

B 2 B FaciliFacts

*Presented by the Brother 2 Brother Team
of the Lodge Resources Committee*

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Happy New Year



TOP TEN MASONIC RESOLUTIONS

This is the time of year when we all feel a sense of a new beginning or a chance to start with a clean slate. In most instances we make New Year's resolutions as part of this process of renewal. In order to help you "Make A Difference" in 2009 we have a list of Masonic Resolutions to help you in your journey. This list is not meant to be exclusive in nature, as we have no doubt that you practice many of these resolutions now. It is however, meant to stimulate the mind in finding ways of being a better Mason.

1. Attend lodge more regularly; have a goal of two more meetings
2. Learn and present a new piece of Ritual work
3. Volunteer for a lodge committee and "Make A Difference"
4. Provide a ride to a lodge member who is unable to do so themselves
5. Visit a lodge in your district that you haven't been to before
6. Place a Masonic Decal on your vehicle to identify yourself
7. Sponsor an Applicant
8. Work at a MasoniCHIP event; don't forget about a Police check
9. Attend the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge this year
10. Resolve to be a better Man, Father, Husband and Friend

Becoming A Better Mason ... One Resolution At A Time!

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Submit your request to the B2B Team Leader

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Improving Lodge Night

Over the past three years the B2B Team has conducted presentations right across this great Jurisdiction and one of the primary goals has been to focus on ways of providing “Valued Added Content”, to our members, during lodge meetings. This can take many forms, but the proper recognition of a members’ contribution can pay huge dividends. We are at a stage in our recent history where many lodge members with long service should be recognized for their contributions to the Craft. We encourage you to use the presentation ceremony outlined below when honouring a 50 Year member. It is a ceremony that will forever be imbedded in the honouree’s memory and that of every lodge member.

Presentation of a Fifty Year Pin

Brethren, it is our privilege tonight to pay tribute of respect and esteem to an honoured member of _____ Lodge No. _____. Freemasonry has always taught proper reverence and veneration for those whose years have brought them to places of eminence in the Craft. Happy indeed is the occasion when years of age stand united with years of service, and when an honour may be conferred upon a Brother who is both worthy and esteemed.

Masons have learned that we progress through life in three principal states - Youth, Manhood and Age. In youth we occupy our minds in the attainment of useful knowledge: in Manhood we apply that knowledge to the discharge of our duties to God, our neighbours and ourselves; so that in Age we may enjoy happy memories of a life well spent.

Our present gathering affords an opportunity to reflect upon the past. From the experiences of the past, the present receives useful counsel and guidance which enables us to erect a more glorious future. To those of mature years, we look for wisdom, and upon wisdom Freemasonry builds each laudable enterprise.

With great pride and pleasure, therefore, we welcome our honoured Brother on an occasion, which we trust will be the crowning moment of his Masonic life.

Will the Secretary please read the Masonic record of __ Brother _____?

Bro. D.of C., please conduct __ Brother _____ to the Altar.

My Brother, with pleasure we behold you before the Altar of Freemasonry – that Altar which you were taught to approach fifty years ago. There you assumed obligations designed to make a lasting impression on your mind and to serve as an uplifting and ennobling influence upon your life and character. Again you have approached the Altar of Freemasonry, this time to receive a recognition that comes only to those fortunate Brethren who have laboured in the Temple faithfully for half a century.

Early in your Masonic career you were taught never to enter upon any great or important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of the Deity. It, therefore, behoves us with the utmost reverence and humility, to offer our supplication to the God and Father of us all, that our labours may in all things meet with his approval.

W. Master ...Call up the Brethren. (*W.M. gives three knocks . . . to raise the brethren before the prayer.*)

Fifty Year Pin Presentation – cont'd.

Brother Chaplain will lead us in prayer.

PRAYER.... O God, Great Architect and Creator of the Universe, the Source of all goodness and virtue, we give you most hearty and humble thanks for granting such fullness of years to this your faithful servant and our venerable and well-loved Brother. Quickened by Your most Holy Spirit he has walked uprightly in the narrow paths of righteousness. Guided by Your Word he has followed the straight ways of virtue. Following the light of your Bright Morning Star, he has served his Brethren, his lodge and his community as a loyal and dedicated Freemason for fifty years.

We implore you, O gracious God, to grant unto him the blessings of physical health, spiritual fortitude and mental perseverance, that, always relying on your great goodness and assisted by the mysteries and privileges of our ancient Craft, he may continue his quest for Truth as far as it may be pleasing to your Divine Will.

All of which we ask in and to the honour and glory of your Most Holy Name.

ALL : *So mote it be.*

(W.M. gives one knock . to seat the brethren)

Bro. D. of C., please escort ___Brother _____ to the north of the Altar, facing east.

Fifty years ago you remembered your Creator in the days of your youth. Tonight we commemorate the completion of your half-century of Masonic fellowship. In the span of fifty years each Mason gives of his substance; many also give of their time; others add loyalty and steadfast devotion. But to all of us, our gentle Craft gives far more than we could give to it in a lifetime of service.

Thus when we pay tribute to you on your golden anniversary, we pay tribute also to the Fraternity which opened its portals to you and which made it possible for you to build your life on the sublime principles it indicates.

Bro. D. of C., please conduct our honoured Brother to the east.

You are about to be presented with an award of Gold. May you wear this emblem in health, happiness and prosperity, and may your days be long upon the land which the Lord our God hath given us.

On a memorable occasion fifty years ago you were invested with the distinguishing badge of a Mason, and you were admonished to wear that spotless apron with pleasure to yourself and honour to the Fraternity.

Thus, I trust, will you wear the Award of Gold. May the joy of this moment abide with you always and may you ever stand as you once stood in the northeast angle - a just and upright Mason.

The Worshipful Master (*or representative of the Grand Lodge – G.M., D.G.M., D.D.G.M. if present*) will now make the presentation of the 50 Year pin and _____ will read the certificate from Grand Lodge.

Fifty Year Pin Presentation – cont'd.

The Veteran Jubilee Medal (Optional) may be presented by the W. Master or a representative from the Grand Lodge. (If the lodge is closed and guests are present, then a close member of the family may be asked to participate in this portion of the presentation by placing the medal in the lapel pocket.)

Congratulations and applause.

___Brother _____ would you care to say a few words?

NOTE - The Grand Honours may be accorded only when the Lodge is open and tyled (or at the discretion of the G.M.) according to the Code specified in the Constitution.

Bro. D of C., conduct ___Brother _____ to the Altar

W. M., Calls up the brethren

The Grand Honours will be given (3, 5, 7, or 9) times led by _____ Bro. _____

(If the recipient is not an officer or member of Grand Lodge, an Installed Master should stand with the honouree at the Altar. Both stand at the sign of fidelity.)

Bro. D. of C., please escort ___Bro. _____ to the East for the remainder of the evening (or to his seat).

**Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada
In the Province of Ontario**

Veteran Jubilee Medal
Fifty Years a Mason

The **Veteran Jubilee Medal** is presented in recognition of long service to a Mason who has completed fifty years of continuous membership in good standing in a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. The medal is gold-plated, with the Square and Compasses within a circle with “GRAND LODGE OF A.F. & A.M. OF CANADA IN ONTARIO” in raised letters on the obverse, “50 YEARS A MASON” and the name of the recipient and the date of presentation engraved on the reverse. The medal is suspended by a sky-blue ribbon from a bar with the shield bearing the arms of the Province of Ontario surmounted on a Maple Leaf.

The word ‘**Veteran**’ is used in the broad sense: a person of age and experience – (from the Latin *vetus, veteris*, old). A ‘**Jubilee**’ is the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of an important event. The word is derived from the Jewish festival held every fiftieth year to commemorate the deliverance from the Israelites from their years of bondage in Egypt. Presented as a reward for a half-century of faithful service to the Craft, it is properly called a ‘**Medal**’ and is not, strictly speaking, a Masonic ‘Jewel.’

The Veteran Jubilee Medal has its own history for which five Grand Masters have been responsible. It takes its origin from the Communication of Grand Lodge held at London in 1928, when **M.W. Bro. John S. Martin**, Grand Master 1927-1928, presented those Past Masters who had attained the age of seventy years with a small commemorative jewel, examples of which on display in the Grand Lodge Museum.

Veteran Jubilee Medal – cont'd.

Citing this as his inspiration, **M.W. Bro. Frank Armitage Copus**, Grand Master 1933-1934, in his Address to the 79th Annual Communication held at Toronto, recommended the issue of a **Veteran Jubilee Medal** to honour all members of the Craft upon completion of fifty years of uninterrupted service. A special committee was struck consisting of M.W. Bro. R. B. Dargavel, Past Grand Master, R.W. Bros. W.M. Logan, Grand Secretary and W.J. Moore, Chairman. The medal was authorized in 1935. It was withdrawn in 1963 on the recommendation of **M.W. Bro. Russell Williams Treleaven**, Grand Master 1961-1962, and temporarily revived in 1971 by **M.W. Bro. Bruce Brown Foster**, Grand Master 1969-1970.

M.W. Bro. Terence Shand, Grand Master 2001-2002, authorized the restoration of the Veteran Jubilee Medal in 2003. As a ‘medal specially designed and authorized by Grand Lodge’ it may be worn in a lodge.

In this Grand Jurisdiction, the candidate becomes a ‘member’ on the date of his initiation. This date is used to calculate eligibility for the long-service awards. The Veteran Jubilee Medal cannot be awarded to a member who is not a Master Mason without the permission of the Grand Master.

“*Once a Mason – always a Mason.*” The fundamental principles and ethical values of Freemasonry are both time-honoured and time-less. There is no mandatory retirement age in Freemasonry. For genuine lovers of the Craft, Freemasonry is a way of life, a life-long experience. Bars for **Sixty Years A Mason – Seventy Years A Mason – Seventy-Five Years A Mason** are available to be added to the ribbon of the Medal as further milestones are passed.

“*Precepts may lead, but examples draw.*” Loyalty may be dismissed as ‘old-fashioned’ and scoffed at by the ‘me-centered’ hedonistic generation. We must have something extraordinary in Freemasonry that keeps men coming back, month after month, year after year, some for twenty-five, fifty or more years.

M.W. Bro. Copus concluded his recommendation in the 1934 Grand Master’s Address with these words: “I venture to suggest that no better or more appreciated method could be devised for honouring those older brethren who have grown grey in their connection with Masonry.” - Yes, honour to, and appreciation by the recipient! It is also an inspiring model of loyalty to all of us to take the lesson of that small working tool presented to the Entered Apprentice in the first degree as we persevere to press toward perfection, the mark of our high calling in Freemasonry.



Give Brother 2 Brother A Try In Your Lodge!!

Our goal this year is to provide the lodges of the Jurisdiction with a road map that can lead to long-term sustainability. It is a program based on membership retention, member involvement, lodge administration and it encourages excellence. It teaches us that *when we are united in our efforts we have strength and when we build on our strengths we can achieve what others cannot.*

You can learn more about the **Benefits & Proven Techniques** of the program by arranging for a presentation to be conducted in your Lodge or District.

For more information contact the B2B Team at: ldwates@sympatico.ca

We Are Here To Serve You!

Around The Jurisdiction - Feedback On B 2 B Activities

Sussex Lodge No. 5 (Brockville) – St. Lawrence District

The Officers of Sussex Lodge held a “Rusty Mason’s Night” on Wednesday, November 12th, 2008. The purpose of this special night was to provide a comfortable atmosphere in which to reacquaint long absent brethren with the signs, tokens and words that are regularly used in Lodge.

Worshipful Master, Matthew “Sonny” Clark reported that there were twenty Brethren present, of which seven were Rusty Masons. These Brethren had been absent from one to fifteen years, with one having only sat in lodge a couple of times over a 20 year membership.

The evening started with a period of fellowship in the banquet room that allowed everyone to get to know each other a little better. Next these brethren were reintroduced to the lodge room, much in the same manner as you would in an Open House. This was followed by reviewing the opening of lodge, explaining the knocks, signs etc..

Following this, the Grand Honours were demonstrated and practiced, after which the balloting procedure was reviewed. Since there were a couple of EA present, they were escorted to the banquet room while the remainder of the brethren reviewed the 2nd and 3rd degree.

Once completed everyone retired to the banquet room for pizza and refreshments. Everyone involved stated that they had enjoyed themselves and were glad that they had decided to attend when asked. Of the seven Rusty Masons that attended, six indicated that they would be attending the DDGM’s Official Visit to Sussex Lodge No. 5 the following Monday.

As a follow up ... four of the seven did attend the Official Visit and two others contacted the Worshipful Master to pass along their regrets that they had work commitments.

In closing, Worshipful Master Sonny Clark reminded the brethren that they don’t have to attend every lodge meeting, but he reiterated, *“never miss more than one meeting in a row”*. He went on to express his personal gratitude to all that participated and took the time to attend such a wonderful evening.

Editor’s Note:

V.W. Bro. Matthew “Sonny” Clark hopes that this success story spurs other lodges to try a similar event. He encourages anyone who wishes to contact him to discuss the program and the positive approach used by Sussex Lodge No. 5, to do so at meclark@bellnet.ca

*Building On The Momentum
&
“Making A Difference”*