



MASONIC MENTOR

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

BROTHER SECRETARIES

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



Proper or Selective Solicitation

We all know men who would make good Masons. They might be a neighbor, co-worker or a relative. So why don't you ask him if he ever considered joining Freemasonry? In 1988, the Grand Lodge of Alberta approved the following motion "that the Grand Lodge of Alberta allows Masons to invite applications from men whom they perceive to be good men and whom they feel would make a very good Mason." The motion referenced the Grand Lodge of Scotland's guideline on "proper solicitation" which is "a man with sterling qualities can be approached, informed, but only once" There is nothing "improper" about encouraging a man to seek membership in our Fraternity who is considered to be a suitable candidate. Let that "good man" know what you find rewarding in our Fraternity. Don't hesitate to tell a friend how proud are to be a Mason and the good work our Fraternal Family does. If he wants more information on Freemasonry, present him with a copy of our pamphlet "Information for Applicants". (available on our website as Form 102 in Official Forms) Finally, it is also permissible to tell that "good man" that he'd make a good Mason. Improper solicitation would involve offering special inducements to join, the offer of speedy advancement in office, a promotion at work, the suggestion of material gain to be expected, and so on. Freemasons and our Fraternal Family do good work and we should be proud to let people know all about it. So, the next time you are talking to a "good man", why not ask him if he has an interest in becoming a Mason. The more Masons we have ... the more good work we can do.

Open Houses

Lodge Open Houses can be a great way to showcase our fraternity and explain Freemasonry to the public. We have very little to hide and should not be afraid of inviting people, particularly mature males, into our Lodge Halls to let them know what Freemasonry has been doing and could continue to do in our communities.

The following are some tips for holding an effective Open House.

- Advertise your Open House with posters in community centres, shopping centres, curling rinks or hockey arenas. In some communities, the local newspaper will let not-for-profit organizations run a small ad. Of course, word-of-mouth advertising can be pretty effective in small communities. It is helpful if you can have a special event associated with the Open House. It could be a Bursary presentation or a charitable donation or a memorial to a great person.
- Make sure the Lodge room, the banquet area and the building grounds are clean and tidy.
- Your guests will need refreshments for the event so make sure you have a good supply of coffee, tea, juice and snacks available
- All guests should be greeted by members of the Lodge.
- Start the Open House with a tour of the Lodge room. You should ensure you have a very knowledgeable tour guide who can take your guests through the Lodge Hall and explain what they are seeing and how it fits with Freemasonry.

(continued on reverse side)

- After the tour, you should take people to an area where they sit and listen to a presentation about Freemasonry. These should be professional looking presentations that explain the history of Freemasonry, our aims and purposes, our involvement in the community and our charities. The presenter should be able to discuss the facts surrounding Freemasonry but also be able to talk about the many myths. He should be a passionate Brother who can tell the non-Masons in attendance what Freemasonry has meant to him and how it has changed his life. There are many men in our fraternity who can give passionate “testimonials”.
- There should also be hand-outs so attendees, particularly the men, can read and ponder what we have told them. The hold-outs should include our pamphlet “Information for Applicants”. (available on our website as Form 102 in Official Forms)
- Since many people do not like to ask questions in public, make sure there are knowledgeable Brothers at tables or scattered amongst the guests to give them answers to their questions about Freemasonry. Make sure your potential recruits do not leave with serious “unanswered” questions.
- And finally, make sure there are plenty of Petitions available with appropriate contact information. It takes some people longer to ponder the information and decide. They need to know who to contact.

Guest Night or Friends Night is another way of getting prospective members. Why not target one meeting night to hold your Festive Board before the meeting and invite a relative, a neighbour or a co-worker to experience the fantastic fellowship that is a part of Freemasonry? Most of the abovementioned Open House tips are applicable to Guest Nights or Friends Nights.

If your Lodge needs assistance with Open Houses, contact the Grand Lodge Office and that assistance will be made available.

eSummons Format

Most Lodges are issuing Summonses via email. The best format is “PDF” because it can be opened on most computers. (eg. Word 2003 cannot open Word 2007 documents)

However, you do not have to purchase the Adobe PDF Creator.

Word 2007 allows you to save Word documents as a PDF file.

Another way to save a file in PDF format is to use “Cute PDF Writer”. It can be downloaded for free. Just “Google” Cute PDF, click on the website and follow the download instructions.



Master Masons Have A Vote

Master Masons are eligible to vote at our Annual Communication and should be encourage to attend and vote for JGW and Board of General Purposes members as well as presented motions.

Registration and balloting commences at 8:00am on Friday June 11th and is suspended at 6:00pm.

Registration and balloting resumes at 8:00am Saturday June 12th and is closed at 10:00am

Discussion and voting on “legislation” will occur on Saturday June 12th so, if your Master Masons cannot make all of the Annual Communication, Saturday is the day to be there.

Saturday morning will include the presentation of awards (Masonic Medal of Merit and Lodge of Excellence) as well as education and entertainment.



Outdoor Lodges

Many Lodges hold “Outdoor Lodges” in June and July. These are unique opportunities to see Masonry in a whole new setting.

The Grand Lodge Office can assist you with pertinent information on “Outdoor Lodges” occurring in our jurisdiction.

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*.