



MASONIC EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario
Committee on Masonic Education
MEMBERSHIP PILLAR

March, 2014

“The Foundation of Every State is the Education of its Youth”

Diogenes

Prepared and submitted on behalf of the Committee on Masonic Education by
R.W. Bro. Charles A. Woods, Chairman, CME

BRETHREN, are you fed up with winter? We sure are! The sun is so much stronger every day, which lifts our spirits, but there’s NO heat!! Hopefully, by the time the next CME Newsletter is issued, we will all be smiling and enjoying the longer days.

I have good news, Brethren! We have just made arrangements to hold a Masonic Education Conference on Saturday, September 27, 2014 to be held at Humber College in Toronto. Please mark the date on your calendars now so that you too, can add to the success of what promises to be a great Masonic event. Details will follow soon.

The Sankey Lecture

Takes place this coming Sunday, March 30, at 3 pm at Brock University, St. Catharines. The guest lecturer, Dr. Renee Lafferty, will speak on the topic “Brothers in Arms: Freemasons and the War of 1812”. Please visit the website www.sankeylectures.ca for more information or contact R.W. Bro. Gareth Taylor at garethtaylor@rogers.com. The lecture is free, but tickets are required. To reserve your tickets, contact the Centre for the Arts Box Office at 905-688-5550x3257 or boxoffice@brocku.ca. A donation to the Sankey Project will be much appreciated in lieu of paying for a ticket.

Our Grand Lodge – Its Membership and Structure

When travelling, I am often asked by masons, of all ranks, about Grand Lodge. The most common questions are: Who are the members? What do they do? How do they get to be Grand Lodge Officers?

Our Jurisdiction covers the territorial limits of the Province of Ontario and is divided into 44 Districts. We are called “The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario”. All of the other Grand Lodges only use their respective Province’s name, but we use the words “of Canada” because we were the first Grand Lodge to be chartered in Canada on October 10, 1855 in Hamilton (Canada West) with William Mercer Wilson being our first Grand Master.

The Book of Constitution, Part 1, has 172 Sections relating to the rules and regulations in the operation of Grand Lodge:

- Section 5 tells us what ritual is to be used in our ceremonies (the English ritual with slight modifications, adopted in 1859, by The Grand Lodge of Canada)
- Section 7 reminds us that NO changes are to be made to the ritual without formal authorization of the Ritual Committee, which consists of the Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, the Deputy Grand Master and a Past Grand Master who is the Custodian of the Work.
- Section 12 lists the rank, i.e. the order of precedence, of the Officers and Members of Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge website under “Annual Communication” lists the current elected and appointed members.
- Sections 42-49 should be read along with Sections 53-64 which describe the methods of selection of various Grand Lodge Officers and their length of term.
- Sections 50-52 describe the rules relating to the election of the DDGM.
- Section 56 describes the rules of the voting of a lodge by the WM, SW, JW as well as the Past Masters.
- Section 57 explains that, if a lodge has not paid its dues and returns to the Grand Secretary on or before the 8th day of July each year, no WM, Warden, or proxy, may vote for positions to Grand Lodge. The Past Masters can still, indeed, vote.
- Sections 67-92 describe the powers of Grand Lodge and of the Grand Master.
- Sections 94 & 95 list the powers and duties of the Deputy Grand Master.
- Sections 96-109 describe the powers and duties of the District Deputy Grand Master, who is the direct representative of the Grand Master in his own District and is the representative of the District at all functions outside his own District.
All aspirants for the office of District Deputy Grand Master must complete the PM’s Course from the College of Freemasonry by the 31st of May in the year they are running.
- Sections 110-120 list the duties of other Grand Lodge Officers.
- Sections 131-134 cover the duties and powers of The Board of General Purposes.

Grand Lodge consists of its Grand Officers (The Grand Master, The Past Grand Masters, The Deputy Grand Master, The Grand Secretary, The Grand Treasurer), its Past Grand Officers, Past Masters and Wardens of all Lodges, duly returned on the Grand Lodge Register. It also includes the 35 Members of The Board of General Purposes, the President of which is the Deputy Grand Master. He is also the Chairman of the Management Committee, which comprises five members of the Board, who are the liaison to the Grand Lodge Committees arranged under the five Pillars as follows:

1. Craft Stewardship:
 - Long Range Planning
 - Condition of Masonry
 - Fraternal Correspondence
 - DDGM Orientation
 - Seminars and Workshops
2. Membership:
 - Leadership Development
 - Protocol and Etiquette
 - Lodge Resources (Brother to Brother, Friend to Friend, Mentor, Officer Progression, Cornerstone Project)
 - Library, Museum and Archives
 - Masonic Education (College of Freemasonry, Reflections Newsletter, Book Sales)
3. Communications:
 - Internal Communications
 - Website Management
 - Publishing Review
 - Email Distribution
 - Ontario Mason Magazine

- 4. Finance and Operations:
 - Audit and Finance
 - Finance Advisory
 - Constitution and Jurisprudence
 - Discipline
 - Benevolence
 - Building Infrastructure
 - Fraternal Relations
- 5. Community Outreach:
 - Blood Donors
 - Brock University Partnership
 - Public Awareness
 - Youth Initiatives

Some other Grand Lodge Officers, are: Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Chaplain, Grand Registrar, Grand Director of Ceremonies, Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, Grand Stewards, Grand Pursuivant, and Grand Historian, and others. These are all appointed for one-year terms by The Grand Master.

Associate Corporations:

- Masonic Holdings
- Masonic Foundation of Ontario
- MasoniCh.I.P.

The Board of General Purposes meets three to four times a year and is comprised of 14 elected members, 14 appointed members plus seven Honorary members (who are appointed by the Grand Master). Each year, 14 of these positions (7 elected and 7 appointed positions) become vacant. The incumbents are eligible for re-election or re-appointment. Their terms are normally for two years. Once in a while it is for one year only. All candidates must have their nomination forms to The Grand Secretary by April 1st in the year of the election at The Annual Communication in July. The unwritten rule is that, if one is unsuccessful in being elected to the Board, he does not usually run in the next year's election (but should wait for two years before running for the same position again).

Besides doing their committee work, Grand Lodge Officers are expected to drive countless kilometers to attend Lodge meetings, Grand Master's Receptions, Installations, Official Visits, and various other special functions and events as representatives of The Grand Master and The Grand Lodge. Most of this – meal costs, accommodation, gas, event fees – is at their own cost. When presenting workshops, at a significant distance from home, a modest remuneration is provided by Grand Lodge.

All of the above information is available for further study and more in-depth information from the "Book of Constitution" of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

A Masonic Minute

Prepared by M.W. Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels

"Some must of necessity Rule and Teach"

During the Ceremony of Installation, the Master-elect is required to give his *unqualified assent* to several points read to him in a *Summary of the Ancient Charges*. One of them states, *"to propagate the knowledge of the mystic art."* Later in the Ceremony, he is charged *"to communicate light and instruction to the Brethren."*

During the opening of every subsequent meeting over which he presides, he is reminded of his stated duty: “*to employ and instruct the Brethren in Masonry.*” Thus, the Worshipful Master assumes a heavy responsibility.

The Lodge has always been a place of learning. The Ancient Charges make this clear: “*A Lodge is a place where Freemasons assemble to work and to instruct and to improve themselves in the mysteries of their ancient science.*”¹ In Operative times when the lodge was a simple hut erected on the building site, the Apprentices were indentured to Masters to learn the skills of the stonemason’s trade – the trade secrets. When Freemasonry was transformed into a gentleman’s philosophical society in the age of enlightenment, the object was “*the cultivation and improvement of the human mind.*” So it remains to this day.

This has been clearly and forcefully articulated in a recently published note by W. Bro. Andrew Hammer, the author of Observing the Craft and eminent speaker who addressed our Annual Communication in July 2013. “*The very origin of Freemasonry itself is in education. Whether it be the practical education in stone-cutting found in the operative craft of masonry, or the search for inner knowledge and science presented to us by the speculative craft, the foundation of the art is inexorably based in teaching and learning. Without it, there is simply no Freemasonry taking place in a Lodge. Therefore, every meeting of the Lodge should offer some amount of Masonic education, be it through the degrees, or through presentations on the various lessons of the Craft. Even a ten-minute talk focused on the symbolic meaning of a single working tool is far better than a meeting where nothing but donations, dinners, and dues are on the agenda. ... A Lodge without Masonic education cannot be an observant Lodge, and is arguably not any kind of Lodge at all. The search for more light is at the heart of Masonry.*”

Freemasonry teaches that all men are created equal – sons of Adam. However, within this concept there is, fortunately for the welfare of society, a wide variety of skill, aptitude, knowledge and experience. Everyone has something unique to contribute to the general good of humanity. However, not everyone is equipped to teach, train, or coach. A good leader knows how to identify and empower the human resources at his disposal – to delegate by aligning task with talent. It is his most valuable tool.

In our traditional history we have an instructive example. We read in the sacred writings that “*Solomon’s wisdom surpassed that of all the men of the east and of all Egypt. For he was wiser than any man. ... Men of all races came to listen to the wisdom of Solomon.*”² Yet, when he began the construction of the great Temple at Jerusalem, he formed an alliance with King Hiram of the neighbouring kingdom of Tyre to supply the necessary men and materials and retained the master builder and skilled artificer, Hiram to oversee the work. In other words, he delegated.³

Perhaps the Worshipful Master, as the humble representative of King Solomon, symbolically occupying the Chair of Solomon in the Lodge, should imitate his example and delegate the planning and presentation of learning opportunities to those Brethren with pedagogical training, skill, experience and knowledge. We cannot impart to others that which we do not possess ourselves. Every lodge has a vast talent pool of experienced, knowledgeable, able and willing Brethren – often just waiting to be asked to contribute.

Bro. Albert Pike issued this challenge more than a century ago, but which remains valid to this day: “*He who would become an accomplished Mason must not be content to hear, or even understand, the lectures; he must, aided by them, and they having, as it were, marked out the way for him, study, interpret, and develop these symbols, for himself.*”⁴

¹ The Charges of a Freemason, III. Of Lodges – reprinted Part VI The Book of Constitution

² 1 Kings 4: vv. 30 / 34

³ A full list the officers appointed by Solomon is given in 1 Kings, Chapter 4.

⁴ Pike, Albert. **Morals and Dogma.** pp. 22-23

Masonic Baseball

I had a great evening while visiting Renforth Temple, Toronto Humber Valley District, on March 10th. Two lodges, Astra Mount Dennis No. 599 and Trillium Lodge No. 575, fielded teams to play Masonic Baseball. DDGM Harold Clarke and W. Bro. Terrence Van Horne were the organizers. The team captains had their line-ups ready and a player then picked a ball from a basket. On the ball was marked “single”, “double”, “triple” or “home run”. The pitcher from the opposing team then asked a question from a list of prearranged questions, in order, on Masonic topics. If the player answered the question correctly, he moved through the bases at the same rate as numbered on the ball (the chairs being in the N, W, and S) from the home base (E). If the player needed help from his team, he could only move a single base. If he answered incorrectly, he struck out and the next “batter” came up to the plate. I was roped in to be an “umpire”! Yikes!!!!

It was a great evening with lots of fun and camaraderie. What a great way to present Masonic Education to the brethren, in a very enjoyable manner. There were no losers that evening – just happy, much more knowledgeable, masons.

If anyone would like to find out more about how to arrange an evening like this, please feel free to contact W. Bro. Terrance Van Horne from Antiquity Lodge No. 571 at telephone no. 416-236-7818 or t.vanhorne@sympatico.ca. I did get his permission!

“Knowledge Without Education is but Armed Injustice”

Horace