

Lodge Resources Program Review

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GRAND LODGE AF & AM OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

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R.W. Bro. David R. Dainard, Chairman

November 2009

Chairman's Workshop Update

The Lodge Resources Committee has now completed the Chairman's Workshops that were scheduled for this year. The Committee Chairman, R.W. Bro. David R. Dainard and the Workshop Team applaud the efforts of the lodge members, in each district, for their strong representation and interest.

In total 144 brethren representing 74 of 101 lodges attended the workshops held in Hamilton, Paris, Woodstock, Guelph and Cambridge. It is through the dedication of these brethren and the commitment to their lodges that they will succeed in "Making Good Lodges Better".

The following comments from workshop attendees reflect the usefulness of the material presented and the benefits of the workshop experience.

"Good use of power point; analogy of running a business is good, not many members think of it this way."

"Thank you for the inspiring presentation, I certainly learned some things and you brought to the surface many ideas from my business life that were dormant and so necessary in my Masonic career."

"Excellent workshop! Very informative program, looking to see how it develops."

"Great workshop; not only have I learned new ideas for lodge, I am also taking home good tips for my personal and professional life."

CORNERSTONE Project - Phase One Update

Phase One of the CORNERSTONE Project roll-out has just been completed. Each of the lodges in the designated districts of Hamilton A, B & C; Brant; Wilson North & South; Wellington and Waterloo have been provided with project package. To date, a number of lodges have already enrolled by submitting their "Letter of Intent" to the Lodge Resources Committee and we look forward to many more enrolling in the next while. Once the commitment has been made to be involved in this lodge recognition program, the B2B Team Leader assigns a CORNERSTONE Advisor to each lodge. This advisor's role is to maintain a direct link between the lodge and the B2B Team, as well as provide guidance and direction to the lodge when required.

We wish all lodges much success as they travel the path that leads them to becoming a CORNERSTONE Lodge!

Lodge Resources Committee 2009 - 2010

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2.3.1 CRUCIAL STEPS – PLANNING A FRIEND TO FRIEND EVENT

- Start planning now, four to five months in advance. Begin by selecting a date for the Friend to Friend Night.
- Recognize that the Lodge Officers and new members are likely the best source of potential candidates they are the younger members usually, and are the future of the Lodge.
- However the senior members of the Lodge should also be encouraged as they may have relatives, or associates from their Church, Synagogue, or Mosques which they feel would make a valuable addition to the rolls of the Lodge.
- Business associates, other club or society friends are primary sources of guests for the Friend to Friend Event.
- Young men's organizations such as the Scouts, Cadet Corps, 4-H Clubs should also be considered; perhaps even invited as a group to an Open House at Lodge. They have a great kinship to an association such as Masonry.
- All Lodge Members must be keen to support a Friend to Friend Event to ensure the success of this Program.
- Remember to secure dispensation from Grand Office well in advance of the Friend to Friend Event.
- Once obtained promote the Event at every opportunity, reinforcing the benefits to the Lodge with the participation of all Lodge Members
- Promote in the Summons.
- Draft a letter to those who will be invited, in conjunction with the Worshipful Master and have the Lodge Secretary mail it out.
- Draft an Agenda of the event Program and have copies for all
- Lodge Members, and quests; perhaps have the Secretary send them out with the Lodge Summons.

The Invitations – Letter should be on Lodge Letterhead and include the following:

- Date of writing
- Guest Name and Address
- Salutation
- The name of the Friend whom supplied his name
- Date and event location as well the Building phone number so that his family might contact him in case of an emergency
- End – Sincerely yours
- Signed by the Lodge Secretary.

Note the letter should contain the Lodge Friend to Friend Chairman's contact number. The letter should also state that the Lodge member who supplied his name will make arrangements to pick him up for the event.

The Agenda should outline the Evenings Program and be made available to all who are going to attend on that evening; perhaps the Secretary might mail the Agenda out with the Letter of invitation to the Guests.

Should you have any questions or wish assistance; please contact:

Friend to Friend-Mentor Team Leader: **R.W. Bro. Kim McGeagh** kim.mcgeagh@rogers.com

3.9.2 MENTOR MEETING No. 1 – THE APPLICANT**Setting:**

- Preferably in the applicant's home, with his family present.

Dress:

- Appropriate for the setting, with a view to first impressions.

Preliminary Setting:

- Ensure applicant has received and read booklet “0”, For the Information of the Man who has expressed an Interest in Masonry, and the pamphlet “What is Freemasonry”. If not, provide copies of this material and complete an overview of the contents.

Mentor:

- Complete a viewing of your Lodge's copy of the Friend to Friend video or DVD titled Freemasonry in Ontario, if a TV set and VCR or DVD player are available.

LODGE RESOURCES MANUAL – A Lodge Management Guide – Page: M 8 -

Introduce the First Element by giving an overview for his consideration, appreciation and discussion, stressing:

- The initiation fee and dues structure of the Lodge, including payment required at the time of his Initiation.
- The application form and its contents
- Dignity, dress and deportment in the Lodge
- Present the applicant with his personal copy of the First Element
- Open discussion. Encourage applicant and family to raise questions and express opinions.
- Reassure the applicant and his family that the forthcoming ceremony is solemn, serious and dignified.
- Indicate to the applicant that he will be advised of the time and place for the ceremony of initiation. Stress that you will take him to the Lodge should his sponsors not be available.
- Ensure that the applicant has your address and telephone number.
- Indicate that you will contact him to establish a time for your next meeting, which will be held very soon after his Initiation.

KEY POINTS

Congratulations — Enthusiasm — Concern

This first impression is a lasting one

IGNITE MASONIC PRIDE

This is a worthy message that recently crossed the desk of the B2B Team Leader. It provides some “food for thought”.

Seven Blunders of the Masonic World

By: W.Bro. Ambarish Singh Roy

Ritual Without Meaning

Too many times, we are more concerned about performing the ritual perfectly without understanding what it means. I know many men that give great lectures, but will confide that they don't even know what something means. Ritual for the sake of tradition is worthless. Ritual for the sake of enlightenment is valuable. An understanding of the ritual's meaning is far more important than just memorizing it.

Fellowship Without Frivolity

Whenever Masons decide to hold a function for fellowship, a discussion typically ensues about how to make the function have the smallest impact on the lodge's coffers and the wallets of the members. This results in paper plates, meager meals, and boring events. To spend money wisely in order to make fellowship a grand time is wise for the lodge that wants to be successful.

Quantity Without Quality

A lodge with seven great men that believe in the Masonic ideals and actively labor to improve themselves—and therefore the lodge—is far better off than a lodge with one hundred men that show up to lodge just to show up to lodge.

Education Without Philosophy

Many times, we think of Masonic education as being a lesson on the local lodge's history, a famous Mason, the history of the world wide fraternity, or how to do the ritual properly. But if no philosophy is covered in Masonic education, then little self improvement is accomplished. Discussing Masonic lessons in terms of philosophy, ideas, and a man's conduct is what truly transforms men into Masons. It is important to discuss topics that are foreign to a lodge's membership and it is sometimes even necessary to challenge our preconceived ideologies through Masonic education.

Charity Without Connection

Big institutional charities often require that fund raisers be conducted and large checks written to the people that actually perform the charity. This type of charity is devoid of self improvement because it has no real connection. If we extend our hands to our needed Brethren and devote our own skills and time to their problems, then we are engaging in true, meaningful charity.

Frugality Without Discretion

Frugality is not a tenet of Freemasonry, a cardinal virtue, or a Landmark. It is okay for the lodge to spend its funds on worthwhile activities that will enhance the Masonic experience of its Brethren. Not everything should be done in the cheapest way, a habit to which we have become accustomed.

Leadership Without Competence

A man does not deserve to be Master of the lodge solely because he has spent a certain amount of years in the lodge. We elect leaders without any regard for the skills that they possess to function in that capacity. Only competent, qualified men should be elected to preside over the Craft.

The Officer Progression Program has been designed to provide valuable resource material to assist Lodge Officers move forward in a planned manner as they prepare themselves for “the highest honour the lodge can bestow upon one of its members.” ...

SELF DEVELOPMENT MAKES A DIRECT IMPROVEMENT IN YOUR LODGE

The growth and development of your personal leadership and managerial skills is one of the important benefits that a Mason will derive from choosing to take an office in their lodge. Self development is a **key** to your success as a leader of your lodge; now and in the future. As you continue your Masonic journey there are many opportunities for you to enhance your personal development.

It can be as simple as **observing and learning** from the positive behaviours and traits of a senior officer or learning not to make the same mistake by watching a leadership style that produces negative results, *“Suffice it to mention that what you have seen praiseworthy in others, it is expected that you will carefully imitate, and what in them may to you have appeared defective, you will in yourself amend.”*

The privilege of **visiting** other lodges in and out of your district will widen the sphere of this learning experience.

Talking to other officers and asking why are things done a certain way will broaden your knowledge and allow you to mentor newer officers in the future.

Talk to your lodge secretary about the **correspondence courses** that are available through Grand Lodge.

Reading is probably one of the best tools for self development. There are many **Grand Lodge publications** that deal directly with self development. The following are just a few.

The Masonic Manual Meeting the Challenge Towards the Square

The Grand Lodge Library contains books, audio tapes, and video tapes that can be borrowed through your lodge secretary, however, many knowledgeable Masons build their own personal library.

During the Officer Progression workshop “**Officer Preparation**” the participants are asked to make a personal commitment to take part in one (1) self development activity each year. You can then share this experience with your lodge during a Masonic Education night.

Be proactive and make a commitment to improve your personal leadership skills and thereby make a direct improvement in your Lodge