



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 54, NO. 4

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

APRIL 1989

## GRAND MASTER'S QUESTIONNAIRE

The final question in this questionnaire is "What practical ways can be used to improve lodge meetings?"

There were two major themes in all the responses. The first was a serious concern over the lack of quality Masonic education available. Some expressed the opinion that education should not be restricted to purely Masonic topics if it was to be offered at the Festive Board. The second major point expressed related to boredom. It was considered to be a deterrent to good meetings and good attendance.

A third theme noted with less frequency than the others was the lack of good communication and the requirement that the notice contain more information and at an early date.

In order to reduce boredom there were many suggestions but the primary ones were: doing business in the 1st degree and dealing with the business through committees, thus leaving more time for education, degrees and socializing.

Some expressed concern over the fact that there was little or no attention paid to non-attenders. (One respondent said he was too embarrassed by his lack of proficiency after a twenty year absence from meetings to try to get back into his lodge!) There would seem to be a strong argument to seek out non-attenders and offer a non-threatening Lodge of Instruction to orient them back to their lodges.

### Meetings:

A number of respondents blamed the Master for poor conduct of meetings, lack of program - either in Lodge or at the Festive Board, and failing to follow the Ritual and Constitution. Failure to start on time or suitably acknowledge visitors were also problems placed at the Master's feet.

There was a complaint about the length of some Grand Lodge letters and the need to specify the critical areas to be read out in lodge.

There was an opinion expressed by a few respondents that the ritual itself needed revision, allowing the work to be done in the first degree, and that the language should be updated.

Some respondents felt that joint meetings should be emphasized to stimulate the lodges.

### Education:

There was a strong wish for total involvement in Education and more professional educators participating. Some felt that the education component could be non-Masonic topics. There were suggestions for District Education competitions and better use of audio-visual techniques, and exchange of programs between lodges. Some respondents want the District and Grand Lodge R & E Committees to take the lead with ideas.

### Other Improvements:

Effective phone and visitation committees were seen as vital to any lodge. The sponsors and investigations of candidates should be more involved with new members' progress, and attendance at a Craft lodge should be a requirement for membership in Concordant bodies.

Dinner meetings, functions which involve the whole family, work projects for widows or infirm brethren and work teams for lodge maintenance were all seen at activities to liven up a lodge.

The final section of the Questionnaire asked for "Comments" and many of these repeated the comments already reported in previous sections of the questionnaire.

Some comments recommended action which already is in operation or is not disallowed. This seems to point out the lack of education on basic issues within the Craft.

There were many specific ideas but communication within the Craft is noted regularly; the need for less repetition, more music, more involvement, better image and some leadership training are all points raised. There is concern about widows, distressed brethren, nonattenders and family involvement which must be addressed at the local level.

The questionnaire elicited valuable information and the Grand Master expresses his most sincere thanks to all those who responded and thus have contributed to the future direction of the Craft.

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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**

What is the purpose of the Historical Register?

**ANSWER TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY**

This was related to bumper stickers, coasters and the like. Two negative letters were received and published, two positive comments were phoned and one order was received for bumper stickers (which are NOT available). The response was poor and yet this is a highly controversial topic.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY**

This question, which was related to Grand Lodge stocking greeting cards, has elicited no response at the time of publication. This is useful information in that, obviously, it would be unwise to stock any items for which there is no demonstrated demand.

**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 issue.

I am reminded of the charges given to Masons. Three things come to mind. The first is being prepared. The second is, "The design of the Masonic institution is to make its votaries wiser and consequently happier...." Thirdly the northeast corner lecture. These are humbling experiences. And yet it is rewarding to know that all who sit here have done exactly the same.

This for me is what I call principles before personalities. And I observe, in our proceedings, our degree work and from visiting various lodges, that principles are put before personalities.

**QUOTATION OF THE MONTH**

No person ever advanced by traveling in reverse.  
Clyde W. Jontz

**WHAT MASONRY MEANS TO ME**

I take great pride in my Masonry. I was received into the Craft almost a quarter of a century ago and am sure today that I have not exhausted even the smallest vein of its richly laden ore.

It is a source of help and comfort and pleasure I can absolutely rely on. When I have wearied of other labours I can turn confidently to my lodge room and find companionship and courage. There is something indefinable in Masonry I can find nowhere else in the world. Familiar as I am with the Masonic ritual, it continues ever fresh and ever new. Always, it seems to me, as I hear it again repeated, I catch a new thought or a new inspiration and a new grip on the eternal truths of life.

Masonry has greatly enriched by life. It has given to me friendships that I cherish dearly. It has, I think, whispered subconsciously to me in silent hours of caution and encouragement.

I like going back to my lodge. I have found it refreshing and good to step aside out of the path of my busy life and sit again with the Masons who have carried on in my absence. To this experience I come gladly and joyfully as a boy returns again to his old home which he left to seek his fortune. Still some of the old brothers await to welcome me. Grown a little older I find them, but still strong and eager for the duties of a Mason! With them I can be what I long so often to be - just one of the Craft. Their aprons and mine are made of the same cloth; their dreams and mine are similar; their pulses beat to the same inspiration and we are all at peace.

Rich and poor, high and low make no difference there. The pomp of life is thrown aside. Only that which is important counts. Masonry has taught me the follies of petty distinctions and the shams of pride and place. I am grateful to it for that.

Edgar A. Guest 33°  
Masonic News, September, 1931

**FIAT LUX LODGE OF RESEARCH  
SPECIAL MEETING**

On Saturday May 27th, 1989 at 2 p.m. Alberta will be fortunate to have the Internationally renowned Masonic Lecturer,

W.BRO. JOHN M. HAMILL, P.A.G.D.C.

Librarian and Curator of the United Grand Lodge of England. Author of 3 Masonic books and numerous papers. Past Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge.

W.Bro. Hamill, who is on a North American Tour will talk on "Contemporary Anti-Masonry" at King George Masonic Temple, Osborne Cres. SW, Calgary.

All Alberta Masons are invited to attend.

Active consideration is being given to holding a second meeting in Edmonton on Friday evening May 26th. Further information to follow.

**EXCERPT FROM  
SOCIETY AND THE MASON'S MORAL LEADERSHIP**  
by V.W.Bro. J. Roberts

When we enter the Lodge we bring with us some of the baggage that has been laid on us by the world. While we are in the Lodge we leave it just outside the door, but we pick it up again as soon as we leave the "sacred retreat". And though we have been counselled ever so clearly to go out into that world with higher and better resolves, I wonder how many of us - and I include myself - take with us the working tools of the speculative Mason. If we leave the working tools safely in their box, then of what value are they?

I wonder if it's not only "the secrets of Masonry we lock up in the safe and sacred repository of our hearts" - but the meaning of the square and compasses as well. Oh yes, we are counselled to take our precious teachings with us into the world. My question is, "how well do we undertake that counsel and apply it"?

**FROM AFAR**

The United Grand Lodge of England in its December 1988 letter to the Craft warned of the commercial misuse of Freemasonry. The particular case, to be discussed by the Board of G.P., was an attempt to associate Freemasonry with an item of non-Masonic merchandise. The letter warns brethren to avoid attempts to promote sales using Masonic symbols on items with no Masonic relevance.

In the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of England for September 1988 the following item is of importance to Canadian brethren who may visit Britain. "Only Brethren who are members of Lodges under recognized jurisdictions may visit English Lodges. They must produce a certificate (i.e. a Grand Lodge Certificate or other documentary proof of Masonic identify provided by their Grand Lodge); should be prepared to acknowledge that a personal belief in T.G.A.O.T.U. is an essential Landmark of Freemasonry, and should be able to produce evidence of their good standing in their Lodges."

Editor's Note: The documentary proof can be a letter from a Grand Secretary (which is common procedure for British Masons to follow when visiting overseas) as many have no "dues card".

**FROM THE LODGE NOTICES  
ENRICHMENT**

The more you give, the more you get;  
The more you laugh, The less you fret;  
The more you do unselfishly,  
The more you live abundantly.

The more of everything you share,  
The more you'll always have to spare;  
For only what you give away,  
Enriches you from day to day.

Hazel Cox

Printed by, Kitscoty Lodge No. 131

**LODGE NOTICES**

The Bulletin Committee members have been studying the Lodge Notices over the last few months to attempt to find "an outstanding one" for publication. Difficulty has been encountered because there has been a significant improvement in the quality of notices and many carry the required components as specified in the Constitution, an excellent Master's Message, good information on lodge events and many even contain Masonic Education.

The notices are printed, xeroxed or duplicated and are of various shapes but all do the job well. Those considered of highest quality are noted below (in alphabetical order) with congratulations from the Bulletin Committee members for an excellent communication document.

- Bow River Lodge No. 1
- Concord Lodge No. 124
- Drayton Valley Lodge No. 182
- Empire Lodge No. 63
- Exemplar Lodge No. 175
- Kitchener Lodge No. 95
- Mosaic Lodge No. 176
- Norwood Lodge No. 90
- Perfection Lodge No. 9
- Star of the West Lodge No. 34
- Symbol Lodge No. 93

**BURSARY RECIPIENTS**

A fall "Awards Night" meeting of Centennial Lodge No. 194 was held to make the presentation of Bursary cheques to three delightful young ladies. The families of the recipients were present and added their congratulations to the three "stars" of the evening. A festive board followed which allowed the brethren personally to extend their congratulations.

The evening was a joyful affair that made the MHEBF "come to life" for the members of Centennial Lodge.



W.Bro. B. Baker  
R.W.Bro. L.R. Elston      R.W.Bro. G. Renton  
Melanie Elliott      R.W.Bro. G. Gibbs  
Tammy Pham      Pauline Wong

**GRAND LODGE OF ALBERTA FINANCE COMMITTEE**

This committee is a standing committee of the Board of General Purposes, and acts under the powers contained in the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, mainly Part III - Boards and Committees. The Chairman of the Finance Committee is elected at the annual May meeting of the Board of General Purposes for the ensuing year.

In addition to the Grand Master, D.G.M., S.G.W., J.G.W., Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer (by virtue of their offices) the remaining members are appointed annually, for a one year period, from the members of the Board of General Purposes. The Vice-Chairman is elected by the Committee from the members.

Quarterly meetings are held to transact such business as may be required, with additional meetings held as deemed necessary.

Following input from the various Grand Lodge Committees and working with the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, the Budget Committee (chaired by the Vice-Chairman of Finance) prepares the annual Grand Lodge operating and capital expenditure budgets. These are then presented to the Board of General Purposes for consideration and to the Annual Communication for appropriate action.

The Committee conducts an ongoing review of the Grand Lodge finances with periodic comparisons of the income and expenses to the approved budgets. The auditor's report is received and reviewed by the Finance Committee for presentation to the Board of General Purposes at their May meeting and then to the next Grand Lodge Communication.

This Committee is also responsible for the hiring of paid Grand Lodge officers, negotiation of remuneration for the paid officers and other duties associated with paid employees.

The Committee annually reviews the policy governing the travel expenses for the Grand Lodge Officers, with any recommended changes presented to the Board of General Purposes for consideration.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Edmonton has a Masonic Cemetery!

In 1914, ten lodges joined together in purchasing 60 plots from the City of Edmonton as a Masonic Cemetery. The area is in the shape of an "oblong square". There are twenty plots still unused after 75 years of operation. In 1975 the management was turned over to the Masters', Wardens' and Deacons' Association, through whom plots are available under three circumstances: a) a particular lodge of the original ten has a plot; b) you are a member of that lodge and c) you have taken the first step to the Grand Lodge Above.

Information supplied by R.W.Bro. Don Maskell,  
Ivanhoe Lodge No. 142.

**PROGRAM FOR THE  
EIGHTY-FOURTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION  
June 9th and 10th, 1989  
Medicine Hat Lodge, Medicine Hat, Alberta**

Friday, June 9th, 1989

- 8:00 A.M.: Registration opens in the Foyer under the direction of R.W.Bro. L. Payne(73)
- 9:00 A.M.: Board of General Purposes Meeting. (Visitors welcome to observe)
- 9:00 A.M.: Balloting shall open in the Foyer
- 10:00 A.M.: Opening of the Eighty-Fourth Annual Communication (Medicine Hat Lodge)
  - Grand Lodge Procession
  - Reception of Past Grand Masters
  - Reception of Visitors
  - Presentation of Colours
  - Confirmation of the 1988 Proceedings
  - Presentation of Certificates to New Grand Representatives
  - Recognition of Grand Representatives
  - Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving
  - Report of the Jurisprudence Committee
- 12:00 NOON: Lunch (Numerous locations available)
- 1:30 P.M.: Reconvene the Eighty-Fourth Annual Communication
  - Motion of Loyalty
  - Grand Master's Address
    - Vote on any Recommendations of the G.M.
    - Referral of the Grand Master's Address
  - Adoption of the Following Reports: (as printed in the Preliminary Report, one motion to cover all)
    - a) Grand Treasurer
    - b) Grand Secretary
    - c) Auditor
    - d) Grand Librarian
    - e) Masonic R. & E. Committee
    - f) Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee
    - g) Committee on Charters & New Lodges
    - h) Bulletin Committee
  - Fraternal Relations Committee Report
  - Notices of Motion
  - Notices of Motion to Amend the Constitution (those not dealt with will be carried to Saturday Morning Session.
- 4:30 P.M.: Adjournment
- 6:30 P.M.: GRAND LODGE BANQUET AND DANCE: (Ladies Welcome) Toastmaster: R.W.Bro. Calvin D. Shaver, Junior Grand Warden
  - Presentation of Symbolic Bursary Award
  - Guest Speaker - Gordon E. Elhard, Associate Superintendent, Calgary Board of Education
  - Dance
- 10:00 P.M.: Balloting and Registration suspended

Saturday, June 10th, 1989

- 8:00 A.M.: Balloting and Registration resumed in the Foyer
- 8:30 A.M.: Eighty-Fourth Annual Communication reconvenes
- Notices of Motion to Amend the Constitution (any remaining from Friday Afternoon)
  - Committee and Board Reports:
    - a) Board of Benevolence
    - b) Board of General Purposes
    - c) Committee on the Grand Master's Address
    - d) Condition of Masonry
    - e) Committee on the Work
    - f) Finance Committee - 1989 Budget Presentation
  - Election of Grand Tyler
- 10:00 A.M.: Registration and Balloting Close
- Report of the Credentials Committee
  - Report of the Scrutineers Committee
- 12:00 Noon: Lunch (Numerous locations available)
- 1:30 P.M.: Installation and Investiture of Officers for 1989/90
- Grand Master's Comments
- 3:30 P.M.: Grand Lodge Closes

Additions and/or revisions may occur within the program.

**A MAN AND HIS MASONRY**

Have on your face a smile each day  
 For all who come your way;  
 I'm sure you'll get a smile right back,  
 And the words -- "Have a Happy Day".

Have in your mind a word of cheer  
 For someone sad and blue;  
 To see him smile, to hear him say,  
 I'm a Mason, just like you.

How often did you shake his hand,  
 The way that Masons do;  
 And hear him say those cheerful words,  
 I sat in lodge with you.

C.A. (Art) Barrs  
 P.D.D.G.M. District No. 3

**ACHIEVEMENT**

To have lived well, laughed often and loved much;  
 to have gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of children; to have filled a niche and accomplished a task; to have left the world better - whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem or a rescued soul; to have appreciated earth's beauty and not failed to express it; to have looked for the best in others, and to have given the best of yourself. That is achievement.

Robert Louis Stevenson's "Achievement"

**THE COFFEE CLUTCH**

Some twenty Calgary members of the locally known "Lodge 124 1/2" which meets up to three times a week for coffee, gathered for a pre-Christmas luncheon. At the luncheon, R.W.Bro. Fred Grout, on behalf of the group, presented \$200.00 to R.W.Bro. John Pelletier, DDGM District 18 as a contribution to the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund.

If you meet as a group, consider your Masonic charity.



photo by W.Bro. V. Ramsbottom

There are now 121 participants in this coffee club with up to 40 meeting on any particular day.

**LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON**

On October 18, 1988 R.W.Bro. C.H. Dyson of Ashlar Lodge No. 28 participated in the Installation Ceremony of his son Paul H.C. Dyson as Worshipful Master of Canada Lodge No. 3527, UGLEngland, in Freemasons' Hall, London, England. R.W.Bro. Dyson was accompanied on his trip to England by his youngest son, W.Bro. D.G. Dyson of Calgary No. 23 and his brother, Bro. G.B. Dyson of Ashlar No. 28. The Installing Master was R.W.Bro. Cdr. M.B.S. Higham, R.N., P.J.G.W., Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England.

R.W.Bro. C.H. Dyson had raised both W.Bros Paul and David Dyson to the "SD of a MM" and previously had placed W.Bro. David in the Master's chair. Now he has travelled to England and participated in placing a second son in the Masters chair. A joyful occasion for the Dyson Masonic family!



L-R; W.Bro. D.G. Dyson, W.Bro. P.H.C. Dyson, R.W.Bro. C.H. Dyson, Bro. G.B. Dyson.

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### PROVERB OF THE MONTH

Greater is he who is above temptation than he who,  
being tempted, overcomes.

### TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

Should the bylaw read to new members be modified  
or enforced where it relates to profane,  
irreverent or improper expressions or sentiments?