

DID YOU KNOW?

March 30, 2009

Brothers once again we have been told, if you listen carefully, that our Constitution only applies to the Craft and not to MWGM Charles E. Tyner.

We learned that he may have received at least seven applications for a Special Communication as required by Article IV, Sections 5 and 6 of the Constitution. The application asked that the Special Communication be convened on Saturday, July 11, 2009, 5:00 pm, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Burlingame, CA. The Grand Master had announced before receiving any applications signed by the Masters of at least seven chartered lodges that he was not going to call a Special Communication. This is another example of the Grand Master's deliberate violation our Masonic Constitution. Because there has not been a loud outcry at his actions obviously has contributed to his belief that he can operate above the law with impunity and is not accountable to grand lodge. This happens when past masters tell their membership that we should stay out of this because we must not interfere with the Grand Master's prerogatives to make decisions and take actions that he thinks are appropriate.

Nevertheless, we know more Masters would have signed the application had they not been threatened about having their lodge charter lifted/arrested. When a Master/lodge is exercising its constitutional rights, and is not in violation of article XIX there is no legal means for the Grand Master to arrest a charter. But we know that this Grand Master does not need legal or Masonic authority when he is determined not to follow our Constitution nor hear the appeals from the Craft.

Another example is his conniving attempt to have RWSGW Tommie E. Phillips elected to the office of Grand Master outside of the traditional manner and process for advancing officers through the line. Grand Master Tyner is thumbing his nose at our constitution and he exhibits a desire to suffer the same fate experienced by PGM Robert J. Fletcher #2 (known by some as the fraternal Boogie man) who at one time was suspended, and later expelled for un-Masonic conduct. Charges were presented and a trial conducted proving PGM Fletcher violated the principles of the order and the written laws of our constitution. He was found guilty. Brothers, the un-Masonic acts in the late 1800's, and finally in 1909, without a doubt are being duplicated today as reflected in the actions of Grand Master Tyner when he **tells** Brothers and Sisters he is not going to follow our constitutional laws and at times even put it in **writing**. Do the individual Masonic rights of Brothers mean anything to you? Or, do you have a personal agenda of pay back, for whatever the reason. Because of the Grand Master's divide and conquer leadership some brothers that have been friends for years are now no longer friends. Those of you that profess to be Christians, and are ministers and deacons know two wrongs do not make a right, so where is your brotherly love and justice? I would hate to think that we do not have an organization of upright men.

Brothers, be aware that the members of the grand lodge are the Supreme Masonic authority in this jurisdiction. Therefore we must realize that it is time for us to exercise that authority. In case you have not noticed, the Grand Master is exercising extremely inept judgment and apparently has no desire to demonstrate the values inherent in freemasonry and his responsibilities as grand master. His demented attitude demonstrates that he will not comply with the obligations he took, or justly perform the constitutional duties of his office. He conducts himself as though the constitutional requirements are for the Craft and not for the grand master. Our Masonic constitution does not allow that exception. Our Constitution, which is the written law, supersedes any unwritten or made up laws. It also prohibits actions that are contrived to deceive the craft. That only happens when you do not read and it allows Brothers who are intent on keeping a purple apron, and who lack common sense, to blindly condone the actions of Grand Master Tyner. Some say Brothers will be asked to sign/vote on a Resolution supporting all his violations of the Constitution, as well as condone the waste of Grand Lodge money on two or three lawsuits. However, on July 16th he will no longer be able to waste **our** tax dollars, on frivolous lawsuits. And the Grand Master should know that spending his **own** dollars for lawsuits is not a cost effective approach. But, by lifting the suspensions on 10 or 11 Brothers before Grand Lodge everyone gains something on the magnanimous action of the Grand Master.

As we review and discuss this deplorable situation, there are several questions that are reasonable for us to ask as men and masons, they are as follows:

What must we do? ***It's time to stop*** being passive about the Grand Master's abuses of our constitution and his dictatorial actions towards the Brothers and Sisters of this jurisdiction.

What must we do? ***It's time to stop*** acting and verbalizing that the issues wreaking havoc within our Jurisdiction are issues between the suspended Brothers and the Grand Master and that it is none of the business of the membership. If you are a member of this grand lodge, it is your business. Get involved by having your Worshipful Master sign the application for a special communication.

What must we do? ***It's time to stop*** the wrongdoings committed by the Grand Master and his cohorts. Exercise your rights by demanding that he call for the Special Communication.

What must we do? ***It's time to stop*** saying there is nothing we can do. And that the brothers who have been suspended or expelled must have done something wrong. the statements made by the grand master that he will present information to the Grand Lodge which will support the suspensions and expulsions is a violation of his obligations and duty to the Craft. No charges or specifications have been filed by the Grand Master regarding any allegations of un-Masonic conduct or other actions such as contumacy for which the Brothers were suspended or expelled. Obviously no trials have taken place as required by the constitution. *We know the Grievance and Appeals Committee will be overwhelmed, more especially since they are not making determinations based on trials having taken place.*

In the society that we live in, or even in masonry, you are innocent until proven guilty. The Grand Master changed that creed to "you are guilty until proven innocent", and has taken away the accused ability to masonically and legally respond to the allegations. When Brothers are suspended until a certain date, in most cases until July 16th without charges, where is the opportunity for suspended or expelled brothers to respond, since the Grand Lodge session will be closed on July 15th?

What must we do? ***It's time to stop*** saying the Grand Master will be out of office after July 15, 2009, so it does not matter what he does. Brothers it matters because if he is allowed to get away with his abuse of the Constitution, precedence will be established that would allow succeeding elected Grand Lodge Officers to behave in the same manner without repercussion.

What must we do? For some ***it's time to stop*** saying the Grand Master is right, for others it's time to step up and be men and masons. It's known that we are intelligent men capable of thinking objectively without being fearful and that we will no longer tolerate vindictive wrongdoings by the Grand Master.

What must we do? ***It's time to*** remember that no later than July 11, 2009, members of Grand Lodge must become a part of the solution and not continue to turn our heads, and by default, support the violations of the constitution by remaining silent or by vocally supporting the Grand Master's unlawful actions. The disgraceful conduct of Grand Master Charles E. Tyner is already talked about in other jurisdictions; his actions since becoming grand master have made a mockery of Prince Hall Freemasonry in the California jurisdiction and have caused wonderment and derision among Prince Hall organizations everywhere around the country.

To further illustrate our shortcomings, in May 2009, California will host the Conference of Grand Master's in Los Angeles, and Grand Master Tyner's guest will leave shaking their heads in disbelief of the mockery this jurisdiction has made of Prince Hall Masonry. In this Jurisdiction Prince Hall Masonry under the leadership MWGM Charles E. Tyner has sunk to its lowest ebb. The divide and conquer tactics he has used smacks of politics, hatred, and abuse of power. Such as, the public statements made by the Grand Master at the recent Commander's of the Rite meeting, about not calling for the Grand Lodge Special Communication even if he received the seven applications. At a meeting where many master masons did not realize that they were in the college of masonry, and they are apparently uninformed about an individual Brother's Masonic rights, because they reacted as though they were part of an amen corner for wrongdoing. These Brothers are so self-righteous and holy that they do not care or know when moral laws, and/or written constitutional laws are not followed.

What must we do? ***It's time to*** call or send letters to the Grand Master requesting that he restore all of the suspended master masons or have a hearing before Grand Lodge takes place. Should he continue to deny the request, such as, refusing in a written response; or not answering your letter or calling you, then you will have proof that he does not want the ***truth to be known before the Grand Lodge session starts on Monday July 13th***. ***If you fail in your quest, the grand master will use another grievance and appeals committee that lacks sufficient Masonic knowledge to serve objectively on the committee. Two committees in the past two years have demonstrated that they did not understand their duties. Their duties were to fact find, investigate, interview the accused, validate whether our laws had been violated, and not spend their time justifying the Grand Master's actions, and helping him circumvent the constitution. Or spend time reviewing fictitious evidence, which was not previously presented to the accused, but which was provided by the Grand Master to the committee to support his position. The odds are if you let the grand master get away with another scheming plan, the results will surely deprive our brothers of the all important principle of justice, which requires us to render decisions that are equitable, that bears common sense, and administers compassion. The accused have not been provided with any charges, specifications, or a Masonic trial, so where is the justice?***

Will the Grand Master suspend more Brothers to prevent the Craft from being made aware of the ***truth***? Do we want to continue this? Brothers if you continue to do nothing, you will never learn whether the suspension or expulsion of our Brothers has been contrived by making meaningless allegations to support the Grand Master's plan to keep certain Brothers out of Grand Lodge which would allow him to run his end-game to have the Craft elect a person who was illegally appointed as DGM. At this time, several legitimate potential candidates for election to the office of Grand Master have been suspended without having received due process and are being kept out of Grand Lodge illegally. Failing to encourage your Worshipful Master to sign the application for a Special Communication encourages the Grand Master to continue his unlawful and un-Masonic actions. It's the right thing to do even though we know the Grand Master will not call for the Special Communication. Brothers, ***it's time to stop*** the deception and confusion among the Craft? ***Where is BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, TRUTH, AND JUSTICE?***