



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Vol. 59, No. 2

Editor, R.W.Bro. Norman J. Senn

February 1994

What Masons Do

King George Lodge, Calgary decided to do something special for three young people, all victims of Cerebral Palsy. The WM, Bro. Norman J. Tough, and two other brethren took the young people to visit the Black Fox Productions movie set. Here they met the two stars, Christopher Reeves (of *Superman* fame) and Tony Todd. Photographs were taken with the stars and the boys together — and what a thrilling time the boys had! The parents and the boys were then invited to the refreshment period following the next meeting of the Lodge. Here, each boy was presented with a personally autographed picture of themselves with the 'stars'. The presenters were MW Bro. Myron Lusk, GM; RW Bro. Gordon Macaulay, SGW; and RW Bro. Brian Allen, DDGM, Phoenix District. This was a most rewarding experience for everyone concerned and exemplifies in another way "what Masons do".

It should be noted that the brethren of the lodge were most impressed with the Grand Master who drove from Edmonton and spent the evening at the lodge specifically to assist in the presentations.

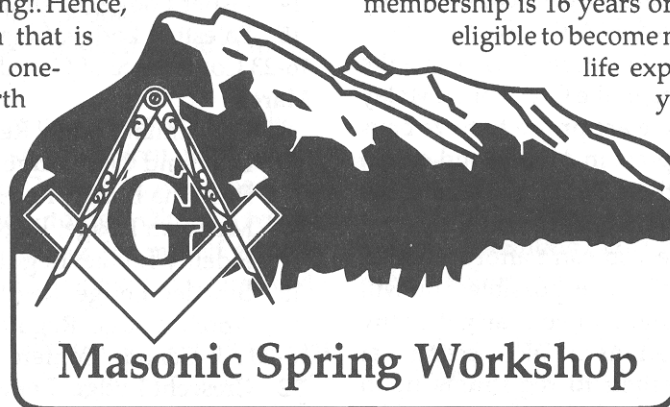


Front (l to r): Eric Lebrosse; Collin Heuman; Ryan Heuman. Back: Betty Lebrosse; Marcel Lebrosse; Bill Heuman; Sheana Heuman.

Masonic Renewal II: Masonry In The Community

Brethren, in an era when "charity" has become more a function of government and less that of lodge (and church), our Craft has suffered the loss of both membership and participation. Many of those lost are our youngest/newest masons. The situation is alarming!. Hence, Masonic Renewal, a program that is being implemented in about one-third of the jurisdictions of North America. In Canada, Alberta has joined Manitoba in the forefront of the process.

Is Masonic Renewal important? You bet it is! As of December 1961, Alberta's membership peaked at 19,330 masons. In 1991, membership stood at 10,989 — a drop of 43 per cent. Meanwhile, the population of Alberta rose 91 per cent from 1.332 to 2.546 million.



Our age structure is as important as the raw numbers. The median age of masons — that age where half are older and half younger — is about 62.5 years. Thus, according to Statistics Canada, the life expectancy of the older half our membership is 16 years or less. The median age of males eligible to become masons is about 42 years and the life expectancy of the older half is 36 years or less. Not only are we older than the population, we are dying faster.

Like the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come, these statistics foretell a future that can be reversed — but they don't tell us how. Discussions at last year's Masonic Spring Workshop and since suggest one way to strengthen our craft is to become both more visible in and more relevant to our community. That has been the theme

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Editorial Committee — Editor: R.W.Bro. Norm Senn, 282-8170
R.W.Bro. Gordon Macaulay; Bro. Trevor Morris;
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of our Grand Master, MW Bro. Myron Lusk, during his year and has been reflected in the pages of this **Bulletin** under the heading *What Masons Do!*

Hence, the theme of this year's Workshop — **Masonic Renewal II: Masonry In The Community**. Our Theme Speaker is noted Masonic historian and author RW Bro. Wallace McLeod, PGSW of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario; Master of Quatuor Coronati No. 2076, GLE (1982/3), the first North American so honoured; and President of the Philalethes Society, the oldest and largest Masonic research body in the United States.

Continuing the theme is Valerie Neilsen, President of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce in 1993, the first woman to hold that office. She will bring us her unique perspective.

However, it has also been recognized that masons must work within the lodge to improve its programs and make lodge a place members *want* to go. Thus, most schools for instruction at this year's Workshop will concentrate on Leadership and Lodge affairs. We will be introducing one Leadership Program that is still in development in Manitoba and may also have access to the draft program being put together by the Masonic Renewal Committee of North America (of which MW Bro. Lusk was a founding member and I am Alberta's current representative).

As is usual, our Book Store will be in operation. Al Teuling will have several new titles in stock. Our Screening Room will again offer several interesting videos to complement the Workshop sessions.

Finally, we have a special treat in store. This year is the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Order of DeMolay for boys 13 to 21 years of age. We are proud to have boys representing six DeMolay Chapters in Alberta and one in Saskatchewan present part of their DeMolay Degree. Believe me, the ritual these boys perform is exemplary.

This year's Workshop is one you can't afford to miss. Get your registration form in as soon as possible. You will find one in last November's **Bulletin** or you can get a copy from your DDGM. Day registrations are also accepted at the door, but the name tag issued to registrants upon arrival will be necessary to gain entrance to all sessions.

See you in April.

Garth Cochran, General Chairman, 1994 MSWPC

29th Masonic Spring Workshop

22, 23 & 24 April 1994

The Lodge at Kananaskis

Tentative Program

Friday, 22 April 1994

3:00 PM Registration; Book Store Opens

5:00 PM Buffet Dinner

7:30 PM Welcome

7:45 PM Theme Address — Wallace McLeod

Saturday, 23 April 1994

6:00 AM Pool opens to Masons

7:00 AM Buffet Breakfast begins

8:45 AM Schools for Instruction (3 sessions)

9:30 AM Break

9:45 AM Schools for Instruction (3 new sessions)

10:30 AM Coffee Break

11:00 AM Play presented by Redwood Lodge

Noon Buffet Lunch

1:30 PM Address & Discussion — Valerie Neilsen

2:30 PM Coffee Break

3:00 PM Theme & Discussion — Wallace McLeod

4:15 PM Free Time

6:30 PM Buffet Dinner

8:00 PM DeMolay Presentation (Tyled)

9:00 PM Presentations & Fun Night

11:00 PM Bookstore Closes

Sunday, 24 April 1994

8:15 AM Chairman's Closing Remarks

8:30 AM Devotional Service — Jim Roberts

9:00 AM Buffet Breakfast & Departure

Grand Master's Itinerary

February

- 3 Board of General Purposes Meeting, Red Deer
- 3 Ionic-Landmark Lodge, Regular, Alix
- 5 Concord Lodge, Regular, Calgary
- 7 Stavely Lodge, Regular, Stavely
- 8 Crossfield Lodge, Regular, Crossfield
- 9-12 Edmonton Lodge Of Perfection Reunion, A. & A.S.R.
- 12 Medicine Hat Lodge, Mizpah Lodge and Quarry Lodge - Joint Installation
- 14 Jasper Lodge, Regular, Edmonton
- 15 Palestine Lodge, Regular, Tofield
- 16-23 Conference of Grand Masters, Washington, DC

March

- 1 Corinthian Lodge, Regular, Okotoks
- 3 Diamond City Lodge, Regular, Coalhurst
- 7 Pembina Lodge, Regular, Sangudo
- 9 Meridian Lodge, Regular, Stony Plain
- 14 Fidelity Lodge, Regular, Bashaw
- 15 Bowden Lodge, Regular, Bowden
- 17 Apollo Lodge, Regular, Stettler
- 18-20 All-Canada Conference - Winnipeg
- 22 Crescent Lodge, Regular, Calgary
- 28 Hussar Lodge, Regular, Hussar
- 29-Apr 3 Rose Croix, Mizpah Chapter Reunion, A. & A.S.R. Edmonton

How Do We Teach People To Make Wise Choices

An excerpt from the presentation of His Excellency, The Lieutenant Governor, MW Bro. Gordon Towers to Padre Night on October 1 1993:

How do we teach people how to make choices, which will contribute to their own well being in a healthy family situation, which, in turn, builds strong communities in which to live? We have to show them where contentment can be found within the family and where to look for, and find, true love, true friendships within their own expectations of themselves.

Do we know where to look for the type of conduct in a person that will maintain stable family life?

No one could put it more wisely than Carl Sandberg, when he put it this way:

"Who was that early sodbuster?

He leaned on the gatepost and studied the horizon
And figured what corn would do next year
And tried to calculate why God ever made the
grasshopper

And why two days of hot winds smother the life
out of a stand of wheat

And why there was so much spread
Between what he got for grain

And the price quoted in Chicago and New York.
Drove up a newcomer in a covered wagon and
said,

'What kind of folks live around here?'

'Well stranger, what kind of folks

Was there in the country you come from?'

'Well, they was mostly a low down lying
Thieving, gossiping, backbiting lot of people.'

'Well, I guess stranger, that's about the
Kind of folk you will find around here.'

And the dusty grey stranger had just
About blended into the horizon

When another newcomer drove up,

'What kind of folks live around here?'

'Well stranger, what kind of folks

Was there in the country you come from?'

'Well, they was mostly a decent friendly,
hardworking, honest, lot of people.'

'Well, I guess stranger, that's about the kind of folks
You will find around here.'"

How wise this old sodbuster in the ways of people.

The story is told of Sir Christopher Wren, while supervising the building of St. Pauls Cathedral, when he asked one man on the job what he was doing. "Oh", the worker replied, "I am just making a living for myself and my family. It is very hard work and I don't know where it will all end."

Sir Christopher went on to another worker and asked him what he was doing. "Oh", the worker replied, "I am mixing plaster. It is terribly heavy and hard work and I don't know how it will all end."

Sir Christopher went on to another worker doing the

same work and asked him the same question, "What are you doing?" "Oh", the man replied, "I am building a temple".

Have peoples' attitudes changed at all since the construction of St. Pauls Cathedral? I think not. We can find in our modern day society, persons who portray each of these three characters. The two negative-minded people are not aware of their loss of joy in living.

People of today have to decide which of these characters they represent. It is important for us to think about that, as the decision will not only affect our lives but will impact on those individuals who surround us. I often wonder if our present day reporters for the media, ever think of that when they are writing or reporting in such a negative manner. We may blame them for this tragedy - but, is the fault not partly ours? Are we not willing to pay to watch and read and listen to this negativism. Our bodies develop a taste for whatever we feed it, even though it may be harmful.

Recognition



l-r: Bro. Keith Aker, WM; RW Bro. J.S. McKergow, PDDGM; RW Bro. Brian Allen, DDGM.

Canada Lodge, Calgary, saw a pleasing ceremony on September 10th, when the well known RW Bro. J. Sidney McKergow received his 10 year bar to his 50 year jewel. The presentation was made by RW Bro. Brian Allen, DDGM of Phoenix District. In making this presentation, he said that this represents 60 years of really active and devoted Masonry. Congratulations from all his friends and brothers go out to RW Bro. Sid McKergow.

Submitted by J.D. McKergow, PM
Canada Lodge.

Laugh

After a long day's hunting, a very tired King entered his favourite hunting lodge, only to find all the walls — in fact, the whole place — covered with tiles like the inside of a bathroom.

"What's the idea of all this?" said the King to his valet.

"Well, the Royal Builder heard you say to the Prime Minister, 'Make sure the lodge is properly tiled.'"

From the *St. George's Banner*
St George's Lodge No. 41, Kelowna, BC.

Masonic Medal Of Merit

At the Grand Communication (1993) of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Brother David Clair Dunbar, Brother Thomas Topping (Absent) and Brother James Hamilton were honoured as the first recipients of the Masonic Medal of Merit. The Masonic Medal of Merit is a distinctive mark of recognition for those particular brethren, who have not been installed Worshipful Masters, but who have served their community and lodge well and faithfully. The Masonic Medal of Merit is a recognition for these particular Brethren, a recognition which would enable all of us to acknowledge that yes, we do have Masons who are exemplary, who personify what we hope to be, who are truly positive images of "Masonry in Action."

In considering putting forward nominations, the brethren should be aware of the following procedures:

1. Nominations for the Masonic Medal of Merit, signed by two sponsors, are to be submitted to the Recording Secretary of the Masonic Medal of Merit Committee by the **final Friday of March**.
2. All nominations for the Masonic Medal of Merit are to be mailed to the Recording Secretary of the Masonic Medal of Merit, c/o the Grand Secretary, 330 - 12 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0H2.
3. All final decisions by the Masonic Medal of Merit Committee with regard to the successful candidates for the Masonic Medal of Merit will be determined no later than the second Friday of May.

In 1993, all lodge secretaries were mailed copies of the Masonic Medal of Merit nomination and regulation forms. Nomination forms are also available through the Recording Secretary of the Masonic Medal of Merit.

Brethren, we have many brothers who have served the Craft well and faithfully. As you attend the myriad of yearly Masonic occasions, observe the brothers who, quietly and unobtrusively, work industriously behind the scenes and remember the purpose of the Masonic Medal of Merit.

Submitted by VW Bro. D. McKay

Letter To The Editor

In a previous issue of the Bulletin, a letter to the Editor asked if there were ways to stimulate the Craft on the outside, rather than to those within it. The Editor had hoped for a flood of recommendations but the ink had dried up and none came. The recommendation, that had been held to accompany a whole page of ideas, is printed below. Should you have comments, please write to the Editor.

"Our Constitution sets out that we elect a Grand Master to rule the Craft. His duties are listed and the responsibility on his shoulders is extensive. However, as the leader of approximately 11,000 Masons, he is the one person who can speak for all of us by virtue of his office. In short, it is the Grand Master who can take our message to the public.

I have in mind that the majority of us belong to other organizations, such as Communities, Service Clubs, Legion, Boy Scouts, etc. These organizations are scattered throughout our jurisdiction and, from time to time, have

special meetings and activities, at which they will have a guest speaker. This is where our Grand Master comes in. His DDGMs can request the Lodges in their Districts to enquire if any organization is in need of a guest speaker and, through the DDGM, the Grand Master can be approached to be the main speaker. The Grand Master can then be proudly introduced as the leader of 11,000 Masons. Granted, there are not many of us who are "speech writers" but I am sure that out of our number of brethren, we could certainly find quite a few. They could assist the Grand Master with extra addresses that he could deliver. The topic would be the Grand Master's choice. In this way, we would be addressing the public through the leader of our fraternity. If, over a period of one year, the Grand Master only had two events to speak at, it would promote Masonry to the public far more than visits to Lodges. Again, let's keep the General Charge in mind — setting an example.

Another opportunity we now have is through the Masonic Charitable Foundation. When they have their fund-raising dinners, the sale of tickets should be opened to the public, instead of concentrating on the "converted". The speakers they have had would be of great interest to everyone and, at the same time, show the public what we are all about. One suggestion is to approach "corporations" to buy a table of eight and have their employees and friends attend. It would be a mixed audience but the Masonic message would be directed to the people we want to reach.

I strongly suggest that we put all our efforts into letting the **public** know what we are all about. We, the 'converted', already know."

RW Bro. C.H. White

Charity Runs In His Veins

RW Bro. Norm Senn is a "bona fide blood bank." That means he has given blood at least 300 times. Norm, the editor of the **Grand Lodge Bulletin**, began donating blood in 1949 to help sick children when he was working at a Hospital in London, England. He continued to donate after emigrating to Canada in 1959 and moving to Calgary in 1967 to retire as head of the Medical Science Department at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in 1987.

Why give blood so often? Norm explains his commitment stems from his early experience when blood was transfused directly from him to a child. "You'd see the children go from blue and sick to pink and healthy immediately." Besides, giving blood ensures the gift goes directly to someone who needs it. "It's a greater charity than anything else."

We are proud of Bro. Senn and his commitment to help others.

P.S. This article was inserted in the Bulletin at the request of the Grand Master, MW Bro. Myron Lusk after Norm left to visit with family in England because Norm, himself, is far too modest to have done so.

District Meeting

February 25 Alpha District Meeting, 5:00 PM, Freemasons' Hall, Calgary