

District 'C' Chronicle

July 2010

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No. 23

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HAMILTON MASONIC DISTRICT 'C' ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY JULY 21st, 2010

4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

SASKATCHEWAN ROOM – M.M. floor

FAIRMOUNT ROYAL YORK HOTEL

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Roll Call

Minutes of the Annual meeting July 15th, 2009

D.D.G.M. 2009-2010 remarks

Nominations for the office of

DDGM Hamilton District 'C'

for the year 2010-2011.

Presentation of the D.D.G.M.'s regalia

D.D.G.M.- elect's address

Announcements

Adjournment

FROM THE GRAND MASTER

It is significant that we call the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge a '*Communication.*' By definition, communication is an exchange of information and sharing of ideas.

While the Grand Lodge is composed of the Worshipful Masters, Wardens, and Past Masters of all constituent Lodges in the Grand Jurisdiction, all Masons are welcome to attend. I encourage our new members to enjoy the experience of meeting and visiting with brethren from across the province and beyond. All are

welcome to attend the Meetings of the Board of General Purposes as observers on Monday and Tuesday preceding the opening of Grand Lodge on Wednesday.

Voting delegates are invited to meet informally with the candidates for office on Tuesday evening between 6:30 and 8:30 pm. in Salon A on the Convention Floor.

The Committee on Seminars and Workshops has arranged an interesting and informative series of workshops on relevant and pertinent topics on Tuesday afternoon. There is something for every Mason, learning opportunities in practical Freemasonry to expand your horizon. Of special interest to Installed Masters, will be a Lodge of Instruction on the Ceremony of Installation conducted by The Custodian and the Lodge of Instruction Team with particular reference to the revisions of 2010. This year, a panel discussion on 'Renaissance of Masonry in the 21st Century' with participation by distinguished guests from an international perspective, will be conducted on Wednesday afternoon when Grand Lodge is open. We are fortunate that M.W. Bro. Stephen Godfrey, P.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and the Yukon will be the guest Speaker at the Grand Master's Banquet on Wednesday evening. M.W. Bro. Godfrey is an outstanding and inspiring exponent of Masonic philosophy.



The **DISTRICT CHRONICLE** is published monthly and will be available for download on the district website at <http://www.hamiltondistrictmasons.org>. Please forward submissions to this newsletter through the contact details on our website.

Please note: The opinions and views expressed in any article in the District 'C' chronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

The proliferation of erroneous propaganda continues to disturb the peace and concord of our Grand Jurisdiction. While the vast majority of our Brethren properly evaluate these unfounded allegations, it is unfortunate that some others tend to believe anything and everything negative they receive in their inbox. I ask you to read again the statement I issued and which is posted on the Grand Lodge website.

In his Address to Grand Lodge at the 94th Annual Communication in 1949, M.W. Bro. Thomas Hamilton Simpson shared this advice: *“I have read that when aviators encounter adverse conditions that would impede their course and divert them from their goal, they take on height and rise above the clouds and so pursue their way undaunted by the storm. In like manner we should keep clearly in view the objective of a Mason, to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God and to rise in thought and purpose above every passing storm and hindrance.”*

Let us direct our attention to the real work of Freemasonry, acting as men and as Masons.

Raymond S. J. Daniels

In 1799, Barton Lodge in Upper Canada accepted
“Good Merchantable Wheat” in payment of Lodge dues.

FROM THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Grand Lodge Committees:

We would like to note the contribution of the members of the Grand Lodge committees that have served our Grand Lodge this past year. Over 240 Brethren in our jurisdiction have given freely of their time and talents to the various tasks required to keep the wheels turning. We also express our appreciation to the members of the Board of General Purposes who have given their time to serve as Committee Chairmen, Committee Members and Ambassadors for Grand Lodge. We appreciate all their efforts, thank them for their contributions and wish them a relaxing, enjoyable summer.

Summer Socials:

Summer months generally bring a time of BBQs, picnics, and general lodge gatherings. These are great occasions to celebrate a year of Masonry with our families and friends. If there is an opportunity to introduce a friend or neighbour to your lodge members, why not invite him along. It is a natural extension of our Friend-To-Friend program. You might also want to consider a lodge summer open house event. If you require information on how to plan such an event please contact the members of the Lodge Resources Committee.

Strategic Plan Projects:

Although we are starting into the ‘slow’ season for Masonic events, activity on many of our strategic plan projects will continue over the summer months. The status of many of these projects will be updated at the Annual Communication with a number of resulting in proposals submitted for approval by the Board and the Members of Grand Lodge. We will also be getting a more in-depth look at the result of our strategic planning efforts this year. Thus, we continue to move along the path towards achievement of **Our Grand Lodge Vision:** *“To ensure the timeless vitality of Freemasonry in Ontario.”*

Two items of note:

- We can report that we have just made a significant long term investment in some computer hardware and software specifically designed to enable us to deliver services of benefit to our Districts and Lodges next year.
- We will also be presenting to the Board for approval a business plan designed to ensure the ongoing effective and efficient delivery of the services of the MasoniChIP program across the entire jurisdiction.

D. Garry Dowling

FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY

Several questions have occurred regarding voting for the D.D.G.M. in the District rooms. Regardless of the colour of the ballot paper, you will note that the ballot proper states (1 vote) Section 65(a). Ballots are **not** destroyed, rather, sealed and given to the Chairman of Scrutineers, Section 66.

It has become necessary to make several changes to our meetings at the Annual Communication, Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto, due to impending renovations.

- Tuesday and Wednesday **Registration and Voting** will take place at **The Imperial Room** (West End, Lobby Level).
- Wednesday and Thursday **Annual Communication** will take place at **The Concert Hall**, (Convention Level).
- Wednesday **District Voting Room**, for **Toronto West and York Districts** will take place at The Imperial Room (Same time periods).
- Wednesday, **Grand Master’s Banquet**, will take place at **The Concert Hall** (the entrée will include a strip loin steak) Reserved tables of eight (8) still available direct from Grand Lodge. All other events and times remain the same.
- Monday and Tuesday, **Ballroom**, (Convention Level) **Board of General Purposes. Roll Call 9.00 a.m. sharp.**

Terry Shand

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

This proposal requires a candidate for the position of District Deputy Grand Master to possess a certificate of completion of the District Deputy Grand Master's Course by adding a new section to Section 50 of the Book of Constitution.

50. (a) A candidate for the office of District Deputy Grand Master must be a Past Master of a lodge of the district and be a resident thereof, or his place of residence must be considered by the Grand Master to be near enough to the district to enable such District Deputy Grand Master to discharge his duties and responsibilities to the district in a satisfactory manner.

(b) A candidate for the office of District Deputy Grand Master or Grand Registrar shall be in possession of a certificate of completion of the course for prospective District Deputy Grand Masters as offered by the College of Freemasonry.

(c) Should a Past Master, at the time of his election, be in office as Master of his lodge, and should his election be confirmed by the Grand Master, such election shall operate to vacate his office of Master, and a new election shall be held forthwith by the lodge.

MASONIC AWARDS AND RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

1. A lodge secretary who pays the required fees may obtain for presentation to qualified brethren
 - a. A 25 year membership in the craft lapel pin
 - b. A 25 year a past master lapel pin
2. Upon application, the Grand Secretary or his staff shall issue the applicable lapel pin and certificate with the seal of Grand Lodge attached, once the following conditions have been attained for the applicant
 - a. 50 years of membership in the Craft
 - b. 60 years of membership in the Craft
 - c. 70 years of membership in the Craft
 - d. 75 years of membership in the Craft
 - e. 50 years a Past Master
 - f. 60 years a Past Master
 - g. 50 years a Past District Deputy Grand Master
3. Upon application and payment of the required fees, the Grand Secretary shall issue a Veteran Jubilee Medal for completion of 50 years as a member of the Craft. Attachments recognizing 60, 70 and 75 years shall be issued by the Grand Secretary upon application and payment of the required fees.
4. The Grand Master at his discretion may present a Meritorious Service Award to a brother at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.
5. The Grand Master shall appoint, from among the Past Grand Masters, an Awards Committee to review applications for a brother who has attained the rank of Master Mason and who is not a Past Master, to be considered as a recipient for the William Mercer Wilson

Award. The procedure can be obtained from the office of the Grand Secretary.

The Presentation Ceremony for a 50 Year Pin can be found in the Brother to Brother Program Tool Kit (Section 10) on the Grand Lodge Website.

Presentation Certificates can be found on the Grand Lodge Website, <http://www.grandlodge.on.ca/Forms/>.

WALK FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T



Members of Wardrope Lodge No. 555, participated in the **Annual Walk for ALS** which took place on June 5, 2010, at Hamilton Bayfront Park. The **Walk for ALS** was to increase awareness of the disease, raise money for equipment and support services for those living with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, and to garner funds towards research to find a cure. The disease is a fatal and rapidly progressive neuromuscular disease affecting more than 1,000 Ontarians and their families. There is no cure or effective treatment and 80% of those affected die within two to five years of diagnosis.

Those lodge members who took part in the walk adopted the theme – ***Walking for Doug***, supporting **W. Bro. Gordon Douglas Logan**, a Past Master of the lodge, who was at the time affected by ALS. After a gallant struggle lasting over a period of several months, our beloved brother passed to the Grand Lodge Above, on June 14, 2010. At the request of the family, a Masonic Memorial Service was conducted by the members of Wardrope Lodge, along with a goodly number of brethren from other Lodges. The funeral service was held on June 18th, at St. John and St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, where W. Bro. Logan was a long time and active member. It was said of him, that he was a respected member of his community and a selfless supporter of those in need.

Frank Fordham



THE REGIUS POEM:

A Poem of moral duties. *Continued from Chronicle No.22*

Here is a translation from the old English version to a more understandable language.

PART 3.

Another ordinance of the art of geometry.
They ordained there an assembly to be hold,
Every year, wheresoever they would,
To amend the defaults, if any were found
Among the craft within the land;
Each year or third year it should be held,
In every place wheresoever they would;
Time and place must be ordained also,
In what place they should assemble to,
All the men of craft there they must be,
And other great lords, as you must see,
To mend the faults that he there spoken,
If that any of them be then broken.
There they shall be all sworn,
That belongeth to this craft's lore,
To keep their statutes every one
That were ordained by King Althelstane;
These statutes that I have here found
I ordain they be held through my land,
For the worship of my royalty,
That I have by my dignity.
Also at every assembly that you hold,
That you come to your liege king bold,
Beseeching him of his grace,
To stand with you in every place,
To confirm the statutes of King Athelstane,
That he ordained to this craft by good reason.
The art of the four crowned ones.

Pray we now to God almighty,
And to his mother Mary bright,
That we may keep these articles here,
And these points well all together,
As did these holy martyrs four,
That in this craft were of great honour;
They were as good masons as on earth shall go,

11

Than you find here written.
If thee fail therto wit,
Pray to God to send thee it;
For Christ himself, he teacheth us
That holy church is God's house,
That is made for nothing else
But for to pray in, as the book tells us;
There the people shall gather in,
To pray and weep for their sin.
Look thou come not to church late,
For to speak harlotry by the gate;
Then to church when thou dost fare,
Have in thy mind ever more
To worship thy lord God both day and night,
With all thy wits and even thy might.
To the church door when thou dost come
Of that holy water there some thou take,
For every drop thou feelest there
Quencheth a venial sin, be thou sure.
But first thou must do down thy hood,
For his love that died on the rood.
Into the church when thou dost go,
Pull up thy heart to Christ, anon;
Upon the rood thou look up then,
And kneel down fair upon thy knees,
Then pray to him so here to work,
After the law of holy church,
For to keep the commandments ten,
That God gave to all men;
And pray to him with mild voice
To keep thee from the sins seven,
That thou here may, in this life,
Keep thee well from care and strife;
Furthermore he grant thee grace,
In heaven's bliss to have a place.
In holy church leave trifling words
Of lewd speech and foul jests,
And put away all vanity,
And say thy pater noster and thine ave;
Look also that thou make no noise,
But always to be in thy prayer;
If thou wilt not thyself pray,
Hinder no other man by no way.
In that place neither sit nor stand,
But kneel fair down on the ground,
And when the Gospel me read shall,
Gravers and image-makers they were also.
For they were workmen of the best,

The emperor had to them great liking;
He willed of them an image to make
That might be worshipped for his sake;
Such monuments he had in his day,
To turn the people from Christ's law.
But they were steadfast in Christ's law,
And to their craft without doubt;
They loved well God and all his lore,
And were in his service ever more.
True men they were in that day,
And lived well in God's law;
They thought no monuments for to make,
For no good that they might take,
To believe on that monument for their God,
They would not do so, though he was furious;
For they would not forsake their true faith,
And believe on his false law,
The emperor let take them soon anon,
And put them in a deep prison;
The more sorely he punished them in that place,
The more joy was to them of Christ's grace,
Then when he saw no other one,
To death he let them then go;
By the book he might it show
In legend of holy ones,
The names of the four-crowned ones.
Their feast will be without doubt,
After Hallow-e'en eighth day.
You may hear as I do read,
That many years after, for great dread
That Noah's flood was all run,
The tower of Babylon was begun,
As plain work of lime and stone,
As any man should look upon;
So long and broad it was begun,
Seven miles the height shadoweth the sun.
King Nebuchadnezzar let it make
To great strength for man's sake,
Though such a flood again should come,
Over the work it should not take;
For they had so high pride, with strong boast
All that work therefore was lost;
An angel smote them so with divers speech,
That never one knew what the other should tell.
Many years after, the good clerk Euclid
Taught the craft of geometry full wonder wide,
So he did that other time also,
Of divers crafts many more.
Through high grace of Christ in heaven,
He commenced in the sciences seven;
Grammar is the first science I know,
Dialect the second, so I have I bliss,
Rhetoric the third without doubt,
Music is the fourth, as I you say,
Astronomy is the fifth, by my snout,
Arithmetic the sixth, without doubt,
Geometry the seventh maketh an end,

For he is both meek and courteous,
Grammar forsooth is the root,
Whoever will learn on the book;
But art passeth in his degree,
As the fruit doth the root of the tree;
Rhetoric measureth with ornate speech among,
And music it is a sweet song;
Astronomy numbereth, my dear brother,
Arithmetic sheweth one thing that is another,
Geometry the seventh science it is,
That can separate falsehood from truth,
I know these be the sciences seven,
Who useth them well he may have heaven.
Now dear children by your wit
Pride and covetousness that you leave it,
And taketh heed to good discretion,
And to good nurture, wheresoever you come.
Now I pray you take good heed,
For this you must know needs,
But much more you must know,

12

Fairly thou stand up from the wall,
And bless the fare if that thou can,
When gloria tibi is begun;
And when the gospel is done,
Again thou might kneel down,
On both knees down thou fall,
For his love that bought us all;
And when thou hearest the bell ring
To that holy sacrament,
Kneel you must both young and old,
And both your hands fair uphold,
And say then in this manner,
Fair and soft without noise;
"Jesu Lord welcome thou be,
In form of bread as I thee see,
Now Jesu for thine holy name,
Shield me from sin and shame;
Shrift and Eucharist thou grand me both,
Ere that I shall hence go,
And very contrition for my sin,
That I never, Lord, die therein;
And as thou were of maid born,
Suffer me never to be lost;
But when I shall hence wend,
Grant me the bliss without end;
Amen! Amen! so mote it be!
Now sweet lady pray for me."
Thus thou might say, or some other thing,
When thou kneelest at the sacrament.
For covetousness after good, spare thou not
To worship him that all hath wrought;
For glad may a man that day be,
That once in the day may him see;
It is so much worth, without doubt,
The virtue thereof no man tell may;

But so much good doth that sight,
That Saint Austin telleth full right,
That day thou seest God's body,
Thou shalt have these full securely:-
Meet and drink at thy need,
None that day shalt thou lack;
Idle oaths and words both,
God forgiveth thee also;
Sudden death that same day
Thee dare not dread by no way;
Also that day, I thee plight,
Thou shalt not lose thy eye sight;
And each foot that thou goest then,
That holy sight for to see,
They shall be told to stand instead,
When thou hast thereto great need;
That messenger the angel Gabriel,
Will keep them to thee full well.
From this matter now I may pass,
To tell more benefits of the mass:
To church come yet, if thou may,
And hear the mass each day;
If thou may not come to church,
Where that ever thou dost work,
When thou hearest the mass toll,
Pray to God with heart still,
To give thy part of that service,
That in church there done is.
Furthermore yet, I will you preach
To your fellows, it for to teach,
When thou comest before a lord,
In hall, in bower, or at the board,
Hood or cap that thou off do,
Ere thou come him entirely to;
Twice or thrice, without doubt,
To that lord thou must bow;
With thy right knee let it be done,
Thine own worship thou save so.
Hold off thy cap and hood also,
Till thou have leave it on to put.
All the time thou speakest with him,
Fair and amiably hold up thy chin;
So after the nurture of the book,
In his face kindly thou look.
Foot and hand thou keep full still,
For clawing and tripping, is skill;
From spitting and sniffing keep thee also,
By private expulsion let it go,
And if that thou be wise and discrete,
Thou has great need to govern thee well.
Into the hall when thou dost wend,
Amongst the gentles, good and courteous,
Presume not too high for nothing,
For thine high blood, nor thy cunning,
Neither to sit nor to lean,
That is nurture good and clean.
Let not thy countenance therefor abate,

Forsooth good nurture will save thy state.
Father and mother, whatsoever they be,
Well is the child that well may thee,
In hall, in chamber, where thou dost go;
Good manners make a man.
To the next degree look wisely,
To do them reverence by and by;
Do them yet no reverence all in turn,
Unless that thou do them know.
To the meat when thou art set,
Fair and honestly thou eat it;
First look that thine hands be clean,
And that thy knife be sharp and keen,
And cut thy bread all at thy meat,
Right as it may be there eaten,
If thou sit by a worthier man,
Then thy self thou art one,
Suffer him first to touch the meat,
Ere thyself to it reach.
To the fairest morsel thou might not strike,
Though that thou do it well like;
Keep thine hands fair and well,
From foul smudging of thy towel;
Thereon thou shalt not thy nose blow,
Nor at the meat thy tooth thou pick;
Too deep in cup thou might not sink,
Though thou have good will to drink,
Lest thine eyes would water thereby-
Then were it no courtesy.
Look in thy mouth there be no meat,
When thou begins to drink or speak.
When thou seest any man drinking,
That taketh heed to thy speech,
Soon anon thou cease thy tale,
Whether he drink wine or ale,
Look also thou scorn no man,
In what degree thou seest him gone;
Nor thou shalt no man deprave,
If thou wilt thy worship save;
For such word might there outburst.
That might make thee sit in evil rest.
Close thy hand in thy fist,
And keep thee well from "had I known."
Hold thy tongue and spend thy sight;
Laugh thou not with no great cry,

13

Nor make no lewd sport and ribaldry.
Play thou not but with thy peers,
Nor tell thou not all that thou hears;
Discover thou not thine own deed,
For no mirth, nor for no reward;
With fair speech thou might have thy will,
With it thou might thy self spoil.
When thou meetest a worthy man,
Cap and hood thou hold not on;
In church, in market, or in the gate,

Do him reverence after his state.
If thou goest with a worthier man
Then thyself thou art one,
Let thy foremost shoulder follow his back,
For that is nurture without lack;
When he doth speak, hold thee still,
When he hath done, say for thy will,
In thy speech that thou be discreet,
And what thou sayest consider thee well;
But deprive thou not him his tale,
Neither at the wine nor at the ale.
Christ then of his high grace,
Save you both wit and space,
Well this book to know and read,
Heaven to have for your reward.
Amen! Amen! so mote it be!
So say we all for charity.

From Barry Imber, editor of the Lamp & Book Newsletter of
Alexander Lodge No. 87, Nova Scotia

FILM PLANNED OF "NEAR HANGING."

An important bit of Waterford Ontario history that holds a special place in the hearts of Masons is getting the movie treatment. Larry Wiegand, a member of Wilson Lodge No. 113, plans to bring to life the story of Morris Sovereign and Gen. Duncan McArthur.

In a previous article, I told of the monument that now stands in front of the Old Town Hall on Waterford's Main Street. Erected and dedicated last fall, it marks the "near hanging" of Sovereign during the War of 1812.

The hanging, ordered by McArthur, was halted when the doomed man gave a traditional Masonic sign that was recognized by the general, a fellow Mason, who became known as the man who spared Sovereign's life.

With the bicentennial of the War of 1812 fast approaching, Wiegand and a number of talented local volunteers are getting busy working on a 30-minute film that will be called, '**We Are Brothers**'.

The film will be shot at a number of locations throughout Norfolk County, but most of it will be filmed in the Waterford area. A local team will be behind the film from beginning to end, including screenwriting, editing and filming.

Once completed, the DVD is set to be distributed in 2012 to Norfolk County schools, libraries and museums. It will serve as an educational tool for local students.

I've always recognized that Waterford is full of fascinating history.

Brenda Dredge, of the Brantford Expositor, May 2010

THOUGHTS OF A YOUNG MASON

The other day I heard, once again, from a brother approximately 30 years my senior who told me "what young Masons want." It was one time too many for me, and so I have put my thoughts on paper as to what a young Mason wants. After all, I'm 34-years old and have been a Mason for 4 years—I should know!

I do not mean this to be a commentary on the division of young and old, but rather to be a proclamation of a young Mason concerning what I believe we want. This is so we might all improve our understanding of one another and progress our fraternity.

It occurred to me that some may not know what young Masons really want. Worse, I think it is often misunderstood or misstated. We "young Masons" or new Masons bear some of the responsibility for this. We are often uncomfortable declaring our desires, our disappointments, and our frustrations. And what do we do? We quietly stop appearing at meetings and simply slip off the rolls. We return to our communities outside the lodge, disheartened with Masonry, and—unfortunately for the fraternity—we will often share our disappointments with our friends. Sadly, we then join a group of Masons as diverse as the lodge itself, unfulfilled Masons.

Well, Brethren, I don't intend to become an unfulfilled Mason. So here I stand. It is vital for the members of the Craft to understand one another so that we can create an environment that is beneficial for all.

Initially, we must discuss the Blue (Craft) Lodge, the birth place of the Master Mason, for without it, Scottish Rite (or York Rite) Masonry does not exist. The young man approaching the Craft today does so to supplement and add to what his church and family have already given him. A certain tugging at his soul speaks to him to seek a deeper meaning in life, in family, and in God. He researches and desires an initiation into the esoteric and ancient quest for Truth. He requests a petition with these hopes in mind. Why shouldn't he? The eloquent writings of Masonic scholars, such as Albert Pike, have hinted at the existence of such knowledge, and Masonic writings abound with hints of this very thing.

What does this man find once he joins? For too many, it's membership drives, one-day classes, poor and hastily planned ritual, late nights, and a push to become an officer before he is even proficient as a Master Mason. If that man has made it through the three degrees hoping that at the end of his journey some of the promises might be fulfilled, he only learns phrases like "progressive science" and "self-improvement."

Excitedly, he stands up in lodge one day or approaches a small group of brethren in the parking lot and explains some ideas that he has for lodge and changes he might like to see. He is immediately told, "It has never been done that way, they won't allow it, and anyway it's against the rules."

He swiftly learns that they won't allow much of anything, and worse, no one will claim to be a member of them. They are the most elusive, but most powerful members of Masonry. They are responsible for every poor, hasty, or frustrating decision ever made, and more importantly, they rigidly enforce their number one rule: NO CHANGES.

I bring up 'them' as it leads into discussing what they have decided the young Mason or unfulfilled Mason is looking for. I will attempt to list some of the most common things I've heard. Make no mistake, I am listing these because they are misconceptions, and we do not want them.

1. Young Masons want everything easier and faster, which leads to one-day raisings, watered down ritual, and little or no memory work.

This simply is not true. Once I arrive at the West Gate and am permitted entry, I want a fulfilling and life-changing experience on which I can build a better understanding of my relationship to my brethren and my God. I don't mind hard work. To the contrary, and this is a big one, I want to feel like I have achieved something. I don't want to be handed a pin, given a handshake, and told thank you for your small fee, and by the way, here is your membership card. I want my path to be challenging and enlightening.

2. Young Masons want or need low dues.

I am very willing to pay higher dues. I do, however, want a quality experience—educational, social, and community—for my money. I don't need low dues. If the fraternity does not value itself, why should I value it? Can something that comes so cheaply have real value? These are questions I asked myself when I saw Masonry's low dues schedules.

3. Young Masons want it to be easy to get in.

I don't want to believe that just any man could or should get in. I wish that every investigations committee treated their assignment with the importance it should have—if we did not worship at the altar of bigness. I already belong to the community at large, and that costs me nothing in time or money. I would like the Fraternity to be guarded and to care greatly about the men who enter it. If I am going to call a man my brother, I want to be able to trust him. I don't trust everybody who shows up with some money in one hand, and a petition in the other. I have seen brothers sign both lines of a petition, as if increasing our numbers is the only thing that counts. Let us care about our fraternity enough to guard it against those who do not deserve the title of Master Mason and Brother.

These observations would prove of little value, if I did not offer some solutions and provide an explanation of how they might be applied to the Scottish Rite.

It begins with ensuring a quality Blue Lodge experience. We as Master Masons should return Masonry from a primarily social institution to one that studies ancient symbolism and the

truths so revealed. Encourage and allow the candidate to have a meaningful experience in the initiatic phase of his degree work. Follow up with quality education and instruction in regards to the symbolism and, more importantly, how to apply it to his life.

The concepts I provide above are succinct, but no less complete. Let us address how they might apply directly to Scottish Rite Masonry and tie it all together.

Scottish Rite Freemasonry is the graduate faculty, the pinnacle of Masonic thought and study, the "University of Masonry." This implies a higher learning and higher level of understanding, research, and study for its members.

Outside of reunions, I cannot remember any Masonic instruction on the Scottish Rite degrees ever being presented—even once—in the years of my involvement. The cure is simple really: treat Scottish Rite Masonry as the university it purports to be.

Do not thrust an application at men the night they are raised Master Masons as if the only thing of importance is a signature and \$250. It debases the man's night, for one, and it says that the man—without further evaluation—is ready for the degrees of the Scottish Rite, which debases our membership.

Do not rush through a reunion like it must be done in three hurried days or it doesn't count. Many of us "Young Masons" work 50 or 60 hours a week and earn about a week of vacation a year. Our wives don't want us to burn two of those precious days on another Masonic event. No candidate can take in what the degrees have to offer in three days. To pretend they can says that all Scottish Rite has to offer can be learned in 72 hours. Let's back off the tight three-day schedules. Offer the degrees throughout the year. Offer some degrees at the stated communications and have a few Saturdays thrown in.

And if it takes a man a couple of years to reach the 32nd Degree, so what? If the man understands what has been presented, if the degrees were done with brothers that knew and understood the work, and if each degree was treated as a special event, then the brother is not going to mind the time. Remember, it is not the speed of the education, but the quality of it that young and unfulfilled Masons are interested in.

Bring education and discussion to the forefront of the meetings. Period.

You are not going to retain young Masons without real change. It is not about a gimmick or a slogan. It is about improving men within the fraternity who seek a higher understanding and deeper meaning of the Craft.

Let the Scottish Rite take its rightful place as the University of Masonry. Let's improve our men and make them better. Let every aspect of Scottish Rite Masonry radiate perfection in ritual and education.

It is not going to be easy because we are asking you to imagine a Masonry many have never seen in their lifetime. I am asking you to see beyond your own personal experiences and allow progress in this beautiful philosophy and science of ours.

Bro. Cliff Porter, from the Small Town Texas Masons, E-magazine, June 2010.

Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.
- Leonardo da Vinci

SUPPORT FOR OUR TROOPS

Brethren,

It is with a great deal of pride that I attach this photo that shows the culmination of our Grand Master's efforts to support our Troops with the "Coffee For the Troops" Campaign.

I am sure that all Masons from across the jurisdiction are delighted with the results and agree that each and every contribution has made a difference.



Ted Williams (left) and Bill Eastwood (right) formally presented a donation of \$41,000 from Ontario's Masons to provide coffee cards for Canadians serving in Afghanistan to Brigadier-General (Ret'd) David Martin, CEO of the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency. The Masons have also established a Masonic Lodge in Afghanistan, a branch of Trent Lodge in Trenton. The presentation was made Monday in Ottawa. (DND photo by Lyndon Goveas)

Congratulations to any and all that have played a role in making this project a roaring success.

Fraternally, Garry Dowling D.G.M.

TYLE THAT LODGE DOOR!

Brethren, last night (May 25th) the brethren of Canada Lodge U.D. were visiting the Widow's Son Military Lodge #202, Prince Hall Registry, here in Kandahar Air Force Base (KAF). When lodge was about to open in the 3rd, KAF came under attack. We are regularly attacked by indirect fire from rockets, but last night in concert with indirect fire there was a frontal ground attack on the base and we received word that the perimeter had been breached.

The Worshipful Master calmly directed the Tyler to lock the door and put a round in the chamber of his M-4. This was done and we continued with the sound of warning sirens and explosions outside (when there is a rocket attack we are to stay under shelter anyway).

I am quite certain that in the history of Masonry the door of the lodge has rarely been Tyled in this manner.

I am glad to report that I am safe, and that while there were Canadians injured last night in the attack, we did not suffer any loss of life.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Bro. Joe Curry member of Beaches Lodge No. 473 GRC,
serving in Afghanistan



Joe is the young mason, second from the right.

May the Great Architect of the Universe protect him and all soldiers and bring them back safely.

Latter Day Saints Church founder Joseph Smith was a member of Freemasonry becoming a Master Mason in March 1842.

HAMILTON MASONIC DISTRICT C MASONS PRESENT...

Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

October 14 - 17, 2010

4 Days, 3 Nights



Tour Highlights

- 2 Nights Stay at the Holiday Inn Express in Philadelphia
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\$ 495.00 Double Occupancy (2 to a room)

Deposit of \$100 at Booking

Full payment due August 30, 2010

Coach departure time from Hamilton, 7:00am Thurs. Oct. 14.

Contact Person: Damon Allan @ 905-561-5444

or damon@maxima.net

DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER

Bro. Richard Boyde, Grand Lodge of Tasmania

I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now,
But I don't worry about that much I'm happy anyhow.
As I go along life's journey I'm reaping better than I sowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer my cup has overflowed.

Ain't got a lot of riches, sometimes goings rough.
But I've got a God that loves me and makes me rich enough.
I just thank God for his Blessings,
and his love like I have never known.
So I'm drinking from my Saucer
'cause my cup has overflowed.

And I remember times when things went wrong
and my faith got a little thin,
But then all at once the dark clouds broke
and the old sun broke through again.
So help me not to gripe about the tough rows I have hoed,
I'm drinking from my saucer cause my cup has overflowed.

And if God gives me the strength
and courage when the way gets steep and rough
I won't ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.
And may I never be too busy to help another bear his load.
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer,
'cause my cup has overflowed.

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT EDWARD (Bob)

FLAHERTY, P.M. of Corinthian Lodge No. 513; member of Orion Lodge No. 51, Penticton B.C., passed to the Grand Lodge Above on May 30, 2010 at the age of 74 years. A celebration of Bob's life will be held on Wednesday June 9, 2010 commencing at 1:00 p.m. at Hansons' Harbour, 527 Ellis Street, Penticton, B.C.

IN MEMORIAM: GEORGE WATSON, member of Ionic Lodge No. 549, passed to the Grand Lodge Above on June 6, 2010 in his 98th year. Was a 50 year mason. Visitation at Smith's Funeral Home, Stoney Creek, on Tuesday 7-9 p.m., where funeral service will be held on Wednesday June 9, 2010, at 10:30 a.m.

IN MEMORIAM: GORDON DOUGLAS LOGAN, P.M. of Wardrope Lodge No. 555, passed to the Grand Lodge Above on June 14, 2020 in his 82nd year. Visitation at P.X. Dermody Funeral Home, 796 Upper Gage Ave. Hamilton, Thursday June 17, 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. followed by a Masonic Memorial Service. Funeral Service will be held on Friday June 18, 2010, at St. John and St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Tisdale St. N. and King William St. at 1:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 19-22 GRAND LODGE, ROYAL YORK HOTEL, TORONTO. Board of General Purposes Meetings July 19 and 20. Seminars, Tuesday afternoon July 20. **Grand Lodge** July 21 and 22. **District Meetings** Wednesday afternoon 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. **Grand Master's Banquet**, Wednesday evening 7 p.m. For more details contact your Lodge Secretary, who has a complete events package.

SATURDAY, JULY 24th 2010, INNAUGURAL BLOOD DRIVE, Commemorating the Masonic Response led by V. W. Bro. William Hoyle, in recognition of the 66th Anniversary of the Moose Hall Fire. Sponsored by Electric Lodge No. 495. Meet at the Hamilton Masonic Centre at 10:00 a.m. Liquid Brunch to Follow. RSVP to Bro. John Hammersley mrhammersely@hotmail.com or 905-252-6346.



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25th, 2010, MASONIC BEEF AND CORN ROAST:
Opens at 5:00 p.m., Corn at 5:30 p.m.,
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Adult \$15, Children under 13 \$5.00.

At the **NEW ANCASTER FAIR GROUNDS**,
630 Trinity Rd, at Hwy 2.

See Lodge Secretary for tickets. No Tickets sold at the door.
Sponsored by Seymour Lodge No. 272.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 11, 2010, noon to dusk, on the Shores of Lake Erie, Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602,
ANNUAL CORN ROAST, and BAR-B-QUE,
For Brethren, spouses, children and parents. Bring your bathing suits. At 3 Anchor Lane, Fisherville.
Contact: Brian Kiernan, 905-387-0468 for details.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th, 2010, GRAND LODGE RECOGNITION EVENING. Hosted by Landmarks/Doric No.654 at the Masonic Centre Hamilton. Dinner 6:00 p.m., Programme in Norman E. Byrne Cathedral 7:30 p.m..
Opportunity for all lodges of the 3 Districts to have their newly appointed Grand Lodge Officers presented to the Grand Master and receive their regalia from their lodge or District.
Advance reserved banquet tickets **only**, \$20.00.

R.S.V.P. with cheque prior to September 2nd 2010 to:
Mr. R. F. Doherty,
547 Sunnyvale Cres. Milton, ON L9T4N1



MASONIC CHIPS CLINIC,
at **THE ANCASTER FALL FAIR on Sept. 24th, 25th, and 26th, 2010.** Volunteers will be on hand to further the safety of

area children. Chairman David Wilkinson needs volunteers.
Contact him at 905-549-0656 or dsw593@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 14 – 17, 2010 BUS TRIP to PHILADELPHIA and WASHINGTON D.C. See summary notice on Page 10.
Contact person: W. Bro. Damon Allan, 905-561-5444 or damon@maxima.net.

INTERESTING WEBSITES

<http://www.themasonictrowel.com>

<http://www.masonic-lodge-of-education.com/oldest-masonic-lodge.html>

<http://seeker401.wordpress.com/2010/06/13/2012-freemason-revelations/>

Editor: R.W. Bro. Wayne Elgie
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Share a hard copy with a member
who does not have a computer.

