



# MASONIC MENTOR

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

## BROTHER SECRETARIES

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

### Stronger Lodge Meetings

Lodge Meetings must become more interesting. Historically, Masons have always had Lodge meetings for managing the administrative affairs of the guild/fraternity and enjoying fellowship and merriment. Operative Masons also used Lodge meetings for instructing the Craftsmen on the "science" of masonry and the "art" of "beautiful masonry".

Speculative Masonry was influenced by the "Age of Enlightenment" and men were hungry for knowledge about classical arts, geometry and mathematics, alchemy and natural sciences and new ideas in the field of philosophy. Therefore, "speculative" Lodge meetings became a place to cultivate and improve the human mind. That tradition continued through the 1800s and early 1900s. However, we lost sight of that purpose in the late 1900s. There was too much emphasis on "fellowship" and, as a result, Lodge meetings became boring.

So ... why would someone go to Lodge meetings? Today, fellowship opportunities are available from golfing, curling, hockey, Lions etc. And through reading and the Internet they can "cultivate and improve their mind".

As a result, Lodge meeting attendance dwindled and then ... so did membership

We got out of the habit of organizing and presenting interesting and stimulating Lodge meetings.

It is time to change!

Men joining today want more than a boring business meeting. Senior Lodge Officers need to give Lodge meetings the "wow effect".

We need to get into the habit of conducting our administrative business efficiently. Minutes should be distributed/emailed before the meeting so they can be dispensed with quickly. Any "budgeted" expenses should just be paid. And the Board of General Purposes or senior ----->

Lodge Officers should "vet" all business before the meeting so it is handled smoothly in open Lodge. By dealing with the minutes and financial affairs expeditiously, there is more time for education in the Lodge or at the festive board.

There are many good Masonic speakers available who are anxious to do presentations in our Lodges on a wide range of interesting topics. How about asking your own members to relate their personal experiences? Every Lodge has members who have done interesting things ... they just need to be asked to talk about them. Most Lodges have members who have interesting jobs or work in interesting industries. Why not ask them to talk about them!

Every community has non-Masons that would be excellent guest speakers like doctors, lawyers, financial advisors and politicians. Why not invite them to address the Lodge at a festive board before the meeting?

How about a movie night? There are many movies that have a Masonic connection that your members would find interesting and there are countless documentaries on interesting topics that are available.

What about a game night like Masonic Jeopardy or Masonic Idol?

There are endless possibilities to make your Lodge meeting interesting and exciting ... you just need to be creative.

We just need to get back to basics and remember that every Mason wants to become a better man. Let's start using our meetings and festive boards to give him the tools. Let's start "exciting" our members since exciting Lodge Meetings will result in "stronger" Lodge Meetings and create "stronger" Lodges. So ... what can your Lodge do to make meetings more exciting?

## Leadership

"To lead people, walk beside them ... As for the best leaders, the people do not notice their existence. The next best, the people honour and praise. The next, the people fear; and the next, the people hate ... When the best leader's work is done the people say, 'We did it ourselves!'"

— Lao-tsu

"The task of the leader is to get his people from where they are to where they have not been."

— Henry Kissinger

"Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it."

— Dwight D. Eisenhower

"A leader is best when people barely know he exists, not so good when people obey and acclaim him, worst when they despise him. But of a good leader, who talks little, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say, 'We did this ourselves.'"

— Lao-Tse

"He who has great power should use it lightly."

— Seneca

## What the Heck is COMELY?

Ever wondered what happened to good old Brother Whatshis Name who hasn't been seen or heard of for over a year? Maybe he moved? Maybe he is ill? Maybe he doesn't like to drive anymore? Maybe he just plain lost interest? Whatever the reason, you won't know unless you talk to him. If your Lodge has brethren that have been "missing in action" for over a year, you need a COMELY Program.

COMELY stands for Calling on Masons in Every Lodge Yearly. Its purpose is to assist Lodges in maintaining contact with their membership and, consequently, maximize involvement with all their Freemasons. It specifically targets those members who have been "missing in action" for a year and encourages a personal discussion on the reasons. A special feature of the COMELY Program is its ability to have Brethren in other jurisdiction contact a Lodge member who has moved to that jurisdiction and provide them with a personal invitation and encouragement to come out to Lodge. This special feature can also be employed by Lodge's to contact members in distant parts of this jurisdiction.

Additional details regarding COMELY are available in the Grand Lodge Office.



## Speakers Bureau

The Speakers Bureau is now up and running on the Grand Lodge website. (click on "Speakers and Degree Teams") It contains a listing of brethren who can visit your Lodge and make presentations on a wide variety of interesting subjects that will spice up your Lodge meeting or festive board.