



Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 54, NO. 3

EDITOR, R.W. BRO. NORMAN J. SENN

MARCH 1989

THE GRAND MASTER'S QUESTIONNAIRE

(continued from last month)

Question 2 was; "With charity being a major precept of our Craft, are you in favour of a special fund to perform charitable work outside Masonry?" Sixty percent were in favour, 36% were opposed, 4% made no comment.

Those in favour of the proposed fund said it should be established with the following premises:

- it must be for the public good,
- it must have clearly defined objectives,
- it must act and not just talk,
- there must be a committee to define and oversee the operation, and
- it must be a cause not supported by other organizations.

The proposed major groups to be targeted for such charity, in order of frequency of responses, were:

- handicapped children
- hospitals
- MHEBF
- handibuses
- Drop-in Centres

Several respondents suggested that additional charity requests might dilute the efforts for the MHEBF and that time and work for other charities might be better. There were several suggestions on raising charity funds by methods other than lodge collections, appeals or assessment. These included bequests, casinos, bingos, garage sales, and nickel-a-day commitments.

Some implied that the Box of Fraternal Concern should be mandatory in lodges, while a few thought all charity must be voluntary. Several respondents pointed to the high level of charitable work in Britain and Australia. It was suggested that there should be a charity officer in every lodge. It was noted that charitable work gives public exposure for the best reasons. It was observed by many that the Craft has much catching up to do, compared with the Shrine.

Concerns were expressed regarding the present inability of some lodges to find benevolent funds to match the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund contributions.

There were a number of replies which pointed out that charity within the lodges was lacking and

that inadequate efforts were made to identify need amongst their own brethren.

The 36% of the brethren opposed to the development of a fund centred their comment around three arguments:

- the MHEBF already struggles and this would create further problems for it
- the brethren support enough charities
- charity begins at home.

More positive comments suggested explaining more clearly the purpose of our current charities and expanding their use.

A few fears were expressed that increasing efforts for charity would make Masonry a service club.

Several respondents commented that charity should be left to the individual while others suggested the Shrine should emphasise its Masonic relationship more and get on with a job which it does well.

The majority of respondents supported the development of a clearly defined, active fund for work outside the Craft.

THE BENEVOLENT FUND

In 1988, the sum of \$110,252 was disbursed to those in need. The continued financial support of this fund by members of the Craft is of critical importance to those who are less fortunate.

SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE GRAND MASTER

The Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Dave Bruce, asks if those who took pictures during his visits to the Lodges across the province would be kind enough to send him a copy. This is a memorable year made even more memorable by a photographic record. If you have any photos please send them to the Grand Lodge Office, Attn. Grand Master.

COPIES OF YOUR LODGE NOTICE

Grand Lodge continues to request that two (2) copies of your Notice be sent to Grand Lodge. One will be perused by G.L. Staff and then placed in your lodge file. The other copy goes to the Bulletin. Secretaries are asked to ensure that the two copies are included in the envelope.

The Editor.

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Grand Master M.W.Bro. D.A.(Dave) Bruce
 Deputy Grand Master R.W.Bro. S.E.(Stan) Mottershead
 Senior Grand Warden R.W.Bro. D.R.(Don) Millar
 Junior Grand Warden R.W.Bro. C.D.(Cal) Shaver
 Grand Secretary R.W.Bro. A.F.(Al) Aylesworth

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

In the Installation Ceremony does the giving of Grand Honours to the new W.M. come before or after the Working Tools of an E.A.?

RESPONSES TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH OF JANUARY

I vehemently express my displeasure at bumper stickers which advertise enrollment into Freemasonry.

This type of brash advertising is surely not the Canadian Mason's way. Our style is more akin to the British conservative way which in my opinion is far more tasteful and effective.

If we have problems with membership; I believe that we should be looking from within to retain the members we already have and not just be concerned with enrolling more.

Perhaps before long we shall have available baseball caps and T-shirts complete with the Masonic symbol. How long before they will be allowed to be worn at lodge meetings?

I may sound hysterical - I am, because I am really concerned at our eroding standards.

Bro. Ian Brown, Star of the West No. 34

I feel that Freemasonry is not on the right track in attempting to maintain artificially high membership numbers through solicitation of any kind, including the use of bumper stickers. A good man who has an interest in the fundamental principles of freemasonry will seek out the Craft. Although this may be a slower process, the chances of making a true Mason of such a man will probably be much higher than a good man who joins the Craft for the wrong reasons.

A. James Friesen, Hinton Lodge No. 178

My reaction of course is one of disdain for I firmly believe we are reducing our Fraternity to the level of a service club by using this form of advertising, and naturally I am diametrically opposed to any form of advertising to attempt to increase our membership.

To hold membership and to increase membership slowly, each Lodge should be prepared to elect and install Officers who are prepared to devote their energies to the work allocated for their particular office. That their work should be flawless in not only the opening and closing of their Lodge but also in their degree work, and above all the dignity of the Lodge should be upheld.

Quality in our membership is what Masonry demands, not quantity. Selectiveness without discrimination, and dedicated obligation is what is needed.

How can one uphold and maintain the dignity of the Craft by putting bumper stickers on our vehicles? Our problems lie within us.

W.Bro. Clyde H. Elford, Glenbow Lodge No. 184

ANSWER TO THE DECEMBER QUESTION OF THE MONTH

A letter was received from James Friesen, WM, of Hinton Lodge No. 178 pointing out that there could be little objection to wearing the cane with two balls at a lodge meeting. He pointed out that while the pin itself may be inappropriate, its symbolism is something of which Masons should be proud. (Where there are none of lesser rank than M.M. Editor.)

RECOGNITION

The November 1988 meeting of Barrhead Lodge No. 171 was a "70th Anniversary for Stutch". Bro. Ewart Stutchbury is ninety years old and has been in Masonry for 70 years!

Bro. Stutch says that he has missed very few meetings in his 70 years. He was initiated in Empire Lodge No. 63, Edmonton and then became a member of Westlock No. 114. After a full working life in law and business he retired to Barrhead. Congratulations go to this dedicated Mason from the brethren of Alberta.



L-R: W.Bro. Ivan McDonald, DDGM-Elect District No. 19, Bro. Stutchbury, R.W.Bro. Ed Boyd, PDDGM District No. 19.

RECOGNITION

The following brethren have not been previously recognised in the Bulletin but have been recognized by their lodge for their contributions to Masonry over many years. The members of the Craft join in congratulating each one of them.

50 YEAR JEWELS

R.W.BRO. ELVEY, E.W.L.	CRESCENT	87
W.BRO. SMITH, E.A.	CASCADE	5
W.BRO. FORTUNE, C.M.	GLENBOW	184
BRO. STEWART, D.	GLENBOW	184
BRO. REID, A.	IRRICANA	137
V.W.BRO. AUSTIN, R.W.	CONCORD	124
BRO. MCINTOSH, W.K.	NORWOOD	90
BRO. CALVER, G.	HARMONY	75
BRO. HOWSAM, G.R.	CORNERSTONE	19
BRO. REESOR, F.K.	ST JOHN'S	25
W.BRO. BURGAR, H.D.	ST JOHN'S	25
BRO. BAKER, C.W.	GRANITE	127
BRO. STONG, C.C.	UNITY	51
W.BRO. CUMMINS, H.	CRESSET	136
W.BRO. SCOLAR, O.S.L	EUREKA	10
R.W. BRO. MCINNIS, E.M.A	KING HIRAM	21
BRO. WILKINSON, W.C.	MT. VIEW	16
W.BRO. PHAY, L.A.	BOW ISLAND	57
W.BRO. CHATTAWAY, G.D.	NANTON	17
	BOW ISLAND	57
	CORNERSTONE	19
BRO. WILSON, W.	REDWOOD	193
BRO. LLOY, M.B.	CONCORD	124
BRO. FINDERS, S.M.	CORNERSTONE	19
W.BRO. BATES, G.W.	STRATHMORE	53
BRO. MUTTER, J.H.	UNITY	51
BRO. WATSON, E.A.	MOUNT LEBANON	54
W.BRO. SMITH, G.W.	JORDAN	177
W.BRO. EVERITT, A.	EDSON	68
BRO. SHANNON, J.A.	KING HIRAM	21
BRO. CHAPMAN, H.A.	YORK	119
W.BRO. CHURCHILL, F.W.	INNISFAIL	8
W.BRO. NICHOLLS, J.V.	ST. JOHNS	25
BRO. FAIR, P.A.	MOUNTAIN VIEW	16
R.W.BRO. JACKSON, W.H.	EUREKA	10

60 YEAR BARS

BRO. CARR, J.T.	KING GEORGE	59
R.W.BRO. ALLAN, D.H.	DYNAMIC	96
W.BRO. TALBOT, J.P.	CHARITY	67
W.BRO. MURRAY, W.	HARMONY	75
W.BRO. PEDDICORD, E.	HARMONY	75
W.BRO. GRAHAM, A.M.	CENTURY	100
BRO. ERICKSON, A.	CENTURY	100
R.W.BRO. NEWCOM, R.E.	LAKE SASKATOON	106
R.W.BRO. CAMPSALL, C.W.	PEACE RIVER	89
M.W.BRO. THOMPSON, E.J.	TEMPLE	167
W.BRO. JOHNSON, W.A.	GATEWAY	164
BRO. STARRATT, J.E.	STRATHCONA	77
W.BRO. KEATING, R.E.	MIZPAH	35
BRO. LOCKHART, W.J.	CORINTHIAN	22
BRO. HUNTER, G.	CORINTHIAN	22
R.W.BRO. CLARKE, J.T.	JUBILEE	173
BRO. ESPEDAL, S.R.	HARMONY	75
BRO. SCOTT, W.L.	YORK	119
BRO. SMITH, C.	RED DEER	12

PROVERB OF THE MONTH

Little sticks kindle the fire, great ones put it out.

THOUGHTS OF A 1st YEAR MASON

by Bro. David McCormick, Forestburg Lodge No. 128

This article, given at Forestburg Lodge, will be continued in the next two issues.

..Now here is a place that I am allowed to have a God of my own understanding.

Freemasonry, I am finding, does not profess to interfere with the religious opinions of its members. It asks only for a declaration of that simple and universal faith, in which men of all nations and all sects agree, the belief in a God and his superintending providence. Beyond this it does not venture, but leaves the minds of its disciples, on other sectarian points, perfectly untrammelled. This is the only religious qualification required of a candidate, but is most strictly demanded. The religion, then, of Freemasonry is pure theism, on which its different members engraft their own peculiar opinions, but they are not permitted to introduce them into the Lodge, or to connect their truth with the truth of Masonry.

A Mason is therefore particularly bound never to act against the dictates of his conscience. Let a man's religion or mode of worship be what it may, he is not excluded from the Order, provided he believes in the glorious Architect of Heaven and Earth, and practice the sacred duties of morality.

To be continued

TOPIC FOR LODGE DISCUSSION

In the discussion by the Synod of the Church of England on Masonry they saw a significant difference in an applicant believing in "A Supreme Being" as opposed to "The Supreme Being". Do you see any difference and why?

NEW LODGE HALL

Although still requiring some interior work, the new lodge hall at Hinton for Hinton Lodge No. 178 was used for its inaugural meeting on January 3rd, 1989. The Charter of the lodge which has been "travelling" for over 30 years had finally come to rest. Delegations from both Jasper Park Lodge No. 143 and Drayton Valley Lodge No. 182 together with a number of visiting brethren were present at this historic meeting.

INTERESTING COMPARISON

At the Bulletin Committee Meeting held in January to develop this Bulletin, one member noted that he owned a house in the 1930's for which he paid \$5,150. His lodge dues at that time were \$35 per year. The house was recently sold for \$225,000 so at that rate his dues should now be \$1530 a year. How lucky we are that most of us only pay \$100.

**EXCERPTS FROM
A CRITIQUE OF FREEMASONRY'S CRITICS
BY V.W.BRO. J. ROBERTS**

If immorality is that which brings disharmony, then why is our social setting bent on doing that which is self-destructive? The TIME magazine of just about a year ago had on its front cover: "Whatever happened to Ethics?" with a by - title that spelled out what they were driving at ... "assaulted by sleeze, scandals and hyposcrisy, America searches for its moral bearings." And a graphic displayed a compass - not the Masonic representation - but a mariner's compass, with the needle wavering between right and wrong. The articles that followed painted a dismal contemporary scene - and if things do not change - an even bleaker prospect. No part of American (or Canadian) life has been untouched by the blight of this "Upas" tree: - business, politics, entertainment - and even religion! Most of us are aware that the PTL scandal involving Jim and Patty Bakker has had a devastating effect on TV evangelism - as indeed have the more recent revelations of one Jimmy Swaggart. I can't say I am sorry that it has happened - but I am sad about the way it happened.

And who have become the 'High Priests' of judgment in our time? Why the media of course!! They are most willing to confess the sins of any who have erred - and especially those in high places. Their judgment has been withering and lacking any kind of compassion. The strange anomaly in all of this is that while the social fabric seems to be full of holes and the walls of morality seem to be crumbling, the daily media is hardest on its public figures. Gary Hart, a Presidential nominee in the US is condemned for doing that which every soap opera from DALLAS to ANOTHER WORLD upholds as being normal. Another candidate is caught stealing someone else's prose and is damned a plagiarist. God help any of us who speak publically because I am sure that many of us commit that sin regularly! (I know that I am comforted by the words of a famous Bostonian preacher Henry Ward Beecher who said "All work and no plagiarism makes for dull sermons"!) On the other hand, an American Hero is propelled to fame by TV even though he is a self confessed liar! In the whole area of morality and ethical decision-making, society is on the horns of a dilemma.

FROM THE LODGE NOTICES

WAGES OF A MASON

Masonic labour is purely a labour of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold or silver will be disappointed. The wages of Masons are earned and paid in their dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy; kindness begets kindness; helpfulness begets helpfulness; and these are the wages of a Mason.

Bro. Benjamin Franklin
Grand Master of Pennsylvania in 1760
Submitted by Brooks Lodge No. 73

QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

The most effective leader has the enthusiasm of an optimist, the wisdom of a realist, and the caution of a pessimist.
William Arthur Ward.

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