



MASONIC MENTOR

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

BROTHER SECRETARIES

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

Separation of Business

Many Lodges and groups of Lodges have formed "not for profit" societies to raise money for charities and to provide much needed funds to maintain their buildings.

While this is a good thing, all Lodges need to be reminded of the need to separate the "business of the society" from the "business of the Lodge".

Not for profit societies need to be seen as holding their meetings separate from Lodge meetings. This means society business should not be voted on in Lodge. It also means societies should not solicit volunteers for their events in Lodge meetings.

It is recommended that "fraternal societies" hold their own separate meetings (outside of Lodge meetings) and solicit volunteers etc at the Festive Board.

Failure to separate the "business of the Lodge" from the "business of the Society" could result in the revoking of your Societies Act accreditation which is something none of our Lodges or the charities they support want to happen.



The Benefits of Visitation

We all know that visiting other Lodges is one of the great privileges of Freemasonry. For the Senior Lodge Officers, there are many important benefits to visiting Lodges in your city or your District.

Visiting as a Worshipful Master can create a powerful bond between Lodges and can result in a larger contingent of visitors at your own Lodge. Visiting as a Worshipful Master can also be a way of saying "thank you" to those Lodge who attended your Installation or your Lodge's "signature event". Visiting as a Worshipful Master is also a way of promoting your Lodge's "signature event".

Visiting as a Senior Warden has special benefits. It allows you to observe, first hand, another Lodge at work and see how they do things. It allows you the opportunity to see what you perceive to have worked well and what you perceived to have not worked well. It is an opportunity to decide ----->

those things you want to do and avoid in your year as Worshipful Master. It affords you the opportunity to dialogue with your counterpart in their Lodge on the opportunities and challenges he will face as Worshipful Master and understand what directions he might take and form your own ideas on your own Lodge's challenges and opportunities. It also allows you the opportunity to initiate a powerful bond with the Brethren of another Lodge and, thereby, invite them to your Installation and Lodge meetings in your year as Worshipful Master.

For the Junior Warden, visiting provides him with the opportunity to observe how someone else "manages" a Festive Board and assess the effectiveness of their Festive Board.

In short, for Senior Lodge Officers, visitation is a great learning experience and, the more it is done, the more you learn.

Senior Lodge Officers need to set the example of visitation for their Lodge so that all Lodge meetings will be well attended in our jurisdiction.



A Lodge Greeters Program?

Hospitality is usually what we each supply to our friends when they come to our home and so too should it be in our Masonic home, our Lodge.

This, however, does not seem to occur naturally in our Masonic lives as it should. Brethren who leave the Fraternity tell us that the main reason for leaving or dropping out is that they were being ignored. Although we don't intentionally ignore our brethren, it is clear that it happens all too often.

It is because of this realization that we must take an active part in making sure that we do everything in our power to make sure that a member cannot say "I left because I was Ignored".

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Therefore. the easiest thing for us to do is to help make sure that members who attend Lodge feel welcome and at home when they walk through the door of the lodge.

How does it work?

Although the Worshipful Master should find the time to greet all of the lodge members and visitors at every meeting, at times, that is simply not practical due to his pre-meeting activities.

Implementing the program is very simple. At a regular meeting the Worshipful Master will assign a Senior Lodge Officer the responsibility of coordinating the Lodge Greeters Team for the year. Then, he will appoint 2 (or more) men to join the team at your subsequent meetings for that month. Once the program is established ensure that a schedule is posted indicating what month each Brother will join the Senior Lodge Officer on the Greeter Team.

Station them at the door of the lodge or the reception area and have them greet every Brother that enters the lodge. If they haven't been to lodge in some time make sure that they are introduced to the other members present. Next month, select some different brothers (if possible) so that all of your members get the chance to help.

The greeter team should stay at the door or reception area until a few moments before the lodge opens in order that the late arrivals will feel more comfortable; especially if they are newer members and aren't aware of the protocol in attending lodge.

What is so wonderful about this program is you can implement it at no cost. It simply involves lodge members that are already in attendance, using a working tool that they use everyday, the handshake. This program ensures that your members and visitors alike understand that in your Lodge they are welcome, safe and comfortable.

Don't let a single man have the chance to say ...
"Nobody ever cared that I went to Lodge".

(Borrowed from the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario's "B2B Lodge Greeters Team Guide")

Chatter on the Sidelines

We all know that "chatter on the sidelines" while the Lodge is at work is impolite. However, it also interferes with the ability of some of our older members to hear what is going on. My advice is "zip the chatter" so everyone can hear what is happening in Lodge and Worshipful Masters are encouraging to make this happen.



Trivia for Those Dead Spaces

The following is some trivia Worshipful Masters can inject into their meetings during those "dead spaces"

1. Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden' Thus, the word GOLF entered into the English language.
2. Q.. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter 'A'?
A. One thousand
3. It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.
4. In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts.. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them 'Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down.'
It's where we get the phrase 'mind your P's and Q's'

(Courtesy of W.Bro. Dai Lowe and his sources)

**START PREPARING YOUR
SEMI-ANNUAL TODAY!**

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*.