

B 2 B FaciliFacts

Presented by the Brother 2 Brother Team of Grand Lodge

DECEMBER 2007



B 2 B Team of Grand Lodge

Wishes You & Yours A

Merry Christmas



Happy New Year Year

“Now it’s your turn !”

From The Editor ...

Some of you took up our challenge to offer your opinion on the issue of Masonic “CHANGE.” What follows are excerpts from the various messages the B2B FACILIFACTS received on the topic.

We continue to encourage your participation on the subject, however it is important to remember that comments will only be published that are relevant to the topic of “CHANGE.”

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN
RESPONSES 2

JURISDICTION
NEWS 3

LODGE ACTIVITIES AT A
GLANCE 4

To get more information about the B2B program

or

To receive a copy of the publication known as the B2B FACILIFACTS

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“Now it’s your turn !”

modernizing Masonry

Excerpts from comments made by Dewey H. Wollstein, PGM, Minnesota

The statement is often voiced: "We must modernize Masonry." If any importance can be attached to such statement, it must be that Masonry has not been properly interpreted. Masonry is a way of life. What Masonry offers to the Mason of today is as necessary and worthwhile as it was to Masons of a hundred years ago. What part of it can be eliminated without losing something of lasting value? The question should really be, what could I put back into it that will make it a more progressive system? The modernization of Masonry must take place within the individual Mason. There are no hidebound restrictions. It is through the faithful performance of our duties as Masons, that we gain a better understanding of our Institution and develop a New Appreciation for this great fraternity.

From Prince Edward District ... “Change is very important and necessary in order to remain relevant to our members and potential petitioners. In years past the success of Freemasonry was due, in part, to the leadership and involvement of Masons in the construction of halls, rinks; serving on municipal councils, committees; fundraising for hospital buildings; sponsorship of community 'premier' **social events**. Even simple gestures as shoveling snow from a senior or Adopting-A-Highway clean-up program or a lodge family picnic day or create a coffee club for members, spouses, friends and neighbours gave us a high profile in the community. Yes, changes **are** necessary. It is important that we tell people who we are and **what we do for the communities in which we live**. It is time for Masons to again look outside the lodge and find important community projects and social events with which to become involved. These activities can have a significant influence on retaining and increasing membership. The ritual and mechanics of *The Work* in lodge reinforces our basic teachings of improving the character of its members. However, the ritual and mechanics do not grow the fraternity because they are invisible to the community at large and particularly to the good men whom we wish to attract. These men have a desire to become involved in community endeavours and to be proud to belong to an organization committed to making a difference.”

From Sudbury Manitoulin ... “It is my understanding that in the past couple of years we have found it necessary to change the name of our beloved Masonic Temples to Masonic Halls or Centres. It concerns me that such a change was made, as it seems by doing so we ignore some of the wording and lectures in the First Degree - our lodges being on Holy Ground etc.. Our order is based on tradition and provides to us a very solid foundation from which to work. I personally embrace change, but making change for the sake of change may send the wrong message to some.”

“Working Together Brother 2 Brother, We Can Make A Difference!”



“Now it’s your turn !”

From Georgian North ... “Whilst Masonry is and hopefully always will be a very worth while fraternity, the original interest comes when you are initiated and subsequently passed and raised. It is all very new and the experience of the degrees is a challenge. When, if you are lucky, you get asked to contribute by doing some small part of the ritual, you are still keen to learn. In time you may progress to the East and all of the challenges that presents. After you have gone through this experience it can become somewhat boring. Masonic Education is a fine alternative, but it is not the panacea of all ailments to put things right in the craft, because it too can get boring when seen many times. *In short the members need a reason to come to lodge after the initial interest has waned.*”

I can remember when I was a Master Mason in the UK; after every meeting there was a meal and the banquet room was set up with a head table and others formed in the shape of an “E”. This gave the members and their guests an opportunity to socialize. There were speeches and a certain amount of rowdiness, joking etc, right up until the Master used the Gavel. There was always a toast to the visitors and one of their number would be asked to respond. This meal and fellowship was a draw for the members and a highlight of the month because you could attend and then relax among friends and come away having had a good time. When lodge meetings become more interesting, Masonic Education becomes less of the same old things and the fellowship and comradeship allows our members to walk away feeling fulfilled and having had a good time; our lodges will once more be filled with enthusiastic members coming to Lodge to learn and enjoy what is great about this Fraternity.

“Working Together Brother 2 Brother, We Can Make A Difference!”

Jurisdiction News

Through the *new* Lodge Resources Committee, the Brother 2 Brother Team of Grand Lodge is available to help your lodge either through a conjoined presentation with Friend 2 Friend-Mentor, Officer Progression or Protocol & Etiquette; or as a standalone presentation. Many lodges and districts have already scheduled their dates. ***Don’t miss out on your opportunity.*** The following dates have been confirmed for the New Year:

Saturday, January 12th, 2008	---	Georgian North & South	LRS (with F2F-M)
Saturday, January 26th, 2008	---	London East & London West	B2B
Monday, January 28th, 2008	---	Macoy Lodge No. 242	B2B
Saturday, February 9th, 2008	---	Hamilton A, B & C	LRS (with F2F-M)
Saturday, February 23rd, 2008	---	Brant District	LRS (with F2F-M)
Saturday, Apr. 19th, 2008	---	Muskoka Parry Sound District	LRS (with P & E)
Saturday, Apr. 19th, 2008	---	Grey, Bruce, North Huron, Wellington Districts	LRS (B2B-F2F-M-OP)



“NEW FEATURE”

LODGE ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Brethren, this NEW FEATURE, to be known as “Lodge Activities at a Glance” has been developed as a direct result of the Lodge Summons that the Grand Master reads each and every month. There are many noteworthy activities happening right across the Jurisdiction, some are related to lodge fellowship, others are about charity events, while many more are about special occasions. The inclusion of these randomly chosen lodge activities, in this periodical, is solely for the purpose of providing the membership at large with some examples of ways to better involve their lodge members. With the hope that someone in your lodge might say ... “We should try something like that.”

From ...

Humber Lodge No. 305 – Toronto Humber Valley District ... the Worshipful Master encourages the participation of all members in a program known as “Humber Lodge Cold Nights Assistance Program”. This program helps the homeless and the need is never greater than at Christmas time. With the lodge coffee pots and some cash donations, we can feed a significant number of the residents of Toronto. Become a volunteer, make a donation and help us make this year our best ever.

The Lodge of the Pillars No. 703 – Toronto Don Valley District ... a Trivia Night was held on November 24th in support of the district project “The Children’s Wish Foundation.” The evening was full of fun and friendly competition between lodges, friends and family. Some 80 people participated, with the net proceeds exceeding \$ 1,700. The trivia challenge plaque was won by Mt. Sinai Lodge.

Gothic Lodge No. 608 – Victoria District ... every Friday morning from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm a Masonic Coffee Club is run on the lower level of the Lindsay Masonic Hall. All are welcome to enjoy good company and lively conversation. The third Friday of each month is Soup and Sandwich Day from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, with a nominal charge. See you all there!

Dominion Lodge No. 598 – Windsor District ... this year, we will again be supporting “Sparky’s Toy Drive” by collecting toys to help brighten the Christmas season for those less fortunate children in our community. You are encouraged to bring a new unwrapped toy to our upcoming business meeting or Christmas get-together. Alternatively, please contact the WM, who will arrange for pick up.

Jerusalem Lodge No. 31 – Ontario District ... Patti Elliott and Deanna Page should be congratulated for their idea on having a social outing to the Class Act Dinner Theatre where we enjoyed a play called Sex, Sin and the CIA. A wonderful time was had with great food, good laughs and terrific company. We definitely should do this again!

Temple Lodge No. 665 – Ottawa 1 District ... Temple Lodge is again sponsoring two opera bus trips to Montreal next year. Three buses have been filled with a total of 164 registered participants. The Shriner Hospitals for Children will be the designated charity for these trips.

Acacia Lodge No. 430 – Toronto East District ... Christmas is the season for giving. In this season, Acacia lodge members are asked to share the gift of joy with Community Centre 55. Please remember to bring unwrapped toys or canned food items to our December lodge meeting. The bin for the Hamper Christmas Drive for the Community Centre 55 is in the ante room of the lodge. In its third year, we thank you for your support of this Christmas Drive for 55.