

"FREEMASONRY IS AN ORGANIZATION OF LIKE-MINDED MEN WHO ACCEPT A LIFESTYLE BASED ON A UNIVERSAL SYSTEM OF MORALITY DEDICATED TO THE SELF-IMPROVEMENT OF ITS MEMBERS AND THEREBY CONTRIBUTING TO THE BUILDING OF A BETTER COMMUNITY."

The Nova Scotia Freemason

The Official Bulletin of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia

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And so it continues..... but there is a light at the end of the tunnel! Hopefully the new vaccines will be distributed before we lose any more brothers and sisters to this pernicious virus. As we approach the holiday season let us keep in mind that a few more sacrifices will enable a lot more people to see future Christmas holidays. And let us keep our friends who are suffering from the virus in our thoughts and prayers.

In this issue there is a competition to identify lodge halls in Nova Scotia. Just a bit of holiday fun but with a rather nice mystery prize for the winner.

Let us all look forward to a positive New Year and I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season.

Ed

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

My Brothers,



What a year this has been. I have received several phone calls as to when we will be able to be back in Lodge. If I could answer that question I would be a millionaire. We are ALL in the hands of the Health Department and the Provincial government.

The Line Officers along with the Immediate Past Grand Master, Jim Luddington; MWB Dan Campbell; MWB Howard Cosby; RWB Frank Gammell ;and RW Grand Secretary, Bee Bachelor, have been meeting monthly to develop a strategy to get back into our Lodges. Although we are not yet back in our Lodges, these meetings have been very productive.

We have your best interest in mind and this is why we continue to take every precaution to keep our members safe from this dreaded pandemic. We do not need any negative publicity due to us not doing our due diligence that would result in us being perceived as negligent, our thanks to those in our Grand Jurisdiction, who have been practicing the public health protocols.

I am not aware of any of our Brothers who have contracted this virus. I urge you to check in on your Brothers, especially our senior Brothers who are unable to get out or just would like to hear from another Brother.

I also urge you to set up Zoom calls in your district. I have been hosting weekly Zoom calls that have been very educational and are open to all masons - <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81278370062> - Meeting ID: 81278370062. They are held every Sunday evening at 8 pm.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the Brethren for their continued support in the tough decision we had to make in closing down our Grand Jurisdiction. It truly highlights that we are all in this together.

George A. Grant
The Most Worshipful the Grand Master



The MWTGM made a home visit to present Bro Ralph Bagnall his 65 Year Bar (Nov 07, 2020)



GRAND MASTER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Weli Nipi-Alasutma, Happy Kwanzaa, Merry Christmas, Las Posadas, Happy Hanukah, Maligayang Pasko

I want to take this time to wish my Brothers and Sisters of this Grand Jurisdiction Peace, Love and Harmony. As we celebrate the festive season let us pause so we do not forget all of the suffering that is going on in the world today. We are so fortunate to be living in this great country of ours which at times we take for granted the peace, Love and Harmony that we have, let us be grateful for the privileges we are able to enjoy.

During this time, please remember the essential workers who are working so diligently to keep us safe from the spread of COVID-19. This holiday season will definitely be different and most likely many essential workers will not be able to celebrate with their families. Let us continue to pray for their safety as we adhere to the public health protocols. As families gather together during this festive season, Brothers, we must not forget about the Widows and their families as this is a very emotional time for them. If possible, take the time to make contact with the partner of a departed Brother over the holidays to assure them that we have not forgotten about them. This act of kindness will also coincide with our obligation to our departed Brethren and to honor the sacrifices their family made for the Craft.

I would like to thank all of you for the support and the kind words that you have bestowed upon me during this difficult time of COVID-19. Our lodges have been shut down since March, 2020. The support for this decision to shut down our Lodges was overwhelming. It emphasizes that we are all in this together and gives strong meaning to the phrase "Nova Scotia Strong". I know it has been challenging to not be with your Brothers in person in Lodge, but with any challenge there is a solution. Myself and other Brothers have learned new computer skills such as participating in educational Zoom meetings. With the support of Brothers Sylvain Rouillard and Jim Logan we have been building Masonic knowledge through fellowshiping with Masons across the globe. This international communication has not only put Nova Scotia Freemasonry on the map, but it has also enriched ours, and our international brothers' knowledge about the wonders of Freemasonry. It is truly a blessing to have such a strong showing of interest in this time of isolation. This is just one example of supporting Brethren as we continue our journey to foster communication and public relations in an effort to keep our great Fraternity stronger in our communities and across the globe. When we return to our Lodges, we must continue to build on what we have started this year.

This holiday season will be a perfect opportunity for you all to spend quality time with your families and show your appreciation for the little things our families do for us that

we sometimes take for granted. Tell them how special they are and with a big hug, tell them how much you love them. Also give them a big hug from the Grand Master who loves you all.

As the New Year approaches, Lady Winnie and I want to wish each of you, and your family, a healthy and prosperous New Year. We want to encourage you to remain vigilant in the fight against this pandemic as we continue to adhere to the public health protocols to stay safe and well.

George A Grant

Most Worshipful The Grand Master

George A. Grant

Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia



We may not be able to travel but you can a tour of the Detroit's Masonic Temple, the largest Masonic Building in the world. Just copy the following link into your internet browser to go to YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_PM-mU2a6xo&feature=emb_logo

District of Lunenburg Queens Fund Raiser

(Acacia Lodge NO.39) AGD-306958-20

Proceeds to go to replacement of the District Regalia (DGC & DGDoC)

Tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5 Draw date: May 18th 2021

**For Tickets contact: RWBro. Calvin Carter at
902-298-3340 or email: calvincarter12@gmail.com**



1st prize Apron Case (made by RW Bro. Alan Jarvis)

2nd prize Hand Carved walking stick (made by Wayne Langille)

 WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AF AND AM VS F AND AM STATES?

AF and AM stands for Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

F and AM stands for Free and Accepted Masons.

In actuality, it does not matter whether you join an AF & AM lodge or an F & AM lodge in the United States.

In the U.S., every regular lodge is under the jurisdiction of its state Grand Lodge. Due to the fact that there is no Grand Lodge Headquarters for each state's separate Grand Lodge, each state's Grand Lodge is, therefore, its own "headquarters" within that state's jurisdiction.

All Freemasons, both AF & AM (which means **A**ncient **F**ree and **A**ccepted **M**asons, as well as **F** & **A**M, which means Free and Accepted Masons, trace their allegorical history back to the building of Solomon's temple in the Holy Scriptures.

Freemasonry was exported to the British Colonies in North America in the 1730s—with both the "Ancients" (sometimes also referred to as "Antients") and the "Moderns" (as well as the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland) which chartered offspring ("daughter") lodges, and organized various Provincial Grand Lodges.

After the American Revolution, independent U.S. Grand Lodges formed within each state.

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
vs Free and Accepted Masons

From 1751 to 1813, there were actually 2 Grand Lodges in England. The difference in AF and AM vs F and AM states goes back to a disagreement between these 2 Grand Lodges in London at that time.

One group was called the "Moderns", but was actually the older of the 2 English Grand Lodges. The other group was called the

"Antients", which became the "Ancients" in AF and AM.

Due to this disagreement, the 2 groups broke into separate Grand Lodges. The disagreement was later healed around 1880, but by that time, there were lodges and Grand Lodges all over the United States that were descended from one group or the other, and so each group kept their corresponding initials with which they were formed, (which is the reason for which there are small differences within different states' ritual wording and Grand Lodge By-Laws and procedures).

Most Grand Lodges in the U.S. recognize each other and treat each other's members as valid Masons.

Also, all of the U.S. Grand Lodges recognize (and are recognized by) the official Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, Scotland and the Grand Lodges in most of Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, Thailand, India, etc.

AF and AM vs F and AM states grand lodges may be determined as to which state is which, below.

AF and AM vs F and AM States vs AFM States vs FAAM States

AF & AM States

AF & AM - Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

These 24 AF & AM states include: CO, CT, DE, ID, IL, IA, KS, ME, MD, MA, MN, MO, MT, NE, NM, NC, ND, OK, OR, SD, TX, VA, WV, WY.

F & A M States:

F & AM - Free and Accepted Masons

These 25 F & AM states include: AL, AK, AR, AZ, CA, FL, GA, HI, IN, KY, LA, MI, MS, NH, NJ, NV, NY, OH, PA, RI, TN, UT, VT, WA, WI.

All Prince Hall lodges are also F. & A.M.

AFM State:

AFM - Ancient Free Masons

There is 1 AFM state: SC

FAAM District:

FAAM - Free And Accepted Masons
The District of Columbia is F.A.A.M.

So, what is the difference between Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and Free and Accepted Masons and the members of Accepted Free Mason states and Free and Accepted Mason states?

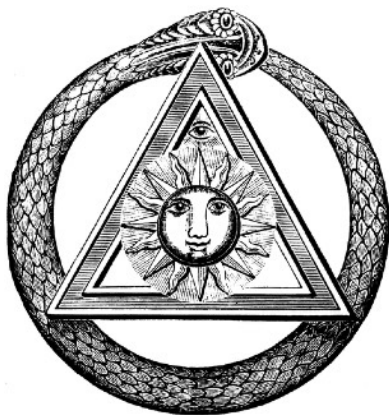
The few intrinsic differences between AF and AM vs F and AM states grand lodges, the AFM grand lodge in South Carolina, and the FAAM in Washington, D.C., are minimal.

While both AF and AM vs F and AM states exist, along with AFM states and FAAM in the District of Columbia, (with small differences in ritual wording, some officer titles, etc.) in essence, these minimal differences are not as important as the shared brotherhood between all of these groups within the fraternity.

The only time that this difference might be important is if you purchase a piece of Masonic jewelry, a Past Master apron, a Masonic shirt, Masonic certificate, or other item which is engraved, embroidered or printed with a specific jurisdictional designation.

Some of these items are pre-printed with a specific designation. Therefore, knowing the designation of your particular lodge (AF and AM vs F and AM states, etc.), proves helpful so as not to mis-order an item.

From <https://www.masonic-lodge-of-education.com/>



Why is there an edict in the 3rd degree?

"The Second Section of the Master Mason Degree should implant in the mind of the candidate a deep and lasting impression of the fundamental teachings of Freemasonry. Anything which distracts his attention from the reception of these ideas is foreign to the purpose of the work in hand. Undue roughness, acting in a manner to arouse the amusement of the Brethren, or audible laughter from the sidelines cannot fail to produce such distraction. It is the direction of the Grand Lodge that the work be conducted with a dignity and decorum that the ritual envisages and that the candidate has a right to expect."

The Edict that is read before the Drama in the Third Degree is very explicit in directing the brethren present to treat the following ritual with the reverence it, and the candidate, deserve.

Why is it that some members of the Craft, even those participating in the drama itself, feel it permissible to treat the experience as some kind of comic relief?

If one of the actors is playing the fool, the WM of that lodge should make sure he either smartens up or vacates the role to someone who can conduct himself in a serious manner.

Most of us may find ourselves for the first time in our lives in an acting dramatic role. Embarrassment may be a reason for the behaviour but it is no excuse. The Ritual is not something to be taken lightly. We are trying to convey to the candidate an important lesson. Becoming a Master Mason can be a life changing event and we should not allow the trivialization of this important step in a man's life.

This problem is one that has been around for a long time as can be seen by the need to put the Edict in the Ritual in the first place.

So please, treat the drama as a solemn and important event. As part of the audience, try and look at the lessons it teaches us and as a participant, don't play to the audience, play to the candidate.

FROM THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER



Brethren;

The year past has presented issues that none of us could have foreseen. Our “normal” activities came to an abrupt stop in March; which left us scrambling for new ways to move forward. Many of you have been creative and have thought outside the box to ensure the necessary work of your lodges has been performed while you sought to maintain contact with your fellow brethren. The use of digital tools has helped keep contact and the education presentations have been very effective, the reformatted notices of many lodges have played a great role in keeping members informed.

As we approach the holiday season whether it be Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa we can be sure it will not be what we have traditionally come to expect. News of recent days has been most encouraging and suggests there is light at the end of the tunnel, however, it is imperative we continue to be vigilant and pay strict attention to the directives of the health authorities. We can all hope that the new year will allow us to resume our labours.

Whatever is beautiful, whatever is meaningful, whatever brings you happiness, may it be yours during the holiday season and throughout the coming year.

Fraternally & Respectfully;
John Dollimount DGM

The Study of Self

Masonry, blessed with wisdom of the ages, points to the greatest of all lessons, the study of self. There is a distinction between thinking too much of self and knowing self.

A great teacher was asked if he could tell all the Law in as little a time as a man could stand on one foot. To which he answered: "What is hateful to thyself do not do to others." the sting of unkindness, the sharp blade of unfairness, the brutality of intolerance, are weapons that have been used against us. Have we used these weapons against others in our individual lives? Masonry tells us to consider well this question.

We must study self more and more in order to understand that unkindness is not of a lesser degree when we use it against others than when others use it against us. Tolerance begets Tolerance. Understanding begets Understanding. What comes back to us is in some strange way the very thing that we send out.

Masons, students of self and the science of Morality, will forever cry out against the enemies of mankind, Intolerance, Injustice and Greed. To become victors over these destroyers of life, we must know that we have looked upon them within or own being, and have removed them from self.

NOVA SCOTIA LODGE HALLS - PAST AND PRESENT

A little Christmas competition for you all. Can you name the locations and the lodges that use these lodge buildings? How many of these buildings have you sat in? Which ones would you recommend brethren not to miss? There are a couple of “ringers” which were used as lodge halls and are now no longer masonic buildings.

If you can identify the photographs drop an email to the editor listing the location and name at least one lodge that uses the hall. From the correct answers a randomly picked name will receive a Masonic Christmas present in the New Year. Best of luck!









PS If you don't see your lodge hall send me a photograph. - Ed.

Brotherly love is not a tangible commodity. We cannot touch it or weigh it, smell it or taste it. Yet it is a reality; it can be creative, it can be fostered, it can be made a dynamic power. The Master who has it in his Lodge and his brethren will find that Lodge and brethren give it back to him. The Master too worried over the cares of his office to express friendliness need never wonder why his Lodge seems too cold to his effort.

Carl H. Claudy

FROM THE SENIOR GRAND WARDEN



Brethren,

As we prepare to celebrate this holiday season, amid all the turmoil of the past 9 months, let us give thanks for all the blessings that we have received and will receive in the coming year.

As we gather this season, please remember to follow the guidelines that our Government and Department of Health have issued so that when the time comes, we will be able to safely gather together once again.

On behalf of Lady Gail and myself, we would like you and yours to have a very safe and happy holiday season.



*Alan D. Jarvis
SGW*

FROM THE JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN



Brethren,

I hope this message finds you all in good health - just a few thoughts.

We tend to forget that waking up each day is the first thing we should be grateful for.

Accept what is, let go of what was, and have faith in what will be.

Even the smallest act of kindness matters. It is like a ripple in a pond flowing positive energy forever outward to infinity .

In one way or another we all have experienced the effects of this pandemic .The devastation across the world has been nothing like we have ever witnessed in our life time.

Now, as Masons we have a choice, give up or keep positive and keep the faith .

Over the past several hundred years, there have been a number of major situations and challenges to our fraternity. The Masonic fraternity will once again come through. Will there be changes ? Of course there will be. Will we come through this stronger ? Of course we will.

Ever Brother has a role to play. The most important thing you and I can do to contribute to the fraternity at this time is to stay positive, pick up you phone and keep in-touch with your Brothers. This is our responsibility.

We as your Grandlodge officers have been meeting on a regular bases, setting plans in place, and looking at ways to get us through this .

Keep safe and I hope to see you all in lodge before to long

Bob Cowley JGW

70 YEAR BAR PRESENTED TO BRO. ERIC EISENHAUER

On November 3, 2020 Brother Eric Stanley Eisenhauer of Bedford Lodge No.104 received his 70 Year Bar

Initiated as an Entered Apprentice – September 18, 1950, Passed as a Fellowcraft - October 16, 1950, Raised as a Master Mason - November 20, 1950.

Bro. Eric was born in Hammonds Plains. He recently celebrated his 99th birthday on October 15th, 2020. He was 28 years old when he began his Masonic journey in Bedford Lodge No 104.

Bro. Eric has been a prominent member of the Hammonds Plains community all his life. In his younger years he farmed and worked in the mills of Hammonds Plains producing wooden boxes and barrels. During those years he contributed to the growth and development of the Hammonds Plains community.

On November 3rd, 2020, the Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. George A. Grant presented Bro. Eric with his 70 year bar. The Grand Master also took the opportunity to bestow the honorary title of Senior Grand Deacon on Bro. Eric.



In attendance at this presentation were R. W. Bro. David White, Past Grand Director of Ceremonies; R. W. Bro. Robert Cowley, Junior Grand Warden, MWTGM, MW Bro George Grant; VW Bro. Eric Eisenbauer, Past Senior Grand Deacon (Hon); W Bro. Ben Faftus, WM Bedford 104; and R. W. Bro. Rod MacLeod, Past District Deputy Grand Master, Halifax County No.1, and Secretary of Bedford Lodge No. 104.

The Old Black Shoes

The old black shoes are looking glum
as I passed the lobby door,
what's wrong with you they seem to say,
we're going out no more.
We've taken not a single step,
not a third or even first,
and ne'er a sign we've seen you give,
has Masonry been cursed?

It has, I said, by virus vile
we have to stay at home,
until such time the plague has passed
then once more we can roam.

The Masons' halls are empty
regalia put away,
gavels now stay silent,
DC's hold no sway,
volumes of the sacred law
on pedestals redundant
now Brother Jim contact his friends
by social posts abundant.

*From the "Grand Lodge of Manitoba" Masonic
Newsletter, Vol 47/2020*

No handshakes
word or secret sign,
no friendly festive board,
no Tyler's song to say goodnight
no organs well loved chord.
Black shoes, I said, do not despair
our chain is firm and strong,
our flag of love remains unfurled
we'll sing again our song

And though our brethren may have passed
to the Grand Lodge above
we'll look upon their memories
with everlasting love
and in their name we'll offer help
and soothe the burdened heart
we'll comfort those who are distressed
thus Masons play their part.

And when this crisis is resolved
we'll sing the old refrain,
Happy to meet, sorry to part,
happy to meet again.

Stay safe.



“Freemasonry has promoted fellowship, it has nurtured brotherhood, it has practiced charity. It has education, it has been founded on truth and the cardinal virtues. But what is Masonry’s greatest mission in life today? What should be the thrust of modern Masonry? Those are the answers we are presently seeking, and on our success in finding the answer depends the future of our Fraternity.” – *L. L. Williams*

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT - Thoughts on increasing Lodge Attendance

by Jordan S. Levitan, P.M. Norfolk Lodge No. 1 from the February 1987 Short Talk Bulletin of the Masonic Service Association

At a gathering of Worshipful Masters, inevitably one will ask, "How's your attendance holding up?" It is, for the most part a rhetorical question.

The intent of this paper is to show that substantial increases in attendance are possible provided the Master dares to be different. This does not imply the need to experiment with so called "up-to-date" methodology. On the contrary, it requires stimulating those members we already have as well as those who will be voluntarily attracted into our midst with pure and unimpaired Freemasonry. The sooner we stop blaming poor attendance on the failure of the Craft to modernize, the better.

The last substantial influx of new members into Freemasonry occurred over forty years ago. Since then, many reasons have been suggested for the decrease in attendance. Members have moved away from the metropolitan area lodges. Once in suburbia they become accustomed to more leisure time, more holidays, and longer vacations. Some turn to service clubs, where the results of their participation may be more apparent. Others find that civic responsibilities take up their evening hours.

Family ties now take precedence over fraternal ties. For some, longer work hours and the pressure of doing business at night are contributing factors.

The majority, however, do not attend simply because they choose not to attend. They are bored to tears with business meetings. Those who are not ritualists find little inspiration sitting on the sidelines listening to the same brethren perform the degree work and give the lectures time after time. Their contentions are real and can not be brushed aside.

We live in an achievement oriented society that views ambiguous programs with skepticism.

Mediocrity no longer suffices. It's time Masonic leaders stopped saying "something should be done" and begin saying "I'm going to do something about it."

The call to the Master is the same today as it was when the candidates petitioned in droves: to create an atmosphere for intellectual and spiritual growth so that the members know from experience they are missing something by not attending lodge.

Merely to suggest programs that others find helpful is only part of the answer. What may work for one lodge may not necessarily work for another. Symbolic Lodge Masonry cries out for an enlightened membership responsive to the Master who carefully lays his designs upon the trestleboard. The approach, therefore, includes preparing the members as well as the Master. There are no shortcuts.

THE CANDIDATE

The Lodge Investigating Committee

The Masonic life of the prospective candidate begins with the Lodge Investigating Committee. A committee that consists of one Past Master, one line officer, and one member at large represents a cross section of the lodge.

The Master who dispatches the committee to the candidate's home with clearly defined directives takes the first step in laying a solid and dependable foundation. In its visit with the petitioner and his family, the committee should emphasize what Freemasonry is and what it is not. Their discussion should include the following:

1. The purpose of our Ancient Order is to build temples in the hearts of men;
2. The pursuit of excellence is one of Freemasonry's noblest aims;
3. Freemasonry is religious in nature, but it has no creed or theology, and it is not incompatible with one's religious beliefs;
4. Freemasonry has an obligation to the community, but it is not a service club;

5. Freemasonry stands for citizenship of the highest caliber, but it does not engage in political activity;
6. Freemasonry emphasizes one's obligations to assist the needy, but it is not a welfare organization;
7. Freemasonry is not a benevolent society providing insurance benefits; a Mason must make proper provisions for the protection of his family in the event of illness or death.

These and many other points are proper for the Lodge Investigating Committee to discuss with the petitioner and his family. This approach enables the petitioner to gain a better understanding of our principles and purpose, and the lodge can better judge his motives for seeking membership.

Degree Work

Few candidates arrive totally prepared for the ordeal of initiation. Even fewer receive a kindly briefing in the preparation room. Whatever fears the candidate might have should be put to rest at the outset. Initiation requires a sense of reverence. It should be impressed upon the candidate that he is about to enter a solemn and dignified ceremony. Degrees must then be performed with a like measure of dignity.

Anything less raises doubts in the candidate's mind about the worth of the experience.

The best way of assuring that new members return is to not only confer the degrees, but to also make Masons. Through its appropriate committee, every Grand Lodge determines the procedure for conferring degrees. The symbolic Lodge, however, makes Masons at its own pace. There is a distinction. And we should always remember that a Master Mason cannot be made in three easy lessons. It takes time.

To the average candidate, the philosophical depth of the ritual is overwhelming. He hears a set of references that he has never heard before and phraseology he does not use in daily conversation. We then compound matters by delivering the lectures immediately upon conferring the degrees.

Clearly we have no reason to congratulate ourselves when a candidate rapidly memorizes the catechisms and receives his dues card four weeks after initiation. So why not slow down the process. Dare to be different. The Masonic Service Association is an invaluable source for information to complement the degrees. An index of current publications is available for the asking. The candidate who receives good and wholesome instruction at a leisurely, informal pace away from the lodge room is likely to become an enthusiastic member who returns frequently. There is an old Chinese proverb that if you are planning for one year, plant grain. If you are planning for ten years, plant trees. If you are planning for a hundred years, plant men.

THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Knowledge Beyond Ritual

Grand Lodges appoint instructors at all levels to teach Masonic ritual. Few Masters, however, receive training in how to conduct lodge meetings. Little is done to assure that the incoming Master has a grasp of the history, philosophy and symbolism of the Craft. The fundamentals of lodge management and good programming are rarely talked about in detail. For these, lodge officers are left to educate themselves. Many never do. Others start too late.

Prior to setting his designs on the trestleboard, the future Master would do well to spend at least two years becoming a knowledgeable Freemason. This is not to suggest that he must become a Masonic scholar, only that he become familiar with the writings of learned brethren—Joseph Fort Newton, Thomas Sherrod Roy, H.L. Haywood, Albert Mackey, Robert Gould, Roscoe Pound, Dwight Smith, Alphonse Cerza, Harry Carr, Conrad Hahn, and Carl Claudy among others. The Grand Lodge library is an excellent source for material, as is the Masonic Service Association. There are, in addition, outstanding Masonic publications in the United States. One is *The Indiana Freemason*, which features articles on contemporary Masonic

thought as well as essays by distinguished Masonic writers of the past. Membership in the Correspondence Circle of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, London, England, the premier Masonic research lodge in the world, is recommended.

The Master who acquires a background in the history, philosophy, and symbolism of the Craft understands the mission of Freemasonry. Lodge attendance will reflect the extent of his preparation.

Setting the Craft to Work

Setting the Craft to work implies more than initiating, passing, and raising candidates. It implies that the lodge is a dynamic rather than a static entity. The Master should encourage each member to take part in the activity suited to his character or abilities and to make sure there is an activity in which he can participate.

In one particular lodge, a member rarely set foot in the lodge room for almost twenty years. A Past Master remembered that the brother spent his leisure hours interviewing applicants for admission to a major university. The lodge wanted to start a scholarship program for needy and deserving students, so the Past Master asked the brother for assistance. The rest is history. The scholarship program has been a major commitment of the lodge for fifteen years and the brother later served the lodge as Master.

Brethren involved in something they like to do value their membership and return frequently. For those who like to putter around the kitchen, help is always needed on the Refreshment Committee. For those handy with axe, hammer, and saw, there is wood to be chopped or a fence that needs mending at the home of an infirm brother or Masonic widow. The lodge publication requires the assistance of brethren with writing skills. For brethren with experience in fund raising, help is needed on the lodge Charity Fund or Masonic Home appeal.

We cannot expect brethren to return to lodge week after week, month after month, if not given a specific responsibility. With nothing to do, sooner or later they tire of sitting on the brow of

the hill and before we know it, stop attending altogether.

Programs

The composition and character of the lodge are determining factors in the selection of programs. Masonry teaches that men of every sect and opinion meet on the level. We aim for common objectives among men with dissimilar backgrounds. The Master who combines programs of Masonic interest with fellowship and establishes a continued line of communication with his lodge will sustain interest and induce attendance.

Most Worshipful Dwight L. Smith, Past Grand Master of Masons in Indiana, in his widely acclaimed essays "Whither Are We Traveling?", suggests that Masonry should be a social, cultural, and intellectual experience. A balance of all three elements is the Master's objective in setting his designs in the trestleboard.

Programs for a typical year might include patriotic observances, Ladies' Night, Past Master's Night, Founder's Day Observance, Youth Night, Father and Son Banquet, lodge picnic, Mother's Day Breakfast, and Masonic plays. By the time he becomes a Senior Warden, a line officer should have assembled sufficient material to begin looking around for brethren to present papers on selected topics. Masonic book reviews should also be considered. The distinguished Masonic scholar, Most Worshipful Conrad Hahn, observed "...the lack of educational work in the average lodge is the principal reason for the lack of interest and the consequent poor attendance in Masonry over which spokesmen have been wringing their hands for at least a century."

The educational meeting is for enlightenment and fellowship. Lodge business is not discussed. Ample time should be allowed for those present to ask questions and make comments. Meetings of this type usually last one hour and often the discussion continues in the dining room at refreshment. A well balanced program of Masonic education includes films, video tapes, and slide presentations, some of

which are available through MSA or the Grand Lodge.

The Meeting

Ask those who at one time regularly attended why they stopped and the most frequent reply is, "The meetings are boring and much too long. If the Master doesn't put me to sleep, the Secretary does."

Not all Masters are comfortable in the role of presiding officer. However, there are steps the Master can take which minimizes the anxiety of sitting in the East. One is to smile from within. A lodge senses devotion and understanding from the Master.

Another is to control the meeting. The Master who looks to the sidelines for a Past Master to tell him every move to make does not have control.

Nor should the meeting come unraveled at the Secretary's desk. Most correspondence read word for word can be summarized, including communications from the Grand Lodge. Usually, whispering good counsel in the Secretary's ear gets the point across without creating an adverse relationship.

Interminable introductions are the downfall of many meetings, particularly when Masonic dignitaries are present. By the time for the main event, the members are worn out from jumping up and down to salute each group the Master paraded to the East.

One innovative Master said, "Enough!" Laying aside the manual of ceremonies, he announced, "Brethren, tonight we are honored to have as our guest speaker a distinguished Freemason. In addition, we have with us two Past Grand Masters and several Grand Lodge officers. In order that you will have an opportunity to meet our visitors, we will dispense with the usual procedure for presentations and salute you in a manner we trust is worthy of your high office."

Instead of appointing committees to present four separate groups of dignitaries in the East with accompanying salutes and responses, the Master introduced at their seats Past Grand

Masters, Grand Lodge officers, District Deputy Grand Masters, and Worshipful Masters. Other groups were recognized at their seats without individual introductions. A forty minute procedure was reduced to ten minutes, and the lodge enjoyed the extra time at refreshment following the meeting. It came as no surprise when the Master received an overwhelming endorsement for the way he handled the introduction.

The festive board is an ideal way to divide a long meeting. When there is an unusual amount of business to come before the lodge in addition to the program, the Master would be well advised to start the meeting one hour early, take care of lodge business, call off for dinner, and return for the program. Those who want to come for the business portion will be present, and no one complains about having to sit through an overly long meeting.

Some lodges guard against lengthy meetings by convening two stated meetings by each month the first to conduct lodge business and the second for a program.

CONCLUSION

Good attendance is the natural result of stimulated interest. Stimulated interest is the natural result of preparation, planning and execution. First, the Candidate must be prepared to receive the benefits of Freemasonry.

Second, the Master must be prepared to execute a year by planning intelligently, communicating effectively, and conducting meetings with dispatch, dignity, and diligence. Continuity among line officers is required to sustain an increase in attendance. Nothing kills momentum quicker than the failure to follow an up-tempo year with another up-tempo year. Regenerated enthusiasm becomes contagious. Word spreads about the enjoyment of returning to lodge. Increased attendance feeds on itself. And Freemasonry's light burns brighter because the Master dared to be different.

WHEN LAUGHTER IS SAD

"Oh, it's going to be rich. The poor fish is scared to death. And you know when Abbot does the work in the third degree how, er... well, let's call it impressive, he is."

The Young Mason chuckled at the thought.

"That's not going to be the only funny thing happen Wednesday night," answered another newly-raised brother. "I happen to know my friend Ted is going to do the Senior Deacon's part. And Ted gets stage fright. He doesn't lose his memory or anything, but his voice goes up about an octave and a half; Oh, it's funny. I laughed, last time I heard him..."

"I had a good laugh at one of the members of my class when I went in," chimed a third voice. "He couldn't understand what was going on and objected to every move and generally reminded me of a bucking billy goat. I laughed until I cried. I shall look forward to Wednesday night..."

"I wonder," broke in a quiet voice, "if you young gentlemen realize what it is you are saying?"

"Why... why... why of course, we do. We haven't said anything wrong, have we?" inquired the first speaker of the Old Past Master sitting quietly in the corner of the ante-room, listening.

"I am an old, old man," countered the Old Past Master, gently. "I have lived a long, long time, and the longer I live the less able I am to classify anything as wholly right or wholly wrong. I wouldn't sat that in what you said is wrong in the sense that it is intentional evil. It is wholly wrong from my point of view, to bite the hand that feeds you, to abuse hospitality, to belittle the agency that helps you, to deride and make sport of holy things, to injure that which is valuable to others even though valueless to yourself."

"But, good heavens, man. We haven't done any of those things. Why, I only said that Abbot is so impressive he'd make a good laugh come out on Wednesday's degree..."

"That was enough, my brother. Is there a church into which you would go with the idea of laughing at a penitent at the Altar? Is there a church in which you would think it right to laugh at a communicant partaking of the bread and wine? Is there a church where the spectacle of a man on his knees would make you laugh, no matter how odd or peculiar he was or how he was dressed?"

"Of course not. I don't laugh in church..."

"Then why laugh in the lodge? In all the third degree, is there humor? Do you not know that it is a tragedy which the third degree portrays, a tragedy no less that it teaches an inspiring lesson, and has the inspiration of all that is good and noblest in a good man's character?"

"What do you think a candidate thinks when the most solemn, the most sacred, the most secret of a Master Mason's lessons is being given to him, if from you, and you, and you on the benches, comes smothered laughter? Will it add anything to the impressiveness of the degree in his eyes? Will he feel that what he is being given is sacred, valuable, precious to his heart? Or will he say to himself, 'Evidently there is a catch in this somewhere... I guess it's a joke, and I am it!'"

"You have spoken of Filby, who has stage fright and whose voice raises an octave because of it. Filby wasn't blessed by nature with a beautiful voice, but God gave him something precious to Masonry, and that is earnest, sincere, genuine enthusiasm. I have been in this lodge for more years than you have been on earth, and I have never known a Senior Deacon to put more into his work than Filby does, though he has a poor voice. The words Filby uses are inspired words;

the degree he puts on is a noble degree. And Filby does it as if inspired by its nobility. Would you laugh at a hero saving a life because he was dressed in caps and bells? Can't you hear, beyond poor Filby's cracked vocal chords, the chimes pealing in his heart as he tries to make his words impressive and beautiful?

"Another of you has found it funny when a candidate for the third degree has not understood his part and made it difficult for the team to put him through the ceremony. At Receiving Hospital last week they brought in a young man suffering from a broken arm. He was very ignorant; one of those foreigners who understands little or nothing of American ideas and ideals. And to him a hospital was a torture place, a house where doctors cut people to pieces for their pleasure. He was frightened almost to death and struggled and fought, while the surgeons tried to control him that they might set his arm. Was it funny? Or was it sad, that ignorant people had so destroyed his faith in his kind that he couldn't recognize kindness and help when he saw it?

"The man who was too frightened to understand and so made his third degree difficult was a victim of those who had tormented an imaginative mind with the idea of goats and pain and indignity in a Masonic lodge. I find nothing funny in it; only sadness.

"Don't think of me as an old kill-joy. A good laugh at some wit in a business meeting, a good laugh at a good story after lodge; these are all well and good; wholesome and natural. Whether they are located in a lodge, a church or a home, they are good.

"But not in a church during service, not in a lodge during a degree. There is no laugh in the lodge during any degree which is not an insult to the officers, and a badge of ignorance and ill-manners for him who laughs. Charity we can preach; charity we should practice towards those who do not do so well in the degrees as we think

we might; the fraternity is not to be laughed at because there are some who make one part of the third degree less real than strenuous.

"Look, my brother, for what lies beneath; regard not so much the outward form as the inward meaning and you will not again be tempted to consider a degree as a substitute for a vaudeville performance, a lodge as a temple of laughter."

The Old Past Master ceased and sat quiet, waiting.

"But I say!" cried the Young Mason, "Don't you think you are a little rough with us?"

"You are all much too good material to allow to spoil for the sake of your feelings," answered the Old Past Master with a smile.

"But you sure take a chance we'll dislike you for plain speaking."

"What do I matter? You may dislike me... but I don't believe you will laugh in lodge again!"

"I'll say I won't either!" answered the Young Mason. It's a promise...and I'd like to shake hands!"

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SELF-LESS-NESS

The teachings of our institution tells us that charity is the brightest gem that can adorn our Masonic profession. Happy is the man who has sowed in his breast the seeds of benevolence; the produce there of is love and peace. On the other hand, Selfishness is evil and immoral in that it prevents the person afflicted with this dread disease from reaching spiritual perfection. He does not set worthwhile goals, and strives to keep others from reaching theirs. As Masons we must remember that selfishness is in direct violation of the teachings of the Supreme Architect of the Universe. It is cancer that robs us of emotional and spiritual security, leaving us empty human beings. It is natural to look for security by taking from life through some useful goal, where you do no harm to yourself, your family, or others. The Supreme Architect of the Universe gave us the Great Book of Nature and Revelation as a spiritual, moral, and Masonic Tresleboard. It teaches us to give to others who are in desperate need of good will and compassion. To Relieve the Distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly the Masons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. Selfishness is a destructive trait that takes us away from this higher calling, and prevents us from obtaining perfection in the eyes of God. The selfish Mason, prefer to be self-centered, petty and small. He forgets that it is by the square that we learn morality, by the level equality and by the plum rectitude of life and conduct. He lets wrath, loss of reason and fair play govern his actions. He thinks in destructive terms and seethe with resentment at others good fortune, hurting himself in the process. He forgets that to soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with them in their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and

to restore peace onto their troubled minds is the great aim of every worthy Mason.

My brothers, we must forever guard ourselves against selfishness through the practice of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, the principal tenets of our profession. The person with only self-interest is doomed, since self-interest makes him less than what he really can be and leads to atrophy of the mind, spirit, and body. We must search our hearts, to ensure this disease is eradicated. We must forever be mindful that the use of self-for-self alone can never gain us access to the Grand Lodge on High. However, the use of selflessness to understand our needs and the needs of others allows us to obtain that goodness of heart, that fair fame, that purity of intention and love of virtue of which, is the possession of every good Mason. Which shall it be for you? Will it be selfishness or selflessness? Will you be able to hail with joy the summons of the Grand Warden on high to repair from your labor here on earth to eternal refreshment in the paradise of God? Will you be worthy of being seated at the right hand of the Grand Architect of the Universe?

Remember brothers, we should forever use our trowel to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection, use the compasses to circumscribe our words and actions. It is through the proper use of our Masonic implements, that we shall protect ourselves from those selfish thoughts and actions which will block our path to the kingdom of God.

Bradford J. Stallworth

<http://www.mastermason.com/bridgeportlodge181/SHORT01.HTM>



IN AND AROUND THE JURISDICTION

Our dear Brother, Flying Officer David JC Waterbury, Ret RCAF, and Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, received the first poppy of the 2020 Poppy Campaign by the Mahone Bay Legion Branch No 49 at Fishermans Hospital in Lunenburg. We are Very Proud of him and miss his company.

Gary Patterson



Just under the wire. Covid almost shut us down but not quite. The scheduled presentation by RWB Sandy Buchan on Masonry in Kentville to the Kings Historical Society on Tuesday evening, 24 Nov, was just able to proceed with only a couple of hours to spare. The following morning the Museum was closed once again for safety. Good job Sandy.



R. W. Bro. Donald Milford Rhyno
Zetland No. 9

R.W.Bro Vincent S. McCarlie
King Solomon Lodge 54.

R. W. Bro. William Roy Haines
Kentville No. 58

V. W. Bro. Melvin Louis Scott
Hudson No. 77

V.W.Bro. David Kramer
Wentworth Lodge No.108

*May it be their portion to hear those words
"Well done, thou good and faithful servant"*