

B 2 B FaciliFacts

Presented by the Brother 2 Brother Committee of Grand Lodge

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 7

JULY 2007

SPECIAL EDITION

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION EDITION



CELEBRATE THE MASONIC NEW YEAR

at the

152nd ANNUAL COMMUNICATION of Grand Lodge

Join with us in making a Masonic Resolution

New Year's, are you crazy? That was six months ago. Well not really. The New Year is defined as an event that happens when a culture or a group celebrates the end of one year and the beginning of the next year. It is also traditionally considered as a time for a fresh start. This definition is a very appropriate way of describing the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.

As with our annual year end celebration that rings in each calendar New Year, our July celebration gives us the opportunity to make Masonic New Year's resolutions. A New Year's Resolution is a commitment that an individual makes to a project or a habit, often a lifestyle change that is generally interpreted as advantageous. The name comes from the fact that these commitments normally go into effect on New Year's Day and remain until the set goal has been achieved, although many resolutions go unachieved and are often broken fairly shortly after they are set. The new year resolution is one example of the rolling forecast method of planning.

Statistics show the following rates of success:

- Past the first week - 75%
- Past the second week – 72%
- After one month – 64%
- And after 6 months – 46%

Celebrating our Masonic New Year's in July is very appropriate because it too is a new beginning. It gives each Mason, each Lodge, each District and yes even Grand Lodge the opportunity to start off fresh. The election of new Grand Lodge Officers bring fresh ideas and a renewed vitality to the whole Craft.

With this new beginning each Mason, Lodge and District have an opportunity to make their own New Year's Resolution. However, the B2B Committee of Grand Lodge would like to help you make that choice.

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Strange Questions

Why is there an expiration date on Sour Cream?

How is it possible to have a Civil War?

One nice thing about egotists is that they don't talk about other people.



140th Anniversary of Confederation

MASONIC NEW YEAR – cont'd.

When men join our Fraternity and are initiated into our lodges, we tell them that they are the most important person in the lodge. We tell them that they are placed in the NE angle of the lodge to figuratively represent the corner stone of the temple. Without them a lodge cannot be built and without them the lodge has no future.

During their introduction to Freemasonry we tell them the benefits that they will derive from becoming a member. They will ...

- Learn and help with the Ritual
- Participate in lodge committees and projects
- Develop leadership and organizational skills
- Building self-discipline, commitment and poise
- Strengthen presentation and speaking skills
- They will meet men of diverse backgrounds
- And their views and ideas will be listened to

My Brethren, whether we realize it or not, these are sacred promises we have given to our new members and as we all know, in many cases, these promises are not fulfilled. These new Masons become disillusioned, lose interest and slowly fade away. The future of Freemasonry rests on the shoulders of these new Masons and we must be ever mindful of their needs.

This, my Brethren, is the Masonic New Year's Resolution we ask you to make. This is our opportunity to start fresh. Please join with us when we make and strive to uphold the resolution to ...

“Keep The Promises That We Make”**BROTHER 2 BROTHER MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

The other day the B2B FaciliFacts received an e-mail message from a Lodge that wished to convey to the Committee the difference that the implementation of the program has made to their lodge in 12 short months. We share the following comments with you:

Our lodge is like most other lodges and we have the usual aging membership challenges. The current membership is 42 and we have the realistic challenge of losing 5 members by the end of 2008. Not that long ago we began speaking about how we could improve our lodge. We began exploring the resource material that is in the B2B Program knowing there was much to gain from it. We began by planting some seeds and then really started to promote the program. In July 2006 we formed a long range planning committee and did a lodge survey. Next, we elected a newly raised MM to head up the committee and went to work. In the beginning the feedback from the lodge members was pretty slow in coming, but we were pleased simply to have some response. Two weeks ago we held a planning meeting and it was amazing that so many brethren were excited about our future. The survey told us that our telephone committee was not working, so we came up with a structure to improve that process. We had our Masonic Education Chairman go to work on setting up a structured plan for the next 8 months. A Past Master, who had stayed away for 10 years, came out to our meeting last summer, he got excited about what we were doing and today he is our JW, excited and motivated about Masonry once more. He has developed a social program for the next 8 months and he is looking forward to serving as WM in 2010. Our SW, who had demitted a few years ago came back and has caught the enthusiasm as well. Although it has taken a lot of hard work by the brethren involved, we fully realize that we could not have accomplished this much without the resources that the B2B Program has provided to our lodge.

Thank you to BROTHER 2 BROTHER! You have helped us to ENHANCE THE MASONIC EXPERIENCE.

WHAT HAPPENS TO PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

This short paraphrased excerpt was taken from the DDGM's Message in the May issue of the Muskoka Parry Sound District Newsletter, THE ROUNDTABLE, in which the District Deputy Grand Master, RWBro. Garnet E. Schenk spoke of his year coming to a close and his future as a PDDGM.

Well Brethren, my year is drawing to a close. Just the other day I contemplated what the future may bring to me in the Muskoka Parry Sound District as I asked myself; What happens to a PDDGM?

Does he quietly just take his place on the side benches never to be heard or seen again? I can certainly assure you that a PDDGM has lots of work to do. First and foremost his role is much different, but none-the-less an extremely important one. He has the responsibility to be there to quietly and strongly support his successor and be a pillar in the District. He has an opportunity to become bedrock to the District and to be of great help to Grand Lodge. He must also make the transition to now being an effective mentor to the leadership in his home lodge. The foregoing are important new leadership roles that need to be understood, honed and perfected to emerge as a respected leader in Freemasonry. One must never forget that while you have had your day in the sun, you must continue do all you can to help the sun to shine for those who follow.

Secondly, I will be pursuing my Masonic writing for The Newsletter and for our own district newsletter, The ROUNDTABLE. I will be developing Masonic Education Material suitable for insertion into a lodge summons as well as short Masonic Education talks. I will also be doing some research into some areas to show that Freemasonry is a just, honourable and upright society that focuses on moral truth and character building for a better world.

*I will not sit quietly and applaud the passing parade of Freemasonry, but rather I will continue to be active in supporting new members in their work, mentoring when the opportunity arises and defending the truth about Masonry; **such is the role of PDDGM.***

REMEMBER!

Your Grand Lodge Committee Extends A Helping Hand Brother 2 Brother ... if you would like the Committee to visit and make a presentation to your Lodge or District on how the B2B Program can be of benefit to you and ***Enhance The Masonic Experience***, PLEASE CONTACT US so that a mutually acceptable date can be arranged.

**We look forward to visiting with you at the
152nd Annual Communication of Grand Lodge**

For More Information

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