

# THE TIME FOR ACTION



Is  
**NOW**

## LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

SUDBURY  
MAY 22<sup>ND</sup>, 23<sup>RD</sup>, 24<sup>TH</sup> 2009

**To the Most Illustrious Grand Master, the Grand Council, Officers and Companions of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario.**

**: Greetings :**

**This Committee has been charged with the task to develop a long range plan for the ‘The Grand Council of Royal and Select Master’s of Ontario’ as well as its subordinate Councils’ within this Grand Jurisdiction.**

**As this report circumvents the statistical analysis that has been presented over the past several years, we trust that any or all desired statistical information can be obtained from adjacent reports presented to this Grand Council and by past proceedings.**

**The 2008 Report of this Committee was held in abeyance and submitted to the Grand Executive Committee in May of 2008 as a ‘NIL Report’. This was solely based upon the decision of myself as Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee as not to cause conflict, any misconception or disagreement with the other reports, but to maintain harmony. As both concerned Reports began in similarity, they soon severely veered in opposite directions which certainly would have placed both Reports in question as they became more in conflict with each other.**

**In establishing a criteria for this report, the most appropriate time to begin is with the present, while learning from the past and prepare for the future.**

**This report is intended to cover several areas of main concern and provide some suggestions and / or guidelines as what we can do from the grass root level in order to improve and rebuild our Grand Council and Masonic Family.**

**1: Membership**

**2:Membership Retention**

**3: Assemblies**

**4: Communication**

**5:Enhancing Attendance**

**6: Tools**

**: Membership :**

**Each Council is dependant upon several common factors for their individual existence and they should each be carefully analyzed, then answered in a most honest and truthful manner. The bounds of integrity of each Council do not fall solely within the number of members of that Council, but to the Craft Lodges and Chapters of Royal Arch Masonry within the area. Individual Councils must attend to their finances, social atmosphere, individual uniqueness and perception, not only throughout the Craft but within the public arena. Through the marketing of our Order, and only to a specific few, can our Order grow and prosper.**

**As we are all too well aware, membership of this Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters is on a steady decline. Statistics of 1989 showed a membership total of 1, 661; and again in 2007, 1,119, a drop of over 500 members in 20 years.**

**Where have all the Companions gone?**

**Death, demits and suspensions, however, remembering that a suspension that may occur at the Chapter or Lodge level alternately effects this Grand Council. Nevertheless, Masonry on the whole, in the Province of Ontario is on a steady decline as shown by the Report of the Grand Historian at the 2008 Grand Assembly.**

**If we see this happening in the Councils, therefore it must be occurring in the Chapters and Craft Lodges, quite possibly and most likely at a greater rate as a Craft Lodge Brother does make up the Companion a Chapter and Council.**

**The time to act is **NOW**.**

**We are all Craft Masons! We must put aside the attitude that Preceptory, Council, Chapters and the Craft etc, etc. are separate Bodies and they can look after their own. In the realm of the Masonic family, they are not, but each depend solely upon those entering our Craft Lodges from the public domain, then advancing to the Chapters, Councils etc.**

**If it is said that this is a Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter problem and that they should deal with it, we are in real trouble and walking the wrong road and definitely heading towards our own made doom. Who makes up the Grand Lodge? The Craft Lodges. Who makes up the Grand Chapter? The Royal Arch Chapters. Who makes up the Grand Council? The Councils. And finally who makes up the whole? We each do as Craft Masons.**

**We have the tools.**

**We have the Brethren.**

**We have the Companions.**

**We have the means.**

**We have the initiative to begin**

**We have the drive and perseverance to continue**

**We must collectively begin **NOW****

**Several years ago, there was a six month waiting period before a Brother could continue onwards with his Masonic journey in the York Rite as a Companion of a Chapter. This was not the case with the Scottish Rite, hence many became Scottish Rite and never did join the York Rite.**

**With this now lifted, the question becomes when should the newly Initiated Brother in Masonry be introduced to the York Rite.**

**Taking from the Ritual of the First Degree of Grand Lodge of Ontario, it is stated that “I am now permitted to inform you that there are several Degrees in Masonry, with peculiar Secrets restricted to each.”. What an opportunity there is to advise the newly Initiated Brother of those other several degrees.**

**This Committee has previously created a pamphlet entitled “Why a Master Mason should Consider the York Rite” and a booklet “York Rite, an Invitation to all Master Masons”. Any or all of these pamphlets could be presented to the newly made Mason that evening. Now he, not being a Master Mason at this time, one may question this action.**

**This may be true, but it does not stop anyone from providing him readable information. We are only laying a foundation for his advancement into the York Rite and to the Chapter. Then again a similar process could also be instituted after the Mark Master Mason Degree leading towards a Companion of Council.**

**These have all been passed to the Public Relations Committee.**

**Masonic Education, how many attend a Lodge when “Masonic Education” appears in the Summons?**

**A presentation of an Constituent Body of Masonry will be presented after the Close of Lodge. How many do stay?**

**Would it not be possible, in conjunction with the Worshipful Master of a Lodge to call off his Lodge, introduce the three Principals of a Chapter and in full garb they enter, assume their appropriate chairs and give a presentation on Chapter. Then in turn introduce the three Council Officers, again in full garb, enter and give their presentation, who in turn introduce the Preceptory, again in full garb, give their presentation, then summarizes and thanks all, leave and then Lodge is then called on.**

**Are we not all from the same initial Craft?**

**Could not the Council within the area take the initiative and put on a dinner for the newly initiated Craft Lodge Brother? This could be done on some evening shortly after his initiation along with his family to welcome them into Masonic Family, maybe even have him invite some of his friends that he has advised as to his joining the Masonic Fraternity. Use a speaker, or a group of speakers to provide all those present the structure of the various bodies of the Masonic Family within the area. Proceed to explain what each are, fit into the Masonic theme and what they do in the way public activities, i.e. Bursaries, Medical, etc. How many of us really know all that we support. This would inform the family as to the commitment that he has made by becoming a Mason and also provide the family with an understanding of Masonry. Follow it up with open discussion and question and answer session.**

**Is this enough? No, as we are still depending upon the Brethren of the Craft Lodge to increase their own membership and in turn hopefully increase the Chapters, Councils etc.**

**Many years ago, Grand Lodge provided a PMT ready advertisement for newspapers entitled “Setting the Record Straight”, (*Appendix ‘B’*). Do any remember this; and if so, was it ever used in your City or District? The bottom portion “This message courtesy of” could be modified into an Open House presented by the Lodge, or by all Masonic Bodies in the local area.**

**We must as Council Members assist our Lodges in the promotion of Masonry, in other words down into the grass roots of the public domain. This can be accomplished in many ways. Open houses for the Craft being advertised using the newspaper, radio and television under Community events. Welcome to our City nights. Information pamphlets distributed in Hotels, Motels, Chamber of Commerce, gas stations and any where else they can be placed. Naturally these would only promote the Craft, but that is where the starting line begins. Personalized invitation, dropped off by a brother in a prospective member mailbox or hand delivered indicating the time and place of an open house.**

**Where do we as Council Companions fit in?**

**As Lodge members we participate in Lodge activities, we notice what draws out the members, and what keeps them away. We note by the Summons when there are new Candidates proposed and who their sponsors are. Talk to them and see what they have done in order to be their sponsor. Take note of special events in your Cities, attend and see what is there and if the Craft could have also been there. Discover what other Fraternal Organizations are doing to increase their membership. As the Lodge secretary for several copies of the blue pamphlet “What is Freemasonry”, place them in your pocket and at a time and place of social intercourse present it to a friend who is a non-mason, ask him to read it. The next time you see him, ask if he read it and what he thinks about it. There are only two possible outcomes from this, first he will ask questions and look for more information, or secondly tell you why it is not for him.**

**A long while ago, a Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario once stated that; “we must lift the veil of secrecy from Masonry”. As one District Deputy Grand Master stated, “The light of our Fraternity is under a basket of secrecy, and the basket must go”.**

**Today, within the World Wide Web, there are no secrets in this realm of Masonic Bodies, it’s all out there in the public domain. Their Ritual, both patronization to criticism and even the bizarre.**

**One may access the “You Tube” web site and view many Masonic promotional, as well as criticism videos at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwdP2Cf\\_knA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwdP2Cf_knA)**

## : Focus on Membership :

In order to cover this topic of 'Focus on Membership', it first becomes necessary to dissect the topic into its basic components.

- |                   |                            |                |
|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1 - Public Image  | 2 - Prospective Applicants | 3 - Attendance |
| 4 - Participation | 5 - Retention              | 6 - Ritual     |

### *Introduction*

All Masonic Bodies have similar, if not the same problems concerning membership as well as many other Organizations. We are not alone in these regards. Is the major damage inflicted upon our order today caused by the speed and stress of society life today towards these young people? Could not the Masonic Family move forward to and provide an escape from this through their monthly meetings? This Committee believes so.

These facts are well known by the Grand, and Provincial Grand Bodies, even throughout the world of freemasonry in general and we expect our Grand Bodies to provide the direction, assistance and solutions to our individual membership problem. Grand Bodies have presented such information as the 'Brother to Brother', 'Mentors Program' amongst many other programs in an attempt to assist. Most are received excitedly, then left to collect dust after one or two suggestions have been tried and failed. Each Masonic Body resides in an area of Ontario, whether in a Metropolis of millions down to the small town of less than 1000.

Each face their own unique population with its assorted, single or non-industry base.

Each Masonic Body should stimulate itself to search for ways to improve Masonry's performance as an organization. Each district should have a local or district membership committee to look after their members and search for other members within the Community. This is far from being in the form of a solicitation. The role of such committee, with certain limits, should also look at their members' interests, not just at the Masonic level but also in the various levels of society, personal and / or professional to which their members belong. Why should we do this?

Promoting your own members will attract other people in their respective professions into the craft.

This Committee agrees that our Lodges, Chapters, and Councils are a happy place, where Brothers and Companions support each other strongly. But for the younger member, who is still struggling with the demands of modern day life, they should be afforded ample opportunity to make Masonry an interesting and vital part of their lives, thereby becoming an example for others to follow.

Both the old and new members should appreciate that they are members of the oldest Fraternity in existence having for its object of social, fraternal and charitable intercourse, with each having its peculiar mystic rituals, rights and ceremonies. By the same token, the entire craft contributes to the entertainment, friendly recognition among strangers through visitations, and aids in time of distress.

How then could this be accomplished? With modern life and fast evolution we must learn to use the resources available to us and build a network of local Masonic Bodies to strengthen our brotherhood. Do we not use a variety of network channels at work, in our society and at clubs to act as role models to attract new members? Why as Masons, can we not follow these examples and working to a place and position of attracting new members, while at the same time maintain, retain and strengthen our own membership?

## PUBLIC IMAGE

### **CLEAN UP, PAINT UP, AND FIX UP YOUR MASONIC BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

**Make your Temple or Lodge building as attractive as possible, both inside and out. Remember we are still the largest and most respected fraternal organization throughout the world.**

**Keep the grass trimmed, trees pruned, plant flowers, make it pleasing, exciting to look at yet mysterious and intriguing. Make sure your "fraternal home" reflects that reputation of the Masonic Fraternity and make certain that all visitors and guests are impressed by our surroundings. Use other organizations such as Gardening Groups, Horticultural Societies to come in and do the work to beautify the grounds. Costs are minimal. It is amazing what this and a coat of paint will do in the overall building appearance.**

## INCREASED USE OF SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

**The forgotten side of Masonry is the social side which in all cases proves very important. These range from Ladies Nights, Robby Burns' Nights, Oktoberfest celebrations etc. and are for both Masons and non-Masons. The "maisonettes", or the wives and partners of members could go out for a meal on the night of meetings and join Brethren in the Lodge building dining room, restaurant or any chosen establishment afterwards.**

**Have the Ladies, family and friends regularly dine at Installation of Officers, or at a special Christmas, Valentine and other events or just have a quarterly dinner. The wives can perhaps take a more active part in our social activities .**

**Most organizers of these types of social events are either volunteers and are more likely the only person left available to take the job on! Good organizational skills are required and not all Social event organizers possess these skills. More importantly, the objective must be able to show good value for the money and not just *'how cheaply can we do it!'***

**Freemasonry must be made more enjoyable on the social intercourse side. It is at and through these social events that a prospective candidates can be invited and introduced to the brethren while attracting the non-participating member back into the fold.**

## COMMUNITY VISIBILITY

**How can we improve our public visibility? Here lies the rub and a very good question! Masons attend such events as the District Divine Service, Fall Fairs, summer and winter Parades.**

**The latter expose the Shriners as participants who usually provide excitement to the crowd with their antics, fancy dress and floats, but how many really know that they had their start in the Masonic Family?**

**Cannot a Masonic Body participate or hold; a joint Church Service, a father son or daughter night, a family night, family picnic, an appreciation night, a charity night, a city / town history night, Law and Fire enforcement dinner, Teacher of the year dinner, current events dinner forum, provide a dinner for those military personnel coming home from distant shores. They do not have to be connected to the Masonic Family, Masons just have to host it to increase our visibility within our Communities. Partner or hold a joint event with other Masonic, non-Masonic organization.**

**There are literally hundreds of different events that can be hosted, each at a small cost or could bring money back into the hosting organizations pocket. But more importantly, it will return excellent dividends in the way of interest, education and public awareness and service.**

Remember that wives and family have all had good ideas throughout history and should be listened to. Try implementing some of them and perhaps other wives and partners may become more interested in our Fraternity.

When researching for methods of Community visibility, I came across a report from the Grand Lodge of Idaho, titled "Leadership and Idaho's Masonic Lodges". ( web address in Appendix 'A')

*Section III, page 14 of Lodge Planning has a series of interesting statistics.)* From this 2004 report I quote:

*"A recent survey pointed out some real problems in this area. The majority of the public doesn't know anything about us beyond the name, and many haven't even heard that.*

*The Shrine is much better known, but the fact that Shriners are also Masons is known to very few.*

- *4 out of ten people have a favourable opinion about Masonry.*
- *5 out of 10 people have no knowledge about Masonry.*
- *1 out of 10 people have a unfavourable or neutral view of Masonry.*
- *8 out of 10 people have a favourable opinion of the Shrine.*
- *2 out of 10 people have no knowledge about the Shrine.*
- *6 out of 10 people do not know that Shriners are also Masons.*

*Our own membership is becoming more aware of this gap between the Masons and the public at large. 7 out of 10 Masons feel that Masonry should be advertised. From these findings its pretty plain that we have, for years hid from the public some of our best points.*

*A good public relations program in your Lodge will not sole the problem, but it will certainly help. It's not hard, and a proper approach will overcome obstacles which can be met, especially when dealing with the media. A news release, properly done and covering items of general interest, has an excellent chance being printed or aired in your local media."*

### Prospective Applicants and New members

With the restrictions as interpreted by the Masonic ritual shows, we cannot silicate nor directly ask a man to join with us, it can only be hinted at.

It is recognized that each needs a driving force for it to be successful, and that there are a large number of potential masons who are not aware how to become masons. Each of us m must know of least one good man out there?

There are a numerous number of "new" ideas are being tried throughout the Masonic Family increase membership, but there is one main thing that each individual must do to attract and keep their present members; "The meeting must be interesting". New members will be attracted through initiation and because of the enjoyment experienced by its members.

These new prospective members must somehow be physically placed in the Lodge building, either through an open activity where friends of members are invited to attend or, through participation of their relatives in the various Masonic activities.

When the prospective Candidate signs his application form, suggest to him that should he have a friend with similar interests to invite him along as a traveling companion. Why can both not be taken into the Lodge, Chapter or Council meeting room, be shown its setup, paraphernalia and given a brief explanation followed by a question and answer period.

Explain that this will be followed by a home interview with only the applicant and his family, then invite both and his traveling companion with both their whole family back to the meeting room and relay to them the atmosphere of that to which he will be attending along with outlining some of the social events throughout the year. This could prove in a second Applicant.

The more participation of the members in the organization, the more likely it is to attract new young members. Nevertheless, this is a great way to get new men into the Masonic Family if it is already interesting and fun.

Could we not involve member's teenager sons or daughters in our social activities. They could act be servers at dinners, separately or in conjunction with the Eastern Star or even have a special place at Masonic events or fund-raises to sell tickets etc. All high School students require a minimum of forty hours of community service. If there is an event you wish to hold, call the High Schools or Board Office, explain your event, and should you qualify, ask them to put you in contact with a number of grade 11 or 12 students. Even better, tell them the number of students that you will require, provide the date, time and location and a telephone number and the school will do the leg work. Have those students who have expressed interest call you prior to a preset cutoff date.

Record their name, address and telephone number. Should the event require eight students, accept twelve, extra hands make less work and if some cannot make it at the last minute, at least then you are not stuck.

The students could even see spin-offs by using the Lodge building for their own fund-raising activities, but all within reason. This increases our public exposure and interactivity with the youth of our community at the senior High School level.

Prior to the end of the high school year, have an awards banquet for those students who assisted throughout the year. Make it official and formal. Send invitations to the students, their Masonic or non-Masonic moms and dads. Invite the School contact, whether a teacher or Principal, the School Board representative and their families. Once you have them in the Lodge building, you can show him how much fun and enjoyment it is. Tour the Lodge room and give explanation when asked. We may be amazed at the results. Hold on the same evening as the meeting night then the members will be in Business suits, Officers in tuxedos, and above all, invite the newspaper and Community television people.

### Attendance

Masonic Bodies are facing a great difficulty of getting support in attending Regular meetings and the various social functions that have been organized. Also, other social events which have been tried and are not successful where money was lost curtails the opportunity of doing anything in similar fashion again, but in a different fashion. The age of the members, the size of the Masonic Body and the distance they would have to travel makes these events difficult especially in the Northern Districts.

Set up a telephone committee so structured as a call pyramid so that not one person calls all the members. Cross call within the structure so each member is called twice by two different members.

Set up a vehicle drive pool where members within a certain radius from the meeting room can be easily picked up and taken home after the meeting. If a member is driving in from a distance, see if he can pick up and take home other members within his direction of travel.

Ask the older members, who do not attend to come and give a talk on their experiences while they did attend regularly and while they occupied the various Offices.

Use those 'Past Officers' to assist those present line Officers. Provide them a duty or challenge to perform as a group and report back. Have them set up social nights or functions with Families included. We cannot afford to leave them on the sidelines. Masonry has two sides, that of inside the meeting room and that of outside the meeting room.

Have a surprise birthday party for him on the meeting night. Invite him to attend the Meeting while others prepare in the dining room. Invite his friends, family and neighbours. His Lady will most probably assist in this endeavor. More challenging would be to put on an anniversary party for both he and his Lady. One could even celebrate his Initiation date as a form of birthday or anniversary party.

### Participation

Is the Masonic Family becoming to dependent upon so few members in doing most of the Ritual Work? One could apply the 80/20 Rule" (aka "Pareto's Principle") which is a management concept commonly found in business, whereby 80% of the work is performed by 20% of the workers. We see this not only in business but in any nonprofit organization, including Freemasonry.

Are the younger members given the opportunity perform during degrees other than that of their Office? Could not long Ritual portions or lectures be divided in such a manner that more than one may give it. Now if one person does four pages, could not four persons do one page each?

When the body of the lecture changes, change the participant. Each body would have to explore as to where the opportune change would take place. Have some of the Past First Officers get involved. Something here to look at.

### Retention

Retention is one of the more important factors we face with our present membership. Why are we not retaining our members, keeping them interested and attending and participating in the meetings and programs?

How often do we visit or call long absent members? There are Benevolence Chairman and Committee; Ill and Distress is communicated during business; cards suggested and sent.

Do we leave him alone when he is ill, or do we make him feel as a wanted member?

Being in touch with all members is essential especially when unforeseeable circumstances arise. Personal visits, letters and / or phone calls are of an infinite value to both the member and Masonic Body to which he belongs. Should this be the responsibility of the three main Officers so that they can get to know that member of their Body? If so, why the Benevolence Committee?

Could not any member who finds another in ill or distressed circumstance immediately call the Chairman of Benevolence, he in turn would then call his Committee members and make a visit as soon as possible. Then use the Telephone Committee to spread the information throughout the membership rather than waiting until the meeting.

Older members, who cannot drive at night, should be picked up and brought to Lodge so that they can retain their interest.

Younger members need other "recreational" activities and to relax after the meeting.

**It is no longer acceptable to those young men to sit in where the only entertainment is alcoholic beverages and idle gossip in select corners!**

**A clear and comprehensive program geared to the interests of all members is imperative and is the reason why the personal touch with the members is important. Many members should be well acquainted with this program and given an opportunity to be active in its participation.**

**Successful programs that are going on in different Bodies are an easy way to find a program or programs that could be used. There should be no copy rights on any program that is being used by any particular Body. We are free to copy any that we believe would be a benefit to our own and which would be of interest to our membership.**

**Maybe some members have not returned because he has been hurt by the fact that he has not been able to master a portion of the Ritual. Not all of us are ritualists, but we may be useful in another parts of Masonic Body.**

**Learning and performing perfect ritual is beautiful and is to be constantly encouraged. Let those members who have the ability to learn, do so. Do not force any member to learn any ritual to which he feels uncomfortable, he will only become frustrated in his attempts and feel that he has failed his fellow members, then he will leave. Remember, a passage well read is just as good as one recited, because it is only for the benefit of the candidate during that degree and no other.**

### **Ritual**

**A necessary part of the Masonic life is its Ritual and this cannot be ignored, but we can make some differences in its presentations. Members that are interested in ritual could form teams and be prepared and ready to perform a certain portions of any degree. This should include any line officer holding a particular position for that portion, but a ritualist could be called upon to take part whenever the officer is absent.**

**The front line installed and invested officers would have to be able to open and close, be prepared to conduct meetings and to activate the programs that the Body is currently working toward.**

**It would always be the Master, First Principal, Thrice Illustrious Master, etc. of that particular Body who would conduct the meetings and he could do whatever part of the ritual he wished to perform in the degrees except to that of which he is constitutionally bound. He is in charge and it is still his Lodge, Chapter, Council etc. He also has the ability to farm out portions of the ritual to those members who wish to take part.**

**Could not the Master, First Principal, Thrice Illustrious Master, etc. have his elected successor conduct the business portion of the meeting, allowing him to acquire a feel for his being installed into the highest Office of that Body. Would this not instill a beginning confidence to those forthcoming duties? Would it not be wise to continue down through all officer positions? This could be done once or twice during the year as an Emergent meeting, and better prepare all for the next Office in the line of succession rather than letting them face the immediate here and now syndrom.**

**Memorization of the entire ritual for all the three degrees is a wonderful skill and a useful tool for any member to possess, but it is not the be-all and end-all of any Masonic Body. Line officers, as they progress through the chairs learn some very valuable lessons towards leadership, charity, fellowship, family activities and communications while their knowledge of ritual increases.**

**There should be no ritual books open for any of the degree work and should be done from memory.**

There are however circumstances when a ritualist will be unable to attend at the last minute. This places the degree in jeopardy unless there is another who is prepared as a backup or willing to take it on. When all else fails, a well read portion of the ritual, which lends itself by being delivered from the lectern may be given. This may not be in agreement with all, but the Candidate will not know the difference and he is the one receiving the Degree and not anyone else. We must do what is best for the Candidate at that particular moment in time.

**: Assemblies :**

In this we provide two areas of planning. First with the Grand Council Assembly, second with the subordinate Council's Assembly.

**Grand Council**

Each year, on the Saturday immediately following the long weekend in the Month of May, Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters meet for their Annual Assembly as invited by a Host Council. Prior to this there are two Grand Executive meetings, one in February in the City of Hamilton, the other the day before Grand Council Assembly.

With new Constitutional changes that now require a two year term for the Grand Master, Grand Deputy Master, Grand Principal Conductor of Work, Grand Recorder, and Grand Inspectors General, which also places the District Recorder's into a two year term. This Committee recommends that all other Officers Elected and appointed to any Grand Council Office (i.e.: Grand Chaplain, Grand Captain of Guard; etc.) also be for a two year term, thereby keeping a continuity among all the Officers.

This Committee also recommends that a Separate Committee be set to investigate the removal of the mid-term Grand Assembly, to be replaced with an Emergent Grand Assembly as per section 10c of the Constitution or by an enhanced Grand Executive meeting in February, where the mid two-year business, as by Constitution can be handled, such as annual reports, presented and accepted; voting on Constitutional Changes made; Silver Trowel be bestowed on those Thrice Illustrious Master's present.

The presentation of the Super Excellent Master Degree and the District Recorder's being advanced to the Rank of Very. A question here arises. Should the District Recorder be advanced to the rank of Very during the first half of his term, in theory, his term of Office is not yet completed?

We understand that the Grand Inspector General is advanced to the rank of Right upon his election and confirmation, however, the rank of Very is usually conferred only after the term is over. This recommendation in its entirety should be further looked into.

This Emergent Grand Assembly should occur somewhere within central Ontario. Using the City of Barrie as an example, this would put the majority of Companions within a six hour travel time thereby permitting Companions to attend, while significantly reducing any cost to Grand Council.

This overall cost reduction to the Grand Council, the traveling of the Companions and would enable more time for a host Council to prepare, as outlined for a Semi-Annual Provincial Grand Assembly when and where the new Grand Council Companions are Elected and appointed.

Dwindling membership and rising costs, this Grand Council, not may but will, begin to see less participation at each from the Companions traveling any great distance as well as from other jurisdictions.

It has been noted that this is already occurring in other Grand Masonic Bodies.

**This now begs discussion on the continuity of Grand Council Assemblies. Should a host Council be selected, what is the specific criteria that must be followed? What small detail can be overlooked?**

**Who is doing the negotiating and finalizing details?**

**To this regard, your Committee recommends that the following be initiated:**

- 1) A set of Policies and / or Guidelines for hosting a Grand Assembly by the host Council.
  - a) a guide for those who might give consideration to hosting a Grand Assembly.**
  - b) a more comprehensive "work book and tool kit " type of guideline for a Host Committee to follow when setting up a Grand Assembly.**
  - c) a guideline to be given to a newly elected Grand Principal Conductor of Work to assist him in his thought processes towards his Grand Assemblies as he will ultimately be responsible for their success.****
- 2) The appointment of a negotiator, either by District, by quartering the Province or Provincial wide to finalize the Grand Assembly as set out by the derived policy.**
- 3) A written guideline are an asset for the Grand Inspectors General, indicating duties, forms, timing etc.**
- 4) A Manual of Instruction and guidelines for the District Recorder as related in point 3.**

### **Official Visitations**

#### ***Grand Master***

**Each Council in the Province of Ontario receives our Grand Master and his entourage, of which the District Grand Inspector General should be present during his term of office as ‘The Most Illustrious Grand Master’ of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario and Royal Ark Mariners of Ontario. This can be used to the advantage of each individual Council.**

**Each Council is advised well in advance of these visitation dates. Invite the Brethren of the Craft Lodge, the Royal Arch Masons, Knights Templar and their ladies. Let the candle light be seen. Make a big show of it. Invite the press to interview the our Grand Master, the Grand Council, the Thrice Illustrious Master and Companions of the Council.**

**This reception, whether formal or informal, is for the purpose of honouring our Grand Master and degrees should be avoided. The Degree honours only the Candidate. It is an opportunity to honour he who is the head of our Order, who has taken much time from his personal agenda to travel and visit with our Council’s within the Province. Here this Committee expects many to take one of two sides and recommend that it be left to the decision of the Most Illustrious Grand Master.**

**Should there be any special presentations to be made, ask the Grand Master if he would be prepared to make those in this formal or informal setting and ask him to provide the closing words of wisdom.**

#### ***Grand Inspector General***

**Each Council of a District is to be Officially visited by the Grand Inspector General to see that the Council is working within the prescribed Constitutional guidelines. He is to be received as the representative of the ‘Most Illustrious Grand Master’ and is his right to be honoured as the Grand Inspector General. Does this curtail the presence of the Grand Master? It shouldn’t as the present Grand Master can be on a fraternal visit and sit on the side bench.**

**If it does, and the argument made is that the Grand Inspector General is having his Official Visit and that the no Officer of higher rank be there, then should any Past Grand Master be present?**

**The Grand Inspector General reports on the proficiency of the Councils in his District. Should he see a Degree? One may argue that during his rise from Initiation to Grand Inspector General, he has viewed enough degrees to establish that proficiency, and not just based on a single night where those giving the Ritual, and those giving Ritual for the first time may have an off night.**

**In some bodies, a Grand Master will not be in attendance when a Candidate is receiving his Degree's as it is the Candidate's night only. Is this acceptable?**

**Is there any reason why the Grand Master cannot be there? Would it not be more of an honour to the Candidate to have present at his Initiation the Grand Master of the Cryptic Rite?**

**Would it not make an impression to that Candidate that once receiving his degree, to be greeted and welcomed by the Grand Master in person?**

**There will definitely be much discussion on this point, but in the interest of the Candidate, which would be more impressive? There should not be, and there are no restrictions placed on our Grand Master from doing the same.**

### **Subordinate Councils**

**From the recent Report of the Grand Inspector General's, the major concern is the number of open Ritual Books at a Council Assembly. Could this be a direct result of fewer Candidates being Initiated during that Council's Masonic Year? Yet another concern is attendance and quorum of the smaller Councils. Who is responsible? What can be done and who will do it?**

**Each Council is dependant upon several common factors for their individual existence and they should each be carefully analyzed, then answered in a most honest and truthful manner. The bounds of integrity of each Council does not fall solely within the number of members of that Council, but to the Craft Lodges and Chapters of Royal Arch Masonry within the area.**

**Individual Councils must attend to their finances, social atmosphere, individual uniqueness and perception, not only throughout the Craft but within the public arena. Through the marketing of our entire Masonic Order, and not only to a specific few, can our Order grow and prosper.**

**We, as members of the Royal And Select Masters, depend solely upon the newly initiated Brother in the Craft Lodge and must direct him towards the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons then to our Order. Take a stand; inform him through the various Degrees that there is more than just the death of Hiram Abiff, as depicted in the Third Degree. Provide him with insight as to further participation in masonry through the York Rite, yet do not negate the Scottish Rite. We must depict our own uniqueness and create a desire and interest within him to become one of us, yet permitting the final choice to be his alone.**

**Each Council of the Royal and Select Masters is an unique identity of their own and must guide their actions within the Constitution and By-Laws. However, a Council assesses each Companion an amount in dues. Each Council has obligated itself to the payment of bills. We are not just a group of men meeting as Companions for the sake of a meeting, a degree, an official visit, or social intercourse.**

**In the Craft Lodge, during the Installation of Officers, the Historian is invested with these final words; *“your diligence and discrimination in faithfully recording and reporting the events of the lodge are especially necessary in order that the brethren of the future may know and appreciate the past”*.**

Could it be time to review the minutes of the past? Establish what was done during good times and bad? Maybe even try something that hasn't been done in a long time.

In a set of minutes from 1948, I personally read:

*“dinner hour commencing at 5:30pm, ladies were invited, Chapter was opened at 7:00pm with the necessary Companions, business conducted as per outline. Chapter called off at 7:25pm for social time with ladies in the dining room, bridge, canasta and cribbage played, light lunch provided at 9:30pm. Companions attended the Chapter Room, called on and Closed the Chapter in prescribed form. All had a good time”*

Could we not learn from the past?

### Council Officers

These Companions who move up through the Officer Chair's, learn their particular portion of the Ritual and attend to the business of the Council, but are they prepared for the Office to which they have been duly elected or appointed? Do they have the knowledge, motivation, discipline and commitment to effectively exercise the duties of that particular office? Ever wonder why no one likes the Secretary or Recorder's Office?

When a Companion accepts his office, he must commit to that responsibility, ritual and function of that office to the best of his ability and to enhance, train and increase the overall effectiveness of those who follow him. Companions of the Order will only undertake the memorization of the ritual that they are comfortable with and no more. Be true to yourself, your Lodge, your Chapter and Council, if you cannot effectively perform the duties and ritual of the office - don't commit yourself.

This does not mean to forego advancement to the next office, but a commitment to only that which can be done effectively. Remain for another year in that office and practice the ritual pertaining to the next office in line.

To this regard, your Committee recommends that the following be initiated:

- 1) A Manual of Instruction for line Officers of the Council.
- 2) An Instructional Manual on the floor work and movement during the four Degrees.
- 3) A Manual of Instruction for the Thrice Illustrious Master Elect,
- 4) A set of standard requirements for use by the Examining Board.
- 5) A Manual of guidelines for Council Recorders with respect to forms and timing.

Recommendations to the Subordinate Councils be made that all officers through resolution hold a two year term, thereby increasing the opportunity of gaining members, creating a solid line of succession as well as increasing proficiency in the Ritual work. This would also prevent, in most cases, the recycling of past Officers through the chairs.

### Degrees

The Candidate, the sole unknowing participant of any degree, is vulnerable to the actions and proficiency of the Council Officers and those participating in this his Royal Master Degree of Council. It is said that first impressions count; whether they be good or bad; and these are dictated by the work of the evening. Remember, this Candidate, who has already been exposed to a minimum of six degrees within two Masonic Bodies, will evaluate and compare the Council's presentation of Ritual against those that he has already received.

**To whom does this Candidate turn to when the Degree is over?**

**Who will explain to him the work that he does not understand or is unclear of?**

**We all appreciate his voluntary admission into our Order.**

**We have accepted him as a new member. Is this where we leave him?**

**Let his sponsor's become his mentors.**

**Each Applicant has two recommending Companions. These Companions have stated that this new Candidate is fit for membership in our Order and that they have recommended him as such. Could not these Companions be assigned as his mentors through the degrees of Council and Royal Ark Mariner and where then the opportunity arises for him to decide on one of the actions as stated and above all, permit him to voice his ideas and recommendations. For he is our bloodline to success. We cannot survive, as in the past, but must move forward to better things and move with the times.**

**Would not the assigning of Past Thrice Illustrious Masters as a mentor for each single Line Officer be effective? Would this not ensure added participation from those who have already served? Would this not be an effective backup method for the Thrice Illustrious Master when he is called before the degree and informed that one of his Officers are unable to attend, or to be caught at the opening of the degree with Officers not being present?**

**Would this not be an effective way of learning, memorizing and revealing the Ritual to the Candidate? Could not the long lectures be split and shared between the Mentor and Officer should necessity require?**

**: Communication :**

**It would appear that the single major concern of the Companion's of any given Council is an instability and sometimes total lack of communication. One realizes this when one hears or speaks, "I just found out yesterday!", "no one ever mentioned that!", "it wasn't in the summons!", "why didn't they tell us that!". Is this only happening between an individual Council and it's members or all the way up the ladder? Is it only apparent between the Companions and their Council, the Grand Inspector General and the Grand Body? Where is this breakdown in Communication? Is it just our fantasy or is it realistic? Are those Companions even present at that particular Council Meeting when that to be communicated is either read or said?**

**We recognize that any Masonic body must have a Grand Body and its own structure of reporting representatives. We also realize that it would be very expensive for any Grand Body to mail any information that is to be communicated to each Companion. Therefore, we suggest that a chain of communication be set in place and that would be that the Grand Body communicates to the individual Councils who, in turn, would communicate the same to its members.**

**What is to be communicated?**

**What do the Companions feel they are missing out on?**

**Is it a breakdown in the overall structure of order or is it a simple lack of 'bi-directional communication'?**

**One must determine what information is relevant for communication. Communication must flow in both directions. Problems can be prevented and / or solved with good communication. However, if there was no communication - does any problem really exist?**

**We, the Committee, respect and understand this dilemma and offer the following for consideration. With the use of computers, different software programs are used to fulfil the various needs of a Council. Data may or may not be compatible between the various computer software that is being used. This leads to the statement that; "I received you communication, but I cannot open it". There must be a way to standardize data transfer between councils.**

This Committee realizes that the purchase of any new software to standardize communication may not be in a Councils financial status. We therefore recommend to each Council Recorder explore the software called 'Open Office'.

It is a free and Open Productivity Suite, multi platform - multilingual office suite and an open-source project. Compatible with all other major office suites, free to download, use, and distribute.

It is the leading open-source office software suite for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, databases. For the download site goto the web site:

<http://download.openoffice.org/index.html>

There are a multitude of extensions for different functions that can be added. To see those extensions goto the web site;

["http://download.openoffice.org/index.html"](http://download.openoffice.org/index.html),

Then click on

"Get OpenOffice.org Extensions"

### District Level

The Council Summons being sent monthly to each Companion, contains information on the activities as they pertain to the agenda set forth for the next Regular or Emergent Assembly of that specific Council. Included; are usually messages from the Thrice Illustrious Master and Recorder, any special events and activities of the District and of the Jurisdiction of Ontario. However there are items that come up during the Business and good of Order portions of the Assembly that may not make their way into the next summons. With the extensive use of the internet, the summons can be electronically emailed to those who have email abilities, and is post mailed to the others, could the minutes not be incorporated into that email or post mail. This would ensure that each Companion would receive all happenings of their Council. Also this would save time in the Assembly as only a motion to accept the minutes as circulated be made, rather than the Recorder reading them.

The Recorder receives Summons from the other Councils of the District which are normally stated under correspondence as 'various summons from other Councils have been received'. Does anyone go through those other Summons to see what their sister Councils in the District are doing? Should they? Why not? We should always indicate events in sisters Councils.

If a Sister Council is holding an event or degree, make your Council aware of it. There maybe Companions who might wish to attend. It would not take long for the Recorder, Thrice Illustrious Master to peruse those summons and give a brief statement on the District happenings. Should this prove to time consuming, appoint a Companion to collect the summons from the Recorder and prepare a short informational talk on the happenings within the District.

How many of us have received a letter from the District Deputy Grand Master or the Grand Superintendent stating a welcome to our Order? Has anyone received one from the Grand Body, other than a Certificate showing the completion of Degrees?

Would it not be a nice addition for the new Royal Master to receive a written letter of welcome and congratulations from the Grand Inspector General. Then, when that Royal Master is registered as a member of the Royal and Select Masters of Ontario, would it not also be fitting for him to receive a welcoming letter of congratulations from the Grand Council.

Nothing further than a simple standardized and signed form letter of welcome and congratulations need be sent, then, as the final touch, the Grand Council Certificate presented.

## Provincial Level

Upon perusing the Grand Council Website, we find that there are few Councils within the Jurisdiction of Ontario that do not have an e-mail contact address, however, there may be a Companion of that Council that does. Should all Councils have an e-mail address, then each Council Recorder could send a Summons to every other Council in this Grand Jurisdiction. In this way every Council and Companion present will be aware of what is going on.

If we follow the guideline presented under subtitle 'District Level', the Companion would rise and state that as an example:

- Frontenac Council No. 26 is doing a Royal Master degree ( date )
- Salem Council No. 9 is doing a Super Excellent Master Degree (date )
- Essex Council No. 12 is holding a Garden party (date )
- Zohar Council No. 19 is hosting their Official visit of the Grand Inspector General ( date )
- Keystone Council No. 20 is having their annual BBQ ( date )
- Alpha Council No. 23 is doing their Installation of Officers ( date )
- The remaining Councils are attending to Business as usual.

Another method would be to have each Council upload to the Grand Council's web site their summons for that month. Here, anyone with internet access can find out what each Council is doing. This however would place an additional burden on the Web Master, but over time a method could be developed to allow this to be done by each council alone via cgi, java scripting and personal logon techniques.

Again referring to the Grand Council Web Site, we note that the information contained therein is not always up to date. This does not fall to the Web Master to chase each individual Council to supply him with the appropriate information, but to that Council to update the Web Master as changes occur.

To allow each Recorder to update his own Councils information would be ideal, but in turn, poses security issues. There fore it is recommended by this Committee that the Recorder, within ten days after the Installation of Council Officers, be forward a copy of the newly Installed Officers, page one of form six (6) to the Web Master for web site updating.

### : Enhancing Attendance :

We all have noticed that when a Candidate is receiving his degree there are many more in attendance then at a meeting when there is nothing going on or education is being presented. There is no reason to call an emergent meeting if all that is in the agenda to open or close. People's time is valuable, do not waste it. Emergent meeting should be called for degrees or finalization of specific events that will have much discussion and decision making, such as a Grand Master visitation, or a 100 or 200 year Anniversaries. Consider a 'outdoor degree'.

There must be, within reasonable driving distance ,a provincial park, a recreational area, a quarry or some area which could be used. It does not have to be held during the regular September to June meeting time, but during the summer months. Make it a big deal, invite the Grand Body as well as other Districts in the jurisdiction. See if any would wish to partake in the work or have a candidate who would like to be part of the degree. Explain to them the overall program of events. Even consider making it a weekend getaway. This is unique. Hold it yearly, bi-yearly. Make it unique to your Masonic Body.

Hold a dinner for the newly made Entered Apprentice, invite his family and friends. Who will host it? Either Lodge, Chapter Council, Precentor, Scottish Rite, or even by rotation, it really does not matter, we are all Entered Apprentices. Let us make him feel wanted. Introduce him to the various areas of Masonry to which he will have an opportunity to continue once receiving his Master Mason Degree.

**Hold an ‘Early Day Lodge’. Research your District to find out what type of clothing was worn in its early days. In the Kingston area, British Soldier uniforms, Northern Ontario, Voyager and lumber jack garments. Have the membership dress accordingly as well as the Candidate. Do it in the afternoon, have an old style dinner afterwards, invite the Ladies and family to partake in the meal and festivities, but overall make it fun. Transport the older members, if only to the dinner and have them several give a brief talk on the ‘good old days’.**

**Do you remember those Officers who were in Office when you were initiated into any Body. Where are they now? Some have passed away, some have moved away, some are invalid and others are ravaged by disease. Locate these Officers, for if it were not for them, you would not be where you are today. Make arrangements for those who can to attend, and transport them to a honour night, for them individually or for all. They do not have to be of any high rank, nor have held any office, they may only be an elderly member that has participated in the work of that Body during your initiation and progression.**

**A wealth of knowledge is contained in the overall membership of any given Masonic Body. It may range from a public works person who cleans out our sewers to an Electronic Engineer who designs and puts spaceships or satellites into outer space, yet, all having experiences in attending their particular Masonic Body. Do not limit yourself to those members locally, expand within the District. Use meetings, Emergent meetings should you desire to keep it within the Masonic Arena, or use a Saturday or Sunday and bring it into the public realm.**

**Why cannot a Masonic Body hold a “Table Lodge” or a “Murder Mystery Night”? This would be an excellent way in providing attendance. Written invitations sent to under the title of Mr. & Mrs.”. It lends itself to be used at any time. After a short business meeting, as an Emergent meeting or just for social intercourse. It could remain to the specific Masonic Body, open to Masons alone, or with their families and friends. It could be rotated monthly or by-monthly throughout the District. Alcohol does not have to be used. There are a great number of non-alcoholic Spitzer’s that mimic many various types of wines and champagnes. This could be a fund-raiser for either the host or to a charitable organization. All it would take is a little planning.**

**: Tools :**

***Officers - Past and Present***

**Members of the Council who are not Past Thrice Illustrious Masters or Officers of the Council are an important part of our Assemblies. They are not just there as members to watch and learn, but rather to participate.**

**What they view during their time prior to becoming an officer reflects the type of officer they become. They can be assigned various parts of the Ritual. Some lengthy charges may be split into sections with two or more members delivering it.**

**There may be Companions in the membership who do not wish to progress through the Offices of Council. Could these Companions not be asked if they would learn and perform part of the drama portion to enhance these degrees. To oversee this, those Past Thrice Illustrious Masters, not acting as Officer Mentors, could become involved, no matter how large or small their part may be.**

***Financial***

**We as Masons must understand one very important fact about our various Masonic Bodies. No matter to which we attend, there is but one important item that each solely depends upon for their existence and that is money. There are audit reports, year end financials, projects and donations, this all forms the business side of Masonry. The Fraternal side could be said to include everything else.**

Let us now examine the business side of Masonry. What forms income? Mainly dues! Dues income supports all the expenses to that Body. How is income increased? One method would be by increasing membership, a second by increasing dues, though this is frowned upon by most Bodies, however, with rising costs it is true fact.

### *Dues*

A simple method of determining how one stands as it relates to dues is to take from the Annual Audit Statement the total expenses and divide that amount by the total membership. This figure is the break even amount or the minimum amount of dues required from each member. This does not take into account any increase in expenses for the upcoming year when dues amount will change.

**“Tiered dues should be eliminated and a common amount be applied”**

Consider as an example; a dues structure is \$40.00 for distant members, \$30.00 for seniors and \$50.00 for regular members. Applying the formula of total Council expenses (*from audit statement*) divided by membership (*from audit statement*) yields a cost of membership or a minimum dues figure of \$39.75 is derived. Here, one can immediately see a potential financial problem. In this example the Body in question is paying \$9.75 on behalf of each senior to remain a member, a profit of \$0.25 for the distant member, and a profit of \$10.25 for a regular member.

Overall profit for operation of the Council calculates to an overall gross profit of \$0.75 per member. Now should a increase of 3 ½ % in expenses occur, the new cost of membership is \$41.14. Each member should pay an equal share to the Council. Each Member, no matter age or where they reside, cost to that Body remains the same by per capita assessments, publications, rent and mailings.

Dues are usually payable by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December prior to the year to which they apply. Most may consider this a financial burden as this coincides with Christmas as well as when other concordant Body dues are also due. Money may become tight for some at this time. Here the Committee suggests three methods of offsetting this possible burden, while the Fiscal or financial year of the Council remains the same, ending on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December each year.

- 1) separate the Fiscal year from the Masonic Year by changing the date of the Masonic year (dues) from the 31<sup>st</sup> of December to say 30<sup>th</sup> of June, in that way it would not place an additional financial burden on the Companion at Christmas time.
- 2) notify the member that these dues can be paid by instalments within a twelve month period.
- 3) include a separate invoice with the summons, not just written on the summons.  
Remember:- as membership declines, cost of membership increases, as membership increases cost of membership decreases.

### *Membership*

**“Many men live a lifetime and never know they must ask for admission to the world's oldest, most purposeful and greatest Fraternity. They do not realize that they will not be invited. They must come in of their own free will and accord, without persuasion, for, that is the manner in which many millions of Masons in America have been accepted.”**

*Paragraph two, "On Seeking Masonic Membership" by Henry C. Clausen, Past Grand Master of Masons in California. [http://www.totse.com/en/conspiracy/secret\\_societies/mason02.html](http://www.totse.com/en/conspiracy/secret_societies/mason02.html) ( viewed June 19/08 )*

**"Our existence as Council's of Royal and Select Masters depends entirely on the number of Royal Arch Masons, which again solely depends upon the number of Craft Brethren in the Lodge. We all are still Craft Lodge Brothers, therefore it falls to us to increase our own membership. How can this be done? We must market our uniqueness as a Fraternity to attract new people to our Masonic Orders. First and foremost to the Craft Lodge then to the various Masonic Rites."**

**Examining what is available for use we find that local Newspapers have a Community Event section where free announcements of upcoming events can be placed. This also exists with Community Cable Television, Radio Stations, Newspaper flyer inserts and Chamber of Commerce newsletters, participating at the Welcome to my town night. Even a good looking poster placed on the grocery store bulletin board would be an effective method of informing the public of an informational session commonly known as an Open House. Set up an information booth in a Mall once or twice a year. *(Insurance may be an issue here)***

**Each Lodge would have an idea of how to present an information night or open house. There is no right or wrong way to do this. It is just a matter of finding one that works then tailoring it to fit the individual area.**

*See Appendix 'A' for some Web Sites*

**Very Illustrious Companion Joe Chamberlain, Chairman of the Grand Council Public Relations Committee has requested and now received all pamphlets and promotional brochures which have been created and presented to the Grand Council by this Long Range Planning Committee over the last several years. We trust that these will be a benefit to the Grand Council Public Relations Committee in their efforts to promote the Royal and Select Masters of Ontario.**

**This Committee does not believe that we as a Masonic whole can not come up with an excellent marketing strategy for our Fraternity, considering the diversity of those who make up our membership.**

**The Committee presents this report in the hope that it will be well received and discussed in open Council so that some ideas here presented will be taken, implemented, and trickle down to those Masonic Bodies to which this Grand Council relies on for membership.**

**Lastly, this Committee asks each Companion of the Royal and Select Masters of Ontario, that should you note or participate in any event that demonstrates an increase in attendance or membership applications, please advise a member of the Long Range Planning Committee as soon as possible of that event so that it may incorporated into the Long Range Plan, to be shared with all Councils throughout this Grand Jurisdiction.**

**In closing, we thank the Grand Master and The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario for the opportunity to serve as an Appointed Committee for this Grand Council and to the Committee Members for their time and dedication.**

**Respectfully submitted, on behalf of the Long Range Planning Committee;**

**Right Illustrious Companion Wm. D. Amendola - Chairman.**

**I move, seconded by Right Illustrious Companion, The Grand Principal Conductor of Work, that this report be received and adopted for printing in the minutes.**

# Appendix 'A'

## Masonic Membership

*The Grand Lodge of Maine provides activities for various activities:  
(by permission of the Grand Lodge of New York)*

<http://www.mainemason.org/resources/suggestprograms.asp>

*The Grand Lodge of Maine, State wide open house notice:*

<http://www.mainemason.org/openhouse.asp>

*37 Masonic District of Pennsylvania, th annual open house:*

[http://www.pagrandlodge.org/district37/D37\\_News/D37News.php?id=70](http://www.pagrandlodge.org/district37/D37_News/D37News.php?id=70)

*New Model Lodge USA*

<http://www.nmlusa.org/membership.html>

*Idaho Masonic Membership Program 2007*

[http://www.idahoaf.am/securedocs/membership\\_mentor/2007\\_Idaho%20Masonic%20Membership%20Program.doc](http://www.idahoaf.am/securedocs/membership_mentor/2007_Idaho%20Masonic%20Membership%20Program.doc)

*Pietre-Stone; Review of Free Masonry; Membership Problem*

<http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/taylor.html>

*OpenOffice Suite*

<http://download.openoffice.org/index.html>

*For OpenOffice extensions goto the web site;*

<http://download.openoffice.org/index.html>

*Then click on*

"Get OpenOffice.org Extensions"

**Papers:**

***BACK TO THE FUTURE: A PRESCRIPTION FOR MASONIC RENEWAL***

*(The "European Concept" Lodge Model)*

<http://www.vitruvian.org/papers/backtofuture.html>

*Leadership and*

*Idaho's Masonic*

*Lodges*

[http://www.idahoaf.am/securedocs/leadership\\_training/leadership\\_training\\_manual.pdf](http://www.idahoaf.am/securedocs/leadership_training/leadership_training_manual.pdf)

*Sites tried and tested*

*30<sup>th</sup> August 2008*

## Appendix 'B

# FREEMASONRY

## Setting the Record Straight

### Is Freemasonry A Secret Organization?

Absolutely not. Where and when Masons meet is public knowledge, as are their objectives and activities. The only "secrets" are the ways in which Masons recognize each other.

### Is Freemasonry Some Sort of Religion?

It is not a religion and the subject is never discussed at Masonic meetings. A Mason must have a belief in a Supreme Being, but his particular faith or creed is a personal and private matter.

### Are Masons Obligated to Help Each Other in Business?

No, Freemasonry is not organized for member profit, career enhancement or political advantage. Its purpose is to teach morality, encourage charity and practice worldwide brotherly love.

### Do Masons Ever Discuss the Order with Nonmasons?

Yes, Masons welcome opportunities to talk about Masonry. As a policy, they do not solicit new members but are always ready to respond to those interested in becoming a member.

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If you have other questions or would like to know more, talk to a Mason. Or write to our Grand Lodge Office on King Street West in Hamilton for a pamphlet outlining our activities, objectives and history. The mailing address is:



The Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada  
in the Province of Ontario  
363 King Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario L8P1B4

This message courtesy of:

**LOCAL LODGE**

(This area for local lodge information)

This ad is presently 2 columns by 126 agate lines deep, but this depth will vary according to the number of local lodge imprints.