

MONTANA SUPPLEMENT



Editor: Daniel E Koch Jr. REPGC
dkoch911@yahoo.com, 406-861-9946

Pulled this one from the old stacks of 2015.

I would like to talk about something very near and dear to my heart and that is Freemasonry, more specifically my Brothers! Some of you may recognize the following discussion from some of my other writings so this will be a refresher course, for those reading this for the first time, I hope you find it informative and insightful and not at all boring. So here we go!

I am wondering if a Brother Mason approached you right now and asked about the current welfare of a non-active Mason, would you be able to answer them? If not, why not? He's your Brother and you should know how your Brother is doing. If you can answer the question, then we have to ask "why is he still not active" Health and distance reasons aside, if you have contact with that non-active Brother why have you not returned that Brother to Lodge? He is your Brother and he needs to be spending time with his Brothers! We need to remember that we are not Brothers two or three times a month. We are a family and family is not part time. Below is a snippet of another piece I wrote awhile back and is as follows:

You all know the technical definition of a Mason or at least some variation thereof but to me, a Mason is also a Father, Son, Brother, Uncle, Nephew, Mentor, Friend and Family. A Mason is someone you want to know and who wants to know you, someone you want to be seen with and who wants to be seen with you, someone you want to go places with and they with you. A Mason is someone who is as quick to teach as you are to learn.

A Mason is someone who is just as quick to forgive you and as you are to forgive them. A Mason is someone you can trust your life, your secrets and your family with. A Mason knows Masonry is not a hobby or something to do twice a month, he knows Masonry is a way of life and always lives his life as such and expects the same of you. A Mason shows genuine interest in the health and well being of a Brother AND his family knowing that the Brothers family is a part of his own. Too often we see our brothers treating Masonry as a hobby but before you judge them; ask yourself, are they thinking the same thing about you?

With all of that said, I am ashamed to say that at times I talk the talk but I fail to walk the walk! I honestly do try to stay up on my brothers and their family wherever they may be, but all too often, I only find out about their struggles or even a death by word of mouth or the newspaper. That to me is unacceptable, we stay in touch with our paternal families, why not our fraternal families? I try to make excuses like "I have a full time job and a family at home so I don't have time!" well so does most everyone else. I/we cannot continue with the mindset that someone else is going to talk with or check in with that Brother or his family. If everyone thinks someone will do it, then no one will do it and that brother and his family gets lost.

There have been a lot of writings about how to get and keep new Masons, assign them a mentor to work with them so they don't lose interest and things like that, But what about our older Masons, not only older in time spent on Earth, but in regards to time spent in Masonry what are doing to keep them in the family? Honestly I do not have an answer for how I/we can correct this problem but I can promise that I, with the assistance and input from you all, will figure out a possible solution and get that solution into motion over the next year or so, I think it is time for a family reunion!

Respectfully submitted: Dan Koch Jr. PM, REPGC