that we are in the strict compliance of maintaining security, solemnity and good housekeeping of our Lodge. Lodge officers will be assigned to be present during the day the our PH brothers will be using our Lodge. Let us give them a warm welcome to the most beautiful Lodge in the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Japan. Agreed!!!

In light of our generosity during every holiday seasons, I need your thoughts and magnanimous support to actually execute a quasi-TOYS-FOR-TOTS charity work with our orphanages and home cares in the area of Sasebo. I did think about this with the consideration of the pandemic situation minding the amount of brethren that will represent us at the presentation of the gifts to those institutions. Let us express our charitable deeds even during this unprecedented time by the spirit of giving. We will discuss this furthermore. Please bring your ideas during the next Stated Meeting.

Keep it ON THE LEVEL and be the strongest advocate of PEACE AND HARMONY! Be well and be safe.

Note: Best regards to our brethren who PCS'ed recently particularly Bro Nate Wade and Bro Orlan Blanco as well as their families.

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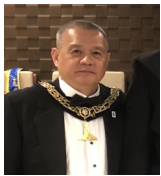


Free and Accepted Masons



MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF JAPAN

The Official Trestle Board of The Brethren of Nippon Lodge No. 9, Sasebo, Japan October 30, 2020



Senior Warden's Corner



WBro Manny Manipula
Past Master NL #9

MASONIC PROBLEMS

Freemasonry, like all other Institutions in this progressive age, is in danger of being caught in the trend of modern times. Due to our great increase in membership in the last few years, we have in our midst men who are disappointed in freemasonry. Possibly we have to some extent been at fault. Too much haste in making members, not enough care in selection, and too little attention paid to qualifications before advancement, have not been in the best interests of the Fraternity. Craftsmen have a tendency to forget that our Fraternity was founded and built in the past, and has been carried down through succeeding generations by certain well-defined usages, customs, regulations, and landmarks. Its principles and tenets so wisely perfected in the dim past, are just as applicable today as in the years gone by, and any attempt to modernize our Institution, to allow it to take an active part in the community work, or in the affairs of religion or State, must necessarily weaken our whole structure.

We are training men, men of character and intelligence, who must of necessity influence public and private affairs. If our Craftsmen carried our tenets and principles into their daily lives, there would be no difficulty in determining our stand in any matters or problems confronting us.

As an Institution, Freemasonry is judged by the outside world by the character of its individual members, by their conduct as men, as members of a community, and as citizens of the State. The danger we have to guard against is that of lowering the bars of our fraternal standard and allowing a large penetration of individuals with neither the training nor inclination along the lines of our ancient landmarks - men who are not first "made Masons in their hearts".

Our duty today is to perpetuate the traditions and ideals of the Craft and hand on our Institution to succeeding generations with a greater conception of Brotherhood.

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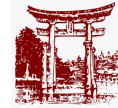
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October 30, 2020



Junior Warden's Corner



Bro. Carl Caluya

Additional Articles of Election

Art. 114. A Lodge shall consist of a Master, a Senior Warden, a Junior Warden, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Chaplain, a Marshal, a Senior Deacon, a Junior Deacon, a Senior Steward, a Junior Steward, a Tiler and such other officers as its By-Laws may provide; together with as many members as it may find convenient. All officers except the Tiler must be members of the Lodge.

Art. 115. The first five officers named in Art. 114 shall be elected by ballot, (by a majority of the votes cast) for 12 months at the regular Stated Meeting preceding the festival of St. John the Evangelist, in the manner provided in Art. 100, 100a through 100d. The officers so elected shall be properly installed as soon as practicable thereafter.

ARTICLE II (Constitution Chap XXXIV—Uniform Code of By-Laws of Constituent Lodges)

Of Elections and Appointments

Section 1. The Master, The Senior and Junior Wardens, the Treasurer and the Secretary, shall be elected by ballot, in conformity with Articles 100, 100a, and 100b of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge. The other officers shall be appointed by the Master, except the Junior Deacon, who may be appointed by the Senior Warden. Any Master Mason in good standing, whether or not a member of the Lodge, may be appointed Tiler.

Section 2. No member shall solicit for himself or for any other member of any Lodge any elective or appointive office in a Lodge, nor shall any electioneering, canvassing or soliciting of votes or support, for any member be allowed. Nomination of candidates for office shall not be made. A violation of this section shall be deemed unmasonic conduct and shall subject the offender to such discipline as the Lodge may determine. This section shall be read in open Lodge by the Master at the Stated Meetings of October, November and December of each year.

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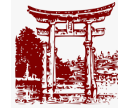
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Treasurer's Corner



HWBro. Bill Cloonan
Hon. Past Master NL#9

The Scottish Rite

The Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite is an appendant body of Freemasonry and is considered entirely optional for Masons to join. The Scottish Rite is technically a concordant body because some of its degrees continue the story of the building of Solomon's Temple that started in the first three lodge degrees. The Scottish Rite regularly confers degrees 4 through 32 on its candidates. Additionally, the Rite also bestows the 33rd degree on certain members. The 33rd degree is an honorary degree for special service.

I have been approached by many Brothers in and out of the lodge asking questions concerning The Scottish Rite. A plethora of questions including, "What is the Scottish Rite", "How do I become a Scottish Rite Mason", "What do the Scottish Rite Mason's Do", "How much more memory work must I do". Many more questions too numerous to mention. I would like to take this opportunity to answer some of these questions to the best of my ability.

What is the Scottish Rite? The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite has been said by many Masonic Scholars that it is above all else an educational institution. Throughout its history it has stood as a beacon on the shores of ignorance. It has instructed its members on the ideals of morality, philosophy, religion and philanthropy which is taught through our ritual and our writings unencumbered by sectarian doctrine. The Scottish Rite has sought, not to teach men the truth, but rather a way to the truth. Each man must find it for himself. The Scottish Rite seeks only to be a guide by teaching the common ground of various philosophical and religious approaches to belief in order that men might be more united in their standards of right and wrong and their understanding of the reality of their God. I like to address the Scottish Rite as the University of Freemasonry.

What do Scottish Rite Mason's do? The Blue Lodges, as we know, are active with Charity work. So too are the Scottish rite Valley's in conducting various forms of Charity and the holding of Charity events. The Supreme Council, 33°, created the Scottish Rite Foundation, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Inc. (Scottish Rite Foundation), to support philanthropic endeavors. Each year, through the Development Office, the Supreme Council seeks donations for the Scottish Rite Foundation's three major programs: RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program (SRCLP), scholarships, and national disaster relief.

The Foundation provides start-up funding for new SRCLP facilities and lends support to operations of existing facilities. We have SRCLP facilities in each state in the Southern Jurisdiction and more are in the planning stages. The Scottish Rite Foundation offers several scholarships for higher education to students seeking a college degree or vocational license. Our scholarship programs encourage the pursuit of higher learning in all categories, including the study of speech pathology and education. The Foundation is also dedicated to helping victims of natural disasters such as fires, floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes. Through the Foundation, the Supreme Council provides direct relief to disaster victims and works with other Masonic groups to provide additional assistance.

How do I become a Scottish Rite Mason? First and foremost you must be a Master Mason and have provided your Mother Lodge with your Proficiency Exam of that degree. You will be required to complete a "petition" just as you did to Join the Blue Lodge and pay a requisite fee. The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Valley of Tokyo, Orient of Japan and Korea holds Conferrals twice per year, in the Spring and again in the Fall. Contact the Worshipful Master of your Lodge and he will direct you to the point of contact in your Lodge to provide you further instructions.

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Treasurer's Corner



HWBro. Bill Cloonan
Hon. Past Master NL#9

The Scottish Rite **(continued...)**

How much more memory work will be required? That is a good question and one that is asked by many Masons. Your actual memory work will depend on how much you wish to contribute and how much time you wish to spend on this journey seeking more light. The conferrals are basically divided into one act plays so to speak. The Conferral will consist of the Fourth Degree through the Thirty-second Degree. A portion of the degrees will be performed as one act plays and a portion of the degrees will be presented to you in a forum type atmosphere. So, to answer the question of memory work...once you have received all of the degrees you may want to become an actor in a future conferral. The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry has a monitor which delineates all of the work required. Some of the monitor requires the person to memorize if he so wishes. This is not always the case.

There are many more questions that Master Masons may have concerning the Scottish Rite. The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in the Valley of Tokyo does something that benefits the Sasebo Community. The Scottish Rite presents an annual Citizenship Award to an NJROTC Candidate from EJ King High School. The recipient receives a medal to be worn on their uniform and a Certificate signed by The Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction and the Deputy Commander.

In closing I would like to say that the symbolism of Freemasonry is open to many viewpoints and, ultimately, the understanding that counts is yours. The apex of our teachings has been the Rituals of our Degrees and Morals and Dogma written by our beloved Sovereign Grand Commander Albert Pike. I encourage all of you to take the time to research many of the rich teachings of The Scottish Rite.



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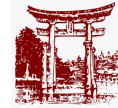
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Secretary's Corner



WB Henry J. Staggs
Past Master NL#9

Important Reminder : [PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES & SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGN FOR THE MAXIMUM COLLECTION OF DUES FOR THE INCOMING MASONIC YEAR 2021. For those who have not paid for this year, you can still send your payment to the Lodge or by bank transfer to our NFCU account.](#)

While I am still working on the personal contact information of all our Lodge members, please feel free to inform me if you know of any brethren that we need to include in our Lodge correspondence. Let us support the Lodge by campaigning for the maximum dues collection. This pandemic significantly improved our opportunities to generate extra funds through our fundraising events. We will double our efforts as soon as the first opportunity knocks to do so.

We are still waiting on the arrival of the MY 2021 Dues cards from the GL. As soon as it arrives, we will expeditiously mail it to all the brethren who paid their dues for next year. You can always send or remit your dues to us by using the bank info provided by our website. For any inquiries you can always contact me or our Treasurer for further details.

Please be reminded that our new official Lodge email address is:

[**nipponlodge9sasebo@gmail.com**](mailto:nipponlodge9sasebo@gmail.com)

You can send any inquiries or matters concerning your membership as well as any correspondence you want the Lodge to address. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

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The Official Trestle Board of The Brethren of Nippon Lodge No. 9, Sasebo, Japan October 30, 2020



Points of Contact:

WEB: www.nipponlodge9.com

FB: NL9 Officers and Members

Nippon::9 (Non-Tiled)

EMAIL:

nipponlodge9sasebo@gmail.com

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 |
| Interim Secretary | WB Henry Staggs (PM Nippon Lodge #9) |
| 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 <i>(PCS'ed)</i> |
| Junior Steward | Bro. Hero Jambalos |
| Tiler | Bro. Orlan Blanco <i>(PCS'ed)</i> |

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