



Education Monthly

March 2012

R.W.Bro. John Forster, Chairman of Masonic Education

I often hear that it is difficult to fit education into a lodge schedule, especially if the lodge has a lot of degree work to do. There is a demonstrated need and demand for more educational activity. Survey after survey, in many jurisdictions show this. W.Bro Wlad Kinastoski has written a short article (in his Lodge summons), which gives some good advice. It has been edited for a wider readership. John Forster, Chairman on Masonic Education

Reflections from the Master's Chair: W. Bro. Wladyslaw Kinastowski, W.M., St Andrews lodge 560

Brethren

Our lodge held a Lodge of Discussion last month. A brother asked why we don't have more open discussions during regular meetings on aspects of the ritual. Such a discussion can foster education and learning among members about the Craft. I've learned this year that it's difficult to fit in an interactive discussion after a degree, especially when brethren wish to experience some fellowship and get home at a reasonable hour.

That being said there are many ways to provide Masonic education. The first place to start is the library in the lodge building where there are many books available on Masonry. Masonic books can also be found in the public library, but also in the private libraries of the District, the Ottawa Masonic Centre and among the brethren in the Lodge. The web is also a great storehouse of e-books which are out of copyright, and available for download. E-Newsletters are now available from the Grand Lodge website, District and from the Grand Lodge Committee on Education. It's also a good idea to look at the websites of other Grand Lodges (try Nova Scotia, BC & Yukon, Pennsylvania or Massachusetts). If you're interested, or don't know where to start, ask a brother. I am sure you will get some good recommended

readings. There is also the College of Freemasonry that offers correspondence courses. Your lodge summons is also a source of information.

However, if you are looking for more interactive forms of education, formal and informal gatherings may be the way to go. Dedicated meetings, such as our recent emergent, that discuss a theme are one avenue. Another is to have a short presentation on a specific topic within a degree, which is given following the degree. While the presentation provides a brother's point of view, it can serve as a catalyst for further discussion and/or research by brethren after the lodge meeting. Another is visiting other lodges, especially on DD Nights. The DD always provides an insight into a different aspect of Masonry, and his lectures can serve as a focal point for further reflection/discussion. Attending a Study Circle that meets quarterly, and which mixes fellowship with education, is yet another option. If your lodge or district doesn't have one why not start one? It's not difficult.

In short, there are options available to brethren who wish to further their Masonic knowledge. All any one of us has to do is show interest, and many brethren will be available to support you.

Conference on Masonic Education, Ottawa, June 2, 2012

Planning for this conference is well advanced. We have not yet finalized the keynote and dinner speakers but they will be well worth hearing. The day is for MASONS ONLY but if we get sufficient interest a ladies' program will be arranged. The format will be an initial plenary with a distinguished Masonic speaker, eight morning seminars each repeated once (participants will choose 4) and a wrap up plenary with conclusions from each group. There will be a non-Masonic speaker at the dinner following our last session. It is expected that the event will be over in time for personal activities with family if present. The themes of the conference are **Education, Communication and Philosophy**. A registration form is attached and also a "Call for Papers". As registration is limited to 150 please submit your form as soon as possible.

REGISTRATION FORM

MASONIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE
 THEME: EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION AND PHILOSOPHY
 OTTAWA MASONIC CENTRE, 2140 WALKLEY ROAD, OTTAWA
 SATURDAY, JUNE 2ND, 2012

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

Lodge _____

Do you wish there to be a ladies program independent of the conference? Yes/No?	
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CONFERENCE HOTEL SPECIAL TO BE ANNOUNCED

Conference fee only **\$75.00**. (Includes lunch and dinner – Conference Attendees Only).
 The dinner will be a Smorgasbord: Vegetarian dishes will be included.

Please send your Application Form and Cheque payable to
 the “**Masonic Education Conference**” to :

Mr. Wayne Keech, 195 Barrow Cres. Kanata ON K2L 2K9
 (Note: attendance will be limited to 150. Register early!)

Call for papers!

Please submit an abstract of 100 words or less of your proposed talk. Of the abstracts submitted 8 will be chosen for the conference and given in two (2) sessions each of one hour and consisting of the delivery of the paper followed by questions and discussion. The 8 papers will be published in their entirety in the conference proceedings as well as ALL abstracts submitted. The proceedings will be published electronically after the conference. Each attendee will receive a memory stick with the proceedings and other Masonic education pieces. Proceedings will also be available on-line.

Please send your abstract by post or email to: **Dr. J.M. Forster, 79 Birchbank Cres., Kanata, ON., K2M 2J9**

Or by e-mail to: forster.john@me.com

If you received this Bulletin by email, please pass it on to as many of your brethren as you are able

Committee on Masonic Education

79 Birchbank Cres. Kanata, ON., K2M 2J9