



# MASONIC MENTOR

Ideas and Information for the Grand Lodge of Alberta's Masonic Leaders  
November 2009

## BROTHER SECRETARIES

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

### H1N1 Precautions

- All Lodge Halls should have hand sanitizers available
- All Brethren are encouraged to purchase personal hand sanitizers and sanitize hands after being in a public place (shopping malls, churches, schools, arenas, curling rinks)
- All Brethren should sanitize hands immediately before Lodge opening, immediately before the Festive Board and before leaving the Lodge Hall
- Brethren with the symptoms should not attend Lodge to avoid spreading the virus

Additional information is available on the Health Canada and Alberta Health websites



### Life Memberships Affect Financial Health

Most Lodges have by-laws that allow for a member to become a "Life Member". However, many of these by-laws were developed 15-20 years ago. While the financial requirements for becoming a "Life Member" made sense at the time, they may not be adequate today. In many cases, the interest (or investment income) derived from "life members accounts" does not even cover the Grand Lodge per capita let alone the cost of printing and mailing summonses or meeting costs. This places a strain on the Lodge's financial health. All Lodges are encouraged to review their financial requirements for becoming a "Life Member" and ensure the "cost of becoming a "Life Member" will provide sufficient interest (or investment income) to cover the real membership cost to the Lodge. (It is worth noting that some Lodges have removed "Life Members" by-laws to ensure the future financial health of their Lodge.)

### Useful Websites for Masonic Leaders

The [Masonic Renewal Committee](http://www.masonicrenewal.org) of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America website: [www.masonicrenewal.org](http://www.masonicrenewal.org)

The purpose of the Masonic Renewal Committee ("MRC") is to provide continuity for Masonic Renewal efforts by Grand Lodges of North America and bring about the renewal of Freemasonry as an active, viable and relevant institution for the 21st Century.

This Committee, charged by the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, developed this web site for the sharing of information between Grand Lodge Jurisdictions in Canada, the United States and Mexico.

The website has Powerpoint presentations and brochures on topics ranging from "Lodge revitalization" to "Officers training" that can be adapted for use by your Lodge.

[One More Time Please](http://www.linshaw.ca) has a large number of articles/papers on a variety of Masonic topics. One More Time Please (OMTP) is available through the Linshaw Enterprises site ([www.linshaw.ca](http://www.linshaw.ca)). Linshaw Enterprises is owned and operated by MWBro. Hugh Young.

[The Masonic Trowel](http://www.themasonictrowel.com) website ([www.themasonictrowel.com](http://www.themasonictrowel.com)) has articles/papers on Leadership Development, Masonic Education and Masonic Talks.

The [Grand Lodge of Alberta](http://www.freemasons.ab.ca) website ([www.freemasons.ab.ca](http://www.freemasons.ab.ca)) has many official forms available for downloading.

## Membership Management – Investigation Committees

Membership management must begin at the petition stage. It is the duty of the Investigation Committee to ensure the individual can and will become a successful Mason and contribute to the success of his Lodge. The following are tips for Investigating Committees that can be used in addition to the traditional questions on the Investigating Committee's report form.

1. When visiting a candidate at his home, the committee should first determine the family's attitude toward his desire to join the Masonic Order. If there is serious opposition to him joining which cannot be overcome by the committee and there is every likelihood that his membership in the Lodge would cause internal family problems, the petition should be returned or rejected.

2. Determine whether the petitioner's home surroundings are such as to permit him financially to continue his membership without depriving his family of the essentials of life. While a man's financial circumstances or his educational background ought not bar him from participating in Masonic privileges or render him unwelcome in the Craft, his standard of living may be so different from those of the other members as to make him feel uncomfortable in their presence.

3. The applicant should be given the understanding that his character is subjected to the closest scrutiny, and that friendship, personal consideration, or favoritism, must not control or bias Masonic action. He should be informed that he must pass the scrutiny of the investigation and the ordeal of the ballot, as all have done who has gone this way before him. If there be a doubt in regard to his fitness to become a Mason, let the lodge have the benefit of the doubt. Remember that the dignity, honor, and reputation of the institution are in your hands.

4. The committee should determine how long the petitioner has been acquainted with his proposer. If the acquaintanceship has been but a brief one, it is all the more reason why the committee -----→

should make a thorough search of the petitioner's background. References should be carefully checked, as well as business affiliations. This of course should be handled in a discreet manner, especially if questions are directed to non-Masons who may not be favorably disposed towards the Institution

5. Ascertain the petitioner's motive for wanting to become a Mason and what is his conception of the Fraternity. Of course, one who is new to the Order may not be expected to offer a definitive opinion, but he should have at least some idea of the type organization he is expecting to join.

6. Is the petitioner charitable by nature? Does he contribute to needy causes as his finances permit? Also, is he charitable in thought and actions towards his fellowmen? Is he bigoted or prejudiced? All these questions, discreetly put, will help bring out the true character of the man.

7. Is he prompt in meeting his financial obligations and honorable in his business dealing with others? Can he afford to become a Mason?

8. Does the petitioner realize that membership in a Lodge calls for payment of dues and these are to be met promptly?

9. Does his occupation permit him to attend meetings regularly?

10. Does the petitioner believe in a Supreme Being? Does he attend a church? Masonry does not require a man to adhere to any particular creed or religion, he must believe in God and in the immortality of the soul.

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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*.