

THE ALBERTA FreeMason



Editor: MWBro
Robert E. Juthner

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The 2002 Conference of Grand Masters of North America

By MWBro Douglas N. Troock, Grand Master

The 75th Conference of Grand Masters of North America was held in Milwaukee, February 17–19, 2002 and was hosted by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, MWBro John W. Hein, Grand Master.

Prior to the opening of the conference, the Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Secretaries and their ladies were treated to a tour of the Milwaukee Public Museum, concluding with a variety of buffet dinners of ethnic foods of the original settlers of the area. Early Sunday morning a religious observance service was conducted by MWBro Fred K. Bauer, PGM of Massachusetts, followed by the official opening of the conference by the chairman, MWBro Clifford “Skip” Parker, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. The colours were presented by the Wisconsin Grand Commandery, followed by the national anthems of the United States of America, Canada and Mexico. Welcoming presentations were made by MWBro Hein and the Honourable Scott McCallum, Governor of Wisconsin.

- The theme speaker was WBro Larry Jacobsen, whose topic was “How to develop a Vision Statement.” His speech was complemented by a video presentation of graphs



indicating the trend of falling membership.

- Considerable time was allotted to the annual meetings of North American Masonic organizations such as the Masonic Service Association, the George Washington Memorial Committee, the National Masonic Foundation for Children, and the Masonic Renewal Committee.

- A film was presented, entitled *Mr. Dreyfus Goes to Washington*, narrated by actor Richard Dreyfus. It was to be aired on the History Channel on April 29th. The film describes the various monuments in Washington (DC) and how they

relate to specific Masons and to Masonry. It was reported that just days before the conference, Mr. Dreyfus asked for a petition to join Freemasonry.

- There were three interesting breakout sessions on the following topics: “Young Masons”; “Masonic Relationships”; Grand Lodge and ‘Blue’ (=Craft) Lodge Corporations.”

- The Time and Place Committee reported that the Grand Lodge of Tennessee has been awarded the 2006 conference, at Nashville, TN.

In conclusion I must emphasize the warm hospitality extended to all delegates by the Masons of Wisconsin.

The 20th All-Canada Conference

By RWBro Terrence A. Drolet, Deputy Grand Master

Having heard that this conference was one of the better ones to attend, I looked forward to the 20th Annual Conference of Grand and District Grand Lodges of Canada, held in Winnipeg, MB, on March 15 and 16, 2002. [Prior to the first “annual,” there had been “biennial” conferences of the same bodies. Ed.]

The Grand Master, MWBro Doug Troock, the Grand Secretary, RWBro Jerry Kopp, and I left for Winnipeg on March 15th. Due to technical problems of the flight, Bro Troock and I arrived two hours late and missed the opening, keynote address and first two papers which were entitled “Quality Before Numbers” and “Membership Retention.” [They will appear in print in the proceedings of that conference. Ed.]

The next day was filled with many interesting and thought provoking papers. The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario presented a very comprehensive paper on the “Examination of the Worshipful Master-elect” as used in that jurisdiction. (Were you aware that in our own jurisdiction of Alberta we also have such guidelines for use in our Lodges?)



“Masonic Secrets” by RWBro Paul Mailhot (QC) and “Traditions and Customs” by RWBro Rex Cotter (NF-SC) gave us the opportunity to examine our “secrets” and the

perception of the same by society. The rich traditions and customs of our different jurisdictions and Lodges were presented.

“Public Installations and Other Sensitive Issues” by RWBro Don Beattie (MB) generated a great deal of discussion, with everyone present giving his opinion on this controversial subject.

“Responsible Leadership” by RWBro Mumby (ON) raised the question, “are the sponsors of the candidates performing their duties; do they act as mentors to the candidates throughout their Masonic careers?”

The paper on “Leadership Training” by MWBro Hitchcock (NB) emphasized the need for thorough leadership training of the officers of our Lodges.

Our own *Doric Plan for Lodge Leadership* is a most valuable tool which our Lodges are encouraged to use.

MWBro Castle (SK) in his paper “Apathy Through Low Standards” asks, “are we so desperate for new members that we accept lower standards in our candidates; are we accepting a lower standard in the level of the quality doing our ritual?”

See **All-Canada**, page 2.

Editorial

Brother, can you spare a quarter?

No, this is not about charity, Masonic or otherwise. What follows are simply musings concerning this monthly publication of ours, about the ravages of inflation, and our willingness to pay for value received. Very profound, indeed!

Actually, before proceeding to read this, one should first read the brief article in this issue entitled "From over Six Decades ago" that will set the stage. — Pause — now we can go on:

So, in 1941, six years after the first issue of Alberta's *Grand Lodge Bulletin* has gone to press, an annual subscription was set at 20 cents, or two cents a copy. Of course, then one could buy a lot more for 20 cents than today, but incomes were also proportionally lower. What does it look like today? Not so fast, let us first make a comparison. Around 1960, this writer's annual dues paid to his Lodge were a whopping \$10.00 — yes, ten dollars. Then, one day, the motion was put on the floor to increase the dues

to \$12.50... Imagine, a 25% increase — unheard of! Some Brethren were not amused, and spoke of the "Dirty Thirties," the memory of which still hung like a dark cloud over them. Well, the motion passed, and during the ensuing forty years dues increases became a fact of life, understandably. Now, in 2002, this particular Lodge's annual dues, including Grand Lodge, District and Lodge Hall assessments come to a total of \$167.80.

Now we can go on talking about the cost of the bulletin today. The annual cost to the member, included in the Grand Lodge assessment of \$35.50 is \$2.50, and that is for ten issues which means that the price of one is twenty-five cents! Outrageous, isn't it? But, let's go on with these musings: In 1935, when the *Grand Lodge Bulletin* saw the light of day, and for several years thereafter, the monthly consisted of one mimeographed sheet of paper (for those younger men

in our ranks who never heard what that means: the Oxford Dictionary defines a "mimeograph" as an Apparatus in which stencils are placed for making copies of written pages). Today, we feel, only the best is good enough for our readers. Yes, "readers". We were told that those on the mailing list can be divided into several categories: (A) those who eagerly open the envelope and peruse the contents; (B) those who also open the envelope and, sooner or later, scan the contents; (C) those who receive the mailing and forget about it; and (D) those who relegate the unopened envelope to File Thirteen. Interestingly enough, among A and B above there seem to be those who collect the bulletin, now named *The Alberta Freemason*, maybe in a loose-leaf binder, and those who discard it. Nothing wrong with the latter, as long as they have superior powers of retention than this writer can claim.

So, since 1941 the two-center has become a twenty-five-center. What is it really worth to the reader? He alone can answer this question. Say, Brother, can you spare a quarter?

Grand Master's Itinerary

June

- 4 Gleichen Lodge
- 5 Avon Glen Lodge, Edmonton
- 6-8 Grand Lodge of Manitoba, Winnipeg
- 14-15 Annual Communication, Calgary

Grand Master Elect's Itinerary

June

- 17 Astra Lodge, Cold Lake
- 19-21 Grand Lodge of British Columbia & Yukon
- 26 Dominion Lodge, Edmonton
- 29 Peace River Lodge and Northland Lodge

Summer Lodges

June

- 1 Bassano Lodge, Armstrong Memorial Open Air Lodge. Meet at Bassano Lodge Hall at 9:00 AM; tyle at 11:00 AM.

- 1 Rockyford Lodge No. 123, Western Night, Bowmont Hall, Calgary

July

- 2 Vulcan Lodge No. 74, 8:00 PM
- 4 Excelsior Lodge No. 80, Regular Meeting, 8:00 PM
- 4 Lake Saskatoon Lodge No. 106, Wembley, Regular Summer Meeting
- 6 Canada Lodge No. 165, Calgary, Stampede Lodge, 2:00 PM at King George Hall; Dress Western; refreshments and beef dinner \$10.00; contact Allen Long at (403) 275-5247; information also available on web page
- 11 Nanton Lodge No. 17, Annual Outdoor Meeting, BBQ after
- 24 Redwood Lodge No. 193, Klondike Lodge, 7:30 PM, Highlands Hall
- 24 Forestburg-Alliance Lodge No. 128, Regular Meeting, 8:00 PM

August

- 1 Lake Saskatoon Lodge No. 106, Wembley, Regular Meeting, 8:00 PM

- 6 Edgerton Lodge No. 102 Regular Meeting, 7:30 PM

- 6 Excelsior Lodge No. 80, Daysland, Regular Meeting, 8:00 PM

All-Canada, from page 1.

Lodges should be recognized for their high standards in performing their work.

MWBro George Cull (NF & Labrador), in his paper "Education (Interactive)", emphasized that education is not just giving a paper or hearing a didactic lecture, but requires active involvement of the Brethren in their Masonic education.

This conference is one of the finest that I have had the privilege of attending. The topics were all thought provoking and stimulated much discussion and, most importantly, brought out possible solutions to the problems put forward. The All Canada Conference is a definite must in the education of a Grand Lodge Officer.

The Committee on the Grand Lodge Bulletin

MWBro Robert E. Juthner (Chairman);
WBro Garth Cochran; WBro Loren Kline;
Bro Trevor Morris — Ex Officio: Grand Master,
Deputy Grand Master & Grand Secretary

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Grand Chaplain's Message

We all know, don't we, that actions speak louder than words?

A three-year-old boy had been learning the game of golf by watching his grandfather play. "The boy was so enthusiastic," said his grandfather, "I bought him his own set of clubs." The following weekend, the entire family had a picnic and the little boy announced, "Watch me play golf!" Having thus gotten everyone's attention, he picked up his little golf club, promptly said a bad word and threw the club into a nearby bush! Obviously, that young fellow had learned more than the game of golf! And he did it simply by observing his grandfather.

What we need today are people who are willing to be examples. People willing to surrender their own pleasure and desires for the sake of the greater good. People who understand that the world needs good role models. An unknown author described our world this way:

"We have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We buy more, but enjoy it less. We have bigger houses, but smaller families; more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgment: more medicine, but less wellness. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too easily. We have added years to life, but not life to years. These are the times of tall men and shorter character, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the times of more leisure, but less fun; more food, but less nutrition. It is a time when there is much in the shop window but little in the stockroom."

Whoever that writer is, he or she has described our society all too well. Has ever a generation been more in need of good role models than this one?

We need heroes. People who stand tall. People who don't say one thing and do another. People who believe that it is their God-given duty to set a worthy example for others. One such person was a woman named Rose. Rose was a poor woman who lived many years ago in Albania. Rose and her husband opened their home to the poor and hungry in their community. Whenever one of Rose's daughters would ask who the new visitor at their dinner table was, Rose would answer that it was a relative. Rose's daughters grew up believing that they came from an enormous family!

Even after Rose's husband died, and the family was plunged into poverty, Rose found a way to share food with the hungry and help with the destitute. One of Rose's daughters was greatly influenced by her parents' example of sacrificial love. This daughter, Agnes, grew up to become an advocate for the poor all over the world. In fact, she devoted her whole life caring for those in need, for young Agnes grew up to become Mother Teresa, the twentieth century's living example of God's love incarnate in the world.

Examples matter. Mother Teresa became who she was because of the example of her parents. The best hope the world has is that God will inspire people who understand that our lives are intertwined, that who I am and what I do affects who you are and what you do. I can look at my life and see that I am who I am because of the example of significant people in my life. The same is true of you. That is how most people become persons of faith. It is not because someone argued them into it, but because someone loved them into it. It is because they encountered the presence of God in those who follow God, and who care enough to sacrifice their own desires to live a life that contributes to the greater good. It is because they have encountered those who care enough to set the world an example of love, of joy, of hope, of

courage. And, of course, that is precisely how men become Freemasons as well!

There is a story told by a mother in one of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books. Permit me to conclude by paraphrasing it for you:

It was a hectic day at home, but with children, every day was a bit hectic. On this particular day, however, mother was having trouble doing even routine chores, all because of one of her little boys. Len, who was three at that time, was on her heels no matter where she went. Whenever she stopped to do something and turned around, she would trip over him. Several times she suggested fun activities to keep him occupied. Each time he smiled and said, "Oh, that's all right, Mommy. I'd rather be here with you." Then he continued to bounce happily along after her.

After stepping on his toes for the fifth time, Len's mom began to lose her patience, and so she asked him why he was acting this way. He looked up at her with glowing eyes and said, "Well, Mommy, in Sunday School my teacher told me to walk in God's way. But I can't see God, so I'm walking in yours instead."

And that's really what this is all about, isn't it? Role models still count. Worthy examples still make the difference. So the challenge for each of us: what are we doing to make the life of faith attractive to others? In short, what kind of example are we setting for the world around us?

WBro Earle Sharam

The Very Worshipful Grand Chaplain

From over Six Decades ago

Extract from the Proceedings of the 1941 "Banff Conference"

Particular mention was made of the Alberta *Grand Lodge Bulletin*, and the method of distribution, growth and usefulness to the Craft was outlined. Three copies are sent free to each Lodge monthly. The Lodges are requested to circulate these amongst their members and encouraged to subscribe for additional copies for their non-resident members. The cost to subscribers is 20¢ per year for 10 issues, and the *Bulletin* is printed so that it can be folded and included with Lodge notices without extra mailing cost. The circulation had increased from 600 copies to nearly 3,000 at the present time. Such a *Bulletin*, as a medium for presenting Grand Lodge views with items of general interest, bringing them before the Lodges and individual members, was recognized by

those present as a valuable asset to any Grand Lodge. Considering the matter of cost, some surprise was expressed that Alberta was able to publish their bulletin at such small expense to Grand Lodge, and even this it was expected would be eliminated in the near future, for with a few more subscriptions it would become self-supporting.

RWBro Fraser (DGM of Saskatchewan) expressed himself as being interested in this method adopted by the Grand Lodge of Alberta for reaching out to its membership, for undoubtedly this is a medium which brings Grand Lodge closely in touch with its individual members. It was something that actually comes into the homes of the Craft with their Lodge notices and can be read and digested at their leisure.

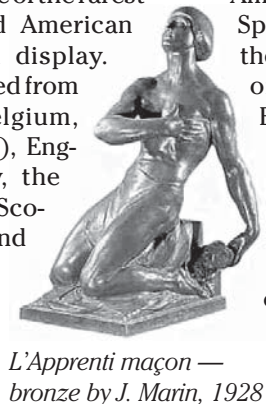
A Public Exhibition of Masonic Regalia

“The Freemason in his Raiment of Light — *The Spirit and the Matter*”

June 15th to September 8th, 2002

Standing on the banks of the River Loire in France, Tours Castle will be the venue for the International Exhibition on Freemasonry, occupying a space of 1500 m², displaying treasures from the world’s leading collections of Masonic memorabilia, including items which have been worn by monarchs, persons from the world of politics, by artists or scientists. They illustrate three centuries of history and some of the rarest items in European and American collections will be on display. These have been procured from Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada (Quebec), England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA.

The exhibition catalogue contains the following groupings: The Swedish Rite; The First



L'Apprenti maçon — bronze by J. Marin, 1928

Scottish Aprons, from “operative” to “speculative”; The Antients and the Moderns, their symbols; Prins Frederik of the Netherlands – a Great Collector; A Portrait of Kaiser Wilhelm; The Four Crowned Martyrs; A Sacred Space for the Spirit; The Establishment of Freemasonry in the United States of America; The American Brothers and the Spirit of Freedom; History of the Norwegian Museum; The Regalia of the Rectified Scottish Rite; English Rites; Sociability and Freemasonry; Masonic Regalia Manufacturers; Embroidery and transfers on skins and silk; Reading symbols in this era of writing and pictures; The Regalia of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite; The Regalia of Sovereign Prince Rose Croix; The Regalia of the French Rite;



Tours Castle, France, site of the Exhibition.

Representations of the GAOTU in Masonic Regalia.

The exhibition in Tours fits into the exceptional cultural programme of the Association of Masonic Museums in Europe. 2002 will see a number of temporary exhibitions offered to the European public. The finest Masonic collections will be on view also in Budapest, Lisbon, Salzburg, Vienna and Weimar.

(From: <http://www.initialFM.com>)

DeMolay and Masonry

DeMolay is an organization for young men between the ages of 12 and 21. The individual DeMolay units are called “Chapters.” There are hundreds of DeMolay Chapters in North America and more around the world.

DeMolay is dedicated to preparing young men to lead healthy and productive lives, basing its approach on timeless principles and on practical hands-on experience. It opens doors for young men by developing civic awareness, personal responsibility, and leadership skills so vitally needed in society today. DeMolay accomplishes this serious mission by combining it with a program of exciting and diverse activities that can be enjoyed by young men with all kinds of interests.

DeMolay has been the first step toward success for many future leaders. It doesn’t happen by accident. When a young man joins DeMolay he puts himself on the fast track to learn skills that will help him in school and throughout his life. Members learn how to set goals, organize their time, speak comfortably to a group, make a budget, use their resources, implement their ideas, and think critically. These are life-skills that DeMolay members learn as second nature, several years ahead of their peers.

DeMolay and Masonry in Alberta have enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial relationship for almost fifty years. Senior DeMolays have joined Masonry in Alberta in great numbers over those years and many Lodge and Grand Lodge officers, past and present, are Senior DeMolays. DeMolay International has been building better leaders for eighty-two years, and nowhere is that more evident than in Masonry today.

While DeMolay is certainly not the total answer to

Masonry’s declining membership, it offers a partial solution. In addition to the obvious membership benefits of being involved with a youth organization founded on Masonic principles, DeMolay provides an “out-of-the-box” community outreach program for your Lodge. With your support, we can build a stronger DeMolay to better serve our youth and community.

Alberta DeMolay, member of DeMolay Canada, is developing a long-term plan to ensure its viability and future prosperity. An integral part of the overall planning is new chapter expansion. There are numerous towns and cities in Alberta large enough to operate a successful DeMolay program. There is a genuine need for a youth organization founded on Masonic principles in every community. DeMolay can provide the youth of your city or town with a well-rounded program of activities and worthwhile associations. DeMolay compete in sports and ritual work, participate in training programs as well as fun activities and community service projects, and form those lasting bonds of brotherhood and friendship that we all have experienced in Freemasonry.

In the story of every young man’s success, this is chapter one — DeMolay.

If your Lodge is interested in learning more about DeMolay and the expansion plans for Alberta, members would welcome the opportunity to visit your Lodge and make a brief presentation. You may also wish to consider a financial contribution to assist DeMolay’s growth and new chapter expansion in Alberta.

For further information, to arrange a presentation, or to make a financial contribution, please contact WBro John Slade, Executive Officer of Alberta DeMolay, by telephoning him at 780-430-3694, or by e-mail at jbslade@aonet.com

Alberta Miscellany

Lethbridge Lodge No. 39 — Freemasonry's use of the ballot differs considerably from casting a vote in our democratic society. In our everyday life a citizen is free to vote or may choose not to cast his ballot. The citizen is free to discuss how he voted, or may choose to remain silent.

Freemasonry views the ballot as a means to elect suitable candidates for membership and also to keep out those who are not deemed to be desirable. Every Brother who is present and a member of the Lodge where a ballot is conducted must vote. The ballot is not closed until the Worshipful Master is assured that all members have balloted. Section 21.1.12 of our Constitution states that violating the secrecy of the ballot is a Masonic offence and Section 21.2 provides that a Mason accused of a Masonic offence shall be tried by a Trial Commission. [However] several sources indicate that the ballot in a Masonic Lodge was not secret until well into the 18th century and there was likely no ballot box until the 19th century.

The very nature of our institution requires that harmony in our work must be the foremost consideration. It therefore seems logical that secrecy of the ballot was instituted in an attempt to improve harmony, as was the requirement that the ballot be as nearly

unanimous as possible. The requirement for all members to vote then becomes a necessity in order to make it nearly impossible to identify a member who casts a black ball, again assuring the harmony within the Lodge.

RWBro E. Weigelt, WM
Exemplar Lodge No. 175 — At Ivanhoe Lodge, the other evening, the WM mentioned that the Candidate they were passing to the Second Degree that evening had come to them through their website. We are one of the early Lodges on the Internet and quite a few of our Candidates have come to us from our website (including those initiated on April 4th). These come to us with a great deal of knowledge of the Craft and tons of questions. We meet with them quite a few times and answer as many questions as possible before finally giving them a Petition and moving through the process of bringing them to the West Door.

Bro Francis L. Dryden, SecTreas
Tawatinaw Lodge No. 71 — Spring is the start of renewal, when things start to grow and come alive. It is also a time in which to renew ourselves and ask, what is a good definition of Masonry? Is it that most frequently given answer that it is a science veiled in allegory and explained by symbols, or is it deeper than that?

I choose to believe that it is deeper. In the final analysis, I believe it is a way of life, a theory of life, a philosophy of

living. It, of course, is not a religion, but Masonry manifests itself in our daily contacts with family, friends, even strangers, but above all, other Brethren. It is not what the tongue proclaims but what the heart contains. I see good hearts in our Lodge and I am proud and thankful for that.

Salus populi suprema lex = "The well-being of the people (our Order) is the first great law."

On a lighter note, remember there is always free cheese in a mousetrap.

WBro Ronald W. Gillman, WM
St. John's Lodge No. 25 — NOTHING: I am using this time while I have nothing to do to let you know that I have nothing to say. People tend to look at the word "nothing" and belittle its importance. However, it can mean life or death, success or failure, joy or sadness. Mountain climbers have died when they stepped on it. Parachutists are upset when they pull the ripcord and it comes out. Farmers have lost their farms when they grew it. Ball players and coaches have lost their jobs when they scored it. It is what you earn when you do it. I have saved it over the years and now I have it in my bank account. It is what you generally learn from politicians in their speeches. It is often discussed at meetings or offered in arguments and fights start over it. I often find it in my mailbox, and only yesterday I received it from the coffee machine... I could go on but it will mean nothing. Don't bother to thank me. T'was nothing.

Found by WBro Bob Harrison, WM
York Lodge No. 119 — Freemasonry has an identity, a character of its own. Some things in it can be abolished, changed or modified, without destroying that identity, that is, after the change is made Freemasonry continues to be what it was before. However, there are other changes which, if they were made, would destroy Freemasonry itself, that is, it would cease to have its own identity and would become something else.

Let me give you a simple illustration. Take a glass of water and divide that water into smaller and smaller portions until at last we reach the molecule, but all the time it continues to be water. If we take the next step and divide the molecule, we no longer have water, we have gases, namely, hydrogen and oxygen. There is a point beyond which the fluid cannot be changed without losing its identity. So it is with Masonry... Think about it.

WBro Dan Gyulai, WM

Cornerstone Lodge No. 19...

...presents 1765 Degree in Washington and British Columbia

Excerpts from a report by RWBro J.R. Malcolm Berry, DDGM Calgary-Highwood. See also text and pictures, "Reliving History" Grand Lodge Bulletin, 65:4, April 2000.

On March 1, 2002 the "Cornerstone Players" from Cornerstone Lodge No. 19 in High River, accompanied by seven Grand Lodge officers, travelled to Tacoma, WA, to present their portrayal of a Lodge meeting and initiation, as one might have seen in a Lodge in England or one of her colonies, in the year 1765, to Steilacoom Lodge No. 2, Grand Lodge of Washington. This presentation was witnessed by some 120 Masons from the Pacific Northwest area.

On March 2, 2002, the group again performed before an audience of more than one hundred at Acacia Lodge No. 22 in the Melrose Masonic Hall, Vancouver, in the presence of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon who commended the work and dedication of the members of Cornerstone Lodge, and thanked

them for their dedication and contribution to the Craft.

On both occasions the visitors from High River were well received and treated in Tacoma to prime rib of beef and in Vancouver to baked fresh salmon. These two events showed a significant contribution to Masonry could be made, not only locally and provincially, but also interprovincially and internationally. Good work, Cornerstone!

On June 28, 2002, Strathcona Lodge No. 77 will host the Cornerstone Players at Fort Edmonton Park Masonic Hall, Regular Meeting at 1900 h, performance of "Initiation Night 1765" at 20 00 h, festive board at 21 00 h. Admission is limited to 95 persons (including cast). Tickets at \$15 (including food) must first be obtained from an officer of Strathcona Lodge.

Letter

Re: "A Timely Change" (*The Alberta Freemason*, 67.3 March 2002)

I would like to suggest that a lack of time is not a factor in Lodge attendance. The examples cited by WBro McConnell may be explained another way. He is right that only 15% of the membership carries out the work we do. Unfortunately those 15% often do the work because no one else wants to. Why is that? I sometimes wonder why anyone in his right mind would sit through most of our regular meetings.

I think Bro McConnell is on the right track in talking about time though. Time management involves making some strategic decisions in a Lodge to make better use of the precious time we have together. Many of our gatherings are characterized by old traditions from the Fifties, when time was less a factor, and by poor leadership and lack of planning.

I do not suggest for a minute that we change our rituals, our degrees. In fact, I would support any suggestion which helps a Lodge do them better or having every Canadian Rite Lodge open and close in all three degrees at every meeting. That is just another example of misplaced priorities.

The Doric Plan has identified six areas where Lodges need to improve: Membership Development; Lodge Leadership; Masonic Education; Lodge Activities; Projects/Charity; Public Awareness

Here is a list of DOs and DON'Ts distilled from the Doric Plan workshops that I believe will help any Lodge to increase active membership:

DO:

- Screen applicants more thoroughly
- Spend more time mentoring new members
- Increase time between degrees
- Debate/discuss business at GP meetings before regular meeting
- Make business less than 50% of Lodge meeting time
- Make a Masonic Education presentation the major event of every regular meeting
- Hold one excellent group or family event each year
- Plan your year and meetings months in advance (then advertise the good stuff)
- Try new things (if they don't work, you can always go back to the old way)

DON'T:

- Tell candidates that Freemasonry involves only one or two meetings a month
- Believe that quality and quantity of applicants are mutually exclusive
- Expect the sponsor to be the best or only mentor for a new candidate
- Require the members to sit through openings and closing so the officers can practice
- Assume your wives enjoy your Ladies' Nights (ask them what they would like)
- Wait to the last minute to organize an event or a meeting
- Try to do everything yourself (instead delegate, empower and motivate others)
- Expect everything to change overnight (these things take time)
- Expect others to visit your Lodge if

- you don't visit theirs
- Expect member to attend boring meetings or events

If you reverse the DOs and DON'Ts, you will see why some Lodges are in trouble.

All of these actions are aimed at increasing the quality of our involvement with new members, making Lodge meetings more productive, informative, and enjoyable and improving the interaction of Lodge members with friends and family and in their community. You can learn how to do all this through the Doric Plan. For more information contact your local chairman or RWBro Tom Campbell at (780) 434-0398 or e-mail him at

tom_campbell@powersurfr.com

RWBro David Roth (81)
Edmonton Area Doric Plan Chairman

Norman Thomas' Tour of the British Isles — 2003

This tour is planned to start on or about September 10, 2003 and will be for sixteen days, organized by Trafalgar Tours. It will begin in London and proceed to

Cardiff via Bath; then across the Irish Sea to Waterford, Blarney Castle, Killarney, Galway and Dublin; re-crossing the Irish Sea, through North Wales to Chester; then up through the Lake District to Edinburgh before returning south via York to London.

Highlights of the tour also include Hampton Court, Stonehenge, Salisbury Cathedral, Roman Baths, SS Great Britain, Tintern Abbey, Cardiff Castle, Caernarvon Castle, Rosslyn Chapel, Hadrian's Wall, Yorkminster, Blenheim Palace, Warwick Castle, Buckingham Palace and the United Grand Lodge of England's Freemasons' Hall. On route we will visit Waterford crystal glass, Moffat woollens and Wedgewood potteries. Masonic evenings are yet to be determined.

Meals: 3 continental breakfasts in London and 6 English and 5 Irish full breakfasts on tour; 5 table d'hôte 3-course dinners in hotels and 2 local pub dinners in Edinburgh and Yorkshire. You will need to buy lunches and 7 dinners.

Cost: Land only \$2700.00, assuming normal inflation, currency swings and availability. (Air travel can be arranged using points or air miles, or we will find you a discounted fare.) We would suggest a \$500.00 deposit and payments of \$200.00 per month to ease the pain; this money would be held in trust until a tour payment is required, at which time you would be notified before we

spend your money. The deposit will secure your place on the trip.

This tour is open to Masons, their families and friends. Further, for those interested, we can arrange an optional add-on trip to Paris via Eurostar, and see Versailles.

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From The Tours Exhibition



Intérieur d'un temple maçonnique — 1907