

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NEWLY RAISED MASTER MASON



Now that you have taken your Third Degree, what next? There is, of course, proving yourself in the third degree, but there is much more that you can now do in Masonry. The world has just opened up fully to you.

Here are just some opportunities:

Produced by the Lodge Resources Committee of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario to assist newly raised Master Masons in their journey.

A printer friendly version is also available.

Ritual



You have just proved your ability to learn the Work and deliver it on the floor. Why not take a part in the ritual? Ask the Worshipful Master for a part to start learning. Of course there is someone else who did that part for your degree, but a back-up is always useful in case he is sick. Besides, if you learn it, he can move on to a more complex piece and everyone becomes more knowledgeable.

Lodge Rehearsals

Even if you don't have an assigned part, come out to the rehearsals. Rehearsals are informal and there is no pressure. There is often a need for someone to act as the candidate for the rehearsal, and perhaps a Deacon or Steward will be absent so they'll let you step into his part. If you're just filling in for someone at a rehearsal, they'll even let you read out of the book!

Committee of General Purposes

Come out to the "business" meeting of your lodge and learn what is going on and how to get involved.

Taking a chair

Becoming an officer in your lodge is a step you may or may not want to take right now. It should be considered a long-term commitment since it usually leads to the Master's Chair eventually. It is certainly a rewarding experience but your situation in life will dictate if you should do this now or later. However there are many ways one can participate in the work of the lodge without necessarily being an officer.



Lodge steward

The Stewards (with capitals) are official officers, but small-s stewards are Masons who regularly help with the festive board or meal. If a large sit-down meal is planned, the Junior Warden may need a number of people to help. Even if the meal is small, many hands will make the clean-up more pleasant. Ask your Junior Warden if you can help.

Greeters

In some lodges everyone just naturally makes sure that all are welcomed at the door. Sometimes a little organization is needed to make sure nobody is inadvertently left standing alone. See if there is a Greeters committee (or just take this on yourself.) What better way to get to know your new brothers?



Lodge Transportation

In every lodge there are often Masons who because of age, infirmity, or finances are unable to drive themselves to meetings. They would be most appreciative of the offer of a ride to lodge.



And it gives you a chance to get to know your brother better. There may be a chairman for this activity. If you have a suitable vehicle, let him know your interest.

Social Committee

Who plans and arranges those banquets, outings and gatherings?
Offer your assistance.



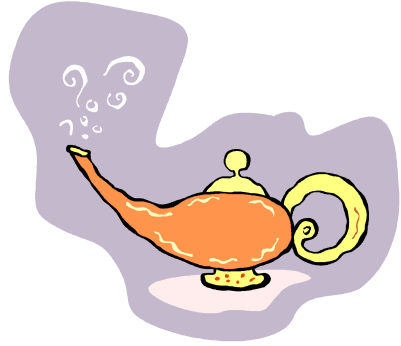
Proposition of toasts

At each festive board a number of toasts are given. Some, like the toast to the Queen and the Craft, are short and proscribed, some require some advance preparation, and some are responsive to what has just happened. Only one, the Junior Warden's Toast, must be done by an officer. Ask your Worshipful Master if you can do a toast at the festive board.

Masonic Education Lectures

Most lodges have some Masonic Education at each meeting. It may just be a short 5 minute piece. *Reflections, the Newsletter of the Committee on Masonic Education* has such pieces for use in lodge. You could read one out to the brethren. Check it out on the Grand Lodge Website. Or if you are so inclined, research and write one yourself and ask your W.

Master to look it over for suitability. Then *you* could send it in to *Reflections*!



Lodges of Discussion

Talking about the Craft is one of the best ways to encourage active participation in lodge, to keep meetings vibrant and to promote the purest aims of the Order; the philosophical and spiritual development of Man.

Holding a Lodge of Discussion requires only three things:

1. One moderator
2. Two or three willing participants (plants or starters)
3. An idea

If a Worshipful Master is willing to try out a Lodge of Discussion, the rest of the items will fall quite easily into place. Information on running one is available on the Grand Lodge website.

Visits to other lodges

Seeing how other lodges do their work is a most valuable experience. You have probably already been taken to several local lodges by your mentor. You may now consider travelling farther afield. If you are travelling on your own and don't know any Masons in the lodge you are visiting you will be asked to produce your dues card and to undergo a Board of Trial. This will not be difficult for you, but ask your mentor to familiarize you with the details. Visiting in other jurisdictions is tremendously rewarding but is a little more involved due to recognition, documentation and protocol. Ask your Secretary about this.



Discussing Masonry with others and Sponsoring Candidates

When people know you are a Mason, they will ask you about it. Do you know what you might say? Of course, it will depend on the person and the circumstances, how well you know them and much time you have. But you should reflect on this so you can give a meaningful answer. Grand Lodge has several pamphlets on discussing Freemasonry with others. Some are on the website.

As a Master Mason you, along with one other brother, are able to sponsor a candidate into your own lodge. If a man asks you and you feel he would be suitable, talk to your lodge secretary to obtain an application form.

District

Your district has many projects and programs to get involved with. Because each district is unique it is hard to detail what may be available, but they may include newsletters and websites, banquets and dances, blood donor clinics, golf tournaments, MasoniChip clinics, and other events for which your help would be appreciated.



Grand Lodge

Grand Lodge charters and guides Masonic lodges within Ontario and provides important services, resources and unity to lodges and members.

The Vision of Grand Lodge is to ensure the timeless vitality of Freemasonry in Ontario. They maintain a website, www.grandlodge.on.ca, which details the many resources which you can access.



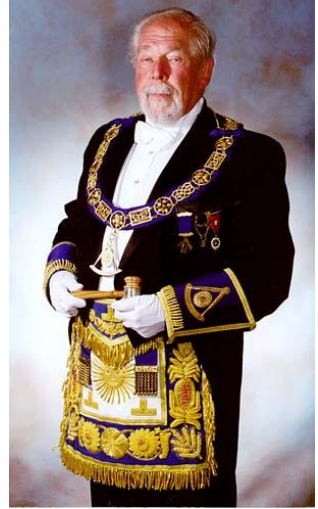
Annual Communication

Every year, on the third week of July, all the members of Grand Lodge meet in Toronto. Apart from the formal business of the delegates, there is ample opportunity for new Master Masons to meet brethren from across the province, attend educational seminars and socialize. Be sure to bring your apron so you can attend the tyled sessions as well.

Lodges of Instruction

Lodges of Instruction are regularly held throughout the province. As MW Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels has said:

The aim and object of the Lodge of Instruction under the direction of the Custodian of the Work was stated by the first Grand Master, W. Bro. William Mercer Wilson in 1867: "an admirable exemplification of correct working."



The Ritual is the vehicle through which we convey the essence of Freemasonry to our initiates. It embodies the profound meaning of our ancient mysteries, our inheritance to pass on to future generations. It is Ritual that defines our Order and distinguishes it from every other society.

From its inception in 1855, the Grand Lodge of Canada has considered the Ritual to be of the utmost importance. Mercer Wilson cautioned: "A system which has come down to us from our ancient brethren, hallowed, mellowed, and approved by our fathers in the mystic art, is not to be rashly interfered or tampered with."

I encourage and strongly recommend that the Worshipful Masters, the Officers of the Lodges and all Master Masons attend the Lodge of Instruction to observe and learn the correct usage and custom in the performance of the work. It is one thing to memorize the Ritual - it is another to "learn it by heart."

The Grand Lodge Library

The Grand Lodge Library is located on the second floor of the Grand Lodge Memorial Building 363 King Street West, Hamilton Ontario. There is a great wealth of Masonic literature available to brethren including all of the valued and authoritative writings of past Masonic historians and researchers. But the library does not deal only with the past; modern writers are not overlooked and new books are constantly being purchased and added to the shelves. The Library is a collection of books, pamphlets, etc., arranged to facilitate reference and to enrich the reader's knowledge. The material contained in the library reflects the views and opinions of the various authors and thus may not always be in harmony with those of your Grand Lodge. As one's knowledge is enriched, one must also recognize the autonomy of each Masonic Jurisdiction.

The Library is open to all Masonic researchers and by volunteer librarians who will assist you in your researches. The use of the Library is not limited to brethren within travelling distance. Through their excellent mailing service, circulating books and tapes are available to brethren throughout the jurisdiction. Requests by mail will be processed accordingly, with the borrower subscribing to and agreeing to pay the return mail costs. Request forms are available from your Lodge Secretary.



There is also an extensive collection of Masonic books and papers at the Brock University library. It was donated by Dr. Charles A. Sankey and is maintained by a grant from Heritage Lodge. It is available to Masons and scholars alike, and will form the backbone on which to build a centre to encourage research into the significant impact fraternalism in general and Freemasonry in particular have made on our society here in Canada and throughout the world.



College of Freemasonry

The Introduction for Master Masons program is a survey course designed to orient you to the history, application, organization and function of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. The successful graduate is acknowledged by the Grand Master as a *Fellow of the College of Freemasonry* and is encouraged to use the appellation FCF.

As a survey program, you will learn about the structure and relationship of lodges, districts and Grand Lodge. You will study our history and improve your own leadership skills. Completion of all sectors will bring the student to the brink of further research such as the esoteric and occult roots of Freemasonry.

Sec. 1 Masonry At Work

- Orients the student to various projects undertaken within the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario; a sampler not meant to be exhaustive but focuses on work that defines the depth and breadth of ideas put into action.

Sec. 2 History & Origin

- An introduction to popular interpretations of historic references that probe the surface of a very deep pool of fact and opinion.

Sec. 3 Administration & Organization

- Through this section, the organizational character and governance of lodges and The Grand Lodge provides key information and

understanding about the systematic approach which enables Freemasonry to achieve great things on a large scale.

Sec. 4 Preparation for Leadership

- Effective leadership requires insight, humility and an understanding of a leader's service to the people who follow him. He knows the value of communication, of motivation and team building. Being unlike any other organization, leading a group of equals who are motivated by principles is an exciting challenge.

More information is available through the Grand Lodge website.



Heritage Lodge No. 730

Our Historical Lodge was formed in 1977 to preserve our heritage by providing a focus to collect artifacts and stories of historical significance. Following a careful analysis of the failure of similar Masonic research organizations it became obvious that an enduring type of organizational structure was needed to provide continuity and permanence. What better choice than the basic structure of the Craft Lodge, which have endured vagaries of time for centuries? Heritage Lodge has engaged in several endeavours:

- presentation of talks and lectures which result in the publication of research papers,
- support of our Grand Lodge library and Archives,
- digitalization of the Proceedings of Grand Lodge, and
- sponsorship of the Sankey collection at Brock University.

Appendant Bodies

There is no higher degree in Freemasonry than that of Master Mason. Now that you have achieved that status you can broaden your Masonic horizons by participation in other branches of the Masonic Family.

Scottish Rite Freemasonry

- delves further into Masonic teachings and is meant to provide more insight into living a more meaningful way of life for a Master Mason.

York Rite Freemasonry

- gives an elaboration on the teaching of the Masonic Lodge. It is divided into several bodies. In the Holy Royal Arch of Jerusalem is found the essentials of symbolism for a Master Mason to understand that which he has received. The mission of the Knights Templar is to enhance the Masonic virtues of faith, hope and charity, adding the chivalric principles of the Crusades of honour, duty and courage.

Shriners

- are known for their colourful parades and clowns. But for over 85 years the Shrine has operated a network of specialized hospitals that treat children with orthopaedic problems, burns, spinal cord injuries, cleft palate and cleft lip at no cost to them.

Changes in Life Circumstances

If you move to another place, you may want to find a lodge there to attend. The Grand Lodge website lists all the lodges in the province and has links to the Grand Lodges in other areas that we recognize. You may visit a lodge first, and if you would like, apply to join one. This is called affiliation. We do not transfer your



membership; you affiliate and if you wish you may resign from your mother lodge. We call it a demit, but most brethren maintain membership in the lodge in which they were raised, if for no other than sentimental reasons. If you move away and don't tell your lodge where you are, they will eventually have to suspend your membership for non-payment of dues.

If you run into financial difficulties and need assistance, whether to pay your dues, or for a more substantial issue, please talk to your Worshipful Master or Secretary. The Fraternity maintains funds to help out a brother in need. If it is not a financial issue, your brethren are still there to help you. Just let us know.

You may have already attended a Masonic funeral service. It is not a substitute for the services of your faith community and funeral director, but it is a chance for your brethren to gather to pay their last respects. Let your family know that they need only contact your Secretary to arrange this if they wish to have one. And remember if your widow or children ever need assistance, it is only a phone call away.

Where to direct questions

The Worshipful Master and Secretary of your lodge are the obvious first persons to ask, but much information can be found on the Grand Lodge website: <http://www.grandlodge.on.ca> or from the Grand Lodge Office:

363 Queen Street West
Hamilton, L8P 1B4
(905) 528-8644



Receiving your Third Degree is only the start of a lifetime of learning, fellowship and service. Good luck on your journey, my brother.