

Lodge of Research Historical Presentation For the 2014 Festive Board

Ladies and Gentlemen, Masonic Brethren, I am Brian Higgins, Secretary of the Nevada Lodge of Research #2.

The Nevada Masonic Code provides for the formation of Lodges of Research. On June 7, 1978, dispensation was granted to start a new Lodge of Research by Eugene S. Gates, then Grand Master of Masons in Nevada. The visitor register of the Lodge does not record a date of the first meeting while under dispensation, but as the Bylaws specify meetings shall be "on the third Sunday of the month," we may suppose that that first meeting was Sunday, June 18, 1978.

Lodge of Research #2 has five Stated Meetings a year. The next page of the register is dated September 17, 1978. It is notable that the heading of the register pages for the September and December meetings carefully specify "U.D." -under dispensation. The Nevada Masonic Code says, "A charter may be issued to a Lodge of Research after approval by the Grand Lodge at an Annual Communication." The petition for charter was granted at Grand Session, 1978, and the visitor register gives the name of the Lodge as *Research #2*, for the first time in January of 1979.

At the first meeting, back in June of 1978, 43 Master Masons, plus the three principle officers, signed the register. The principle officers were Ovid Moore, Worshipful Master, G. William Casteel, Senior Warden, and Merrit S. "Bud" Jones, Junior Warden. Ovid Moore would become Grand Master of Masons in Nevada in 1987. When he was elected worshipful Master of Lodge of Research #2 he was already a Past Master, having been Worshipful Master of Oasis Lodge #41, in 1970.

Most Worshipful Moore tells an amusing story about how he was elected without being present, the reason being that the Bobo Room was under construction at that time, and he had to attend to that work. Most Worshipful Moore is the longest active member of Lodge of Research #2. He is currently the Treasurer. Other Worshipful Masters have included Harry Christopher, 1985; John Harney, 1988; Mike Kandt, 2003; Ron Orr, Sr., 2004; John Benson, 2005; Joel Berg, 2006; Gary Rosenthal, 2007 & 2008.

The repeat by the last named as Worshipful Master suggests that something interrupted the normal advancement of the elected officers that year. Admittedly, Lodge of Research #2 must implore members to accept office, most of whom have already given so much to Freemasonry in their Masonic careers. I count only 56 original petitions in the 36 year history of the Lodge.

As a matter of fact it is a small lodge, probably the smallest in this area. But, as I discovered when I was called to sit in the East, small has charm. Everybody present at our meetings feels needed. There are no conversations on the side. Every word of the proceedings is heard and followed with interest. Everyone gets a chance to speak before the meeting ends.

Planning is on-going to fulfill the purpose of Research Lodge, which, as stated in the Nevada Masonic Code, is to:

- (a) Promote within its own membership Masonic study and historical research.
 - (b) Present findings and conclusions to the Lodge for discussion and interchange of judgment.
 - (c) Publish at convenient intervals, proceedings or transactions containing such portions of addresses and discussions in Lodge as may be proper and desirable to print.
 - (d) Publish new Masonic books of outstanding merit.
 - (e) Reproduce and print Masonic documents of historical importance.
 - (f) Reprint scarce Masonic books and pamphlets.
 - (g) Open and close its Lodge in the Third Degree, provided its meeting is held in a Lodge room approved as safe and suitable.
- [and]
- (h) Have such rights and authority as may be necessary to carry out such work.

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen, and Masonic Brethren.