



MASONIC MENTOR

Ideas and Information for the Grand Lodge of Alberta's Masonic Leaders
April 2010

BROTHER SECRETARIES

Please distribute/circulate to the WM, SW & JW for their use

Annual Communication

Our Annual Communication will occur June 11 and 12 in Calgary at the Deerfoot Inn and Casino. This year, in addition to the regular business, there will be Education and Entertainment during the Saturday morning session. This should be an added incentive for all Master Masons to attend! It will not be boring.



Esummons to Grand Lodge Officers

Your Grand Line Officers are interested in what is happening in your Lodge and may feel inclined to "drop in" if they are aware. It is recommended that all Lodges issuing electronic Summons send them to the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden via the following Grand Lodge of Alberta email addresses:

Grand Master – gm@freemasons.ab.ca
Deputy Grand Master – dgm@freemasons.ab.ca
Senior Grand Warden – sgw@freemasons.ab.ca
Junior Grand Warden – jgw@freemasons.ab.ca

Adding them to your distribution list will ensure current Grand Line Officers continue to get your Summons for years to come, they will be well informed about your Lodge and you will not have to change distribution lists yearly.



Grand Master's Visits

Has the Grand Master accepted your Lodge's invitation to visit? If so, ensure you keep the Grand Master updated on your expectation regarding the visit. Ensure he knows the times for dinner or tiling, what will happen that evening and what you would like him to do. The easiest way of providing the necessary information is to advise the Grand Master via the Grand Secretary. Do not assume the Grand Master knows what the events of the evening are!

Increasing our Visibility

Recent surveys find that fewer than 35% of males in North America have ever heard the name Mason or Freemason. This compares with 85% who have heard of the Lions or Rotary. Of those that have heard of Masons, only 7%-8% say they know something about Masonry. This information should tell us we need to increase our visibility in our communities. The following are some ideas on increasing the visibility of Freemasonry in our communities

1. Place the square and compasses on "Port of Entry" signs. Most communities in Alberta have "Port of Entry" signs. Some Lodges have placed the square and compasses along with some Lodge information on "Port of Entry" signs to ensure people are aware of a Masonic presence in that community
2. Highway clean-up. Some Lodges participate in the "Caring for Alberta Highways" program. Usually, highway clean-up occur in the Spring or Fall and participates have their organization's name placed on a road sign. There are still many kilometres of Alberta highways available for clean-up so, there are plenty of opportunities for participation.
3. Keep the front of your Lodge building clean and tidy. All of our publicity will be for nought, if the appearance of your Lodge Hall is poor. Nothing says "dying organization" than an unmaintained, untidy Lodge building entrance. Keep the lawn mowed, the paint fresh and the lawn litter-free.

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4. Place the square and compasses on your meeting place. There are many Lodges that do not have a Lodge but meet in a community or church hall who would not likely object to having the square and compasses placed somewhere near the entrance.
5. Masonic posters in rec centres, curling rinks and hockey arenas. Most of these facilities have bulletin boards for community organizations to advertise and would probably allow the local Lodge to put something up.
6. Cable TV ads. Most cable companies have a community channel or community billboard and allow community organizations to advertise upcoming events for free. Why not advertise your upcoming "open" social event?
7. Lodge booths at community fairs or rodeos. All communities have a fair or rodeo and most organizers will allow community organizations to have a booth for free or at a reasonable cost. Masonic Lodges could have a booth to distribute information and field questions
8. Participate in community parades. Everybody loves a parade. What better way to say "we're here" than join the parade in regalia.
9. Donation pictures in the local paper. Most local newspapers dedicate one page per week to report on "good news". If your Lodge has made a Masonic Higher Education Bursary presentation or a donation to a local charity, make sure you get a picture (hopefully, in regalia) and send it in to your local paper along with a caption. There is a high probability they will publish it.
10. An up-to-date Lodge website. Nothing says "dying organization" more than a website that is 5 years out-of-date. Make sure your website allows the visitor to contact the Lodge. The Lodge should get a "gmail", "hotmail" or "yahoo" email address so visitors who are interested can make contact. Once contact has been made, give it to your "best recruiter".

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Freemasonry has been the great friend of man for centuries. Our contribution to individuals, communities and the world have been significant. We have much to be proud of and, it is time, to let people know we exist, that we do good work and invite good men to join our ranks. Freemasonry will not survive if we do not attract new members. Our Lodges need to ask "what would our community lose if our Lodge went into darkness?" There are good men out there that will continue our good work ... we just need to get off our butts and let them know we exist in their community!



Restoration Regulations

Worshipful Masters and Secretary's, please note that all individuals wishing to have their membership "reinstated" or "restored" must undergo an investigation and a ballot just like an initiate or affiliate. Please refer to the Regulations R3.8, R3.10.9 and R3.5.12



Masonic Speakers

We have added more speakers to our Grand Lodge speakers list. Please check our website. We now have over 50 presentations available for Lodge meetings or Festive Boards! Our meetings and Festive Boards don't need to be boring!



The "Masonic Mentor" is prepared/compiled by the Grand Master. Please direct all feedback, ideas or contributions to the Grand Master *through the Grand Secretary*.