

B 2 B FaciliFacts

Presented by the Brother 2 Brother Team of Grand Lodge

MAY 2008



The B2B Tool Kit – Resource Manual

“Let’s Look A Little Closer At ...”

7.11 Teamwork Between the Three Principal Officers of the Lodge

7.11.1 Purpose

The purpose of this article is to review the role of Worshipful Master of a Lodge and the team work required by the three Principal Officers of the Lodge to be successful.

7.11.2 The Worshipful Master - In General

The position of Worshipful Master of a lodge is the highest honour the members of a lodge can bestow and is an office that should not be taken lightly. For a period of one year the Worshipful Master is expected not only to employ and instruct his Brethren in Masonry, but with forward thinking and planning, his year as Master can be so fulfilling and rewarding.

When installed in the Chair of King Solomon the Master of the Lodge should have his year planned to accommodate degree work and due progress of new members. It must be pointed out that with ten meetings per year a Master has only THIRTY HOURS actual time in the Chair. However it is essential that a program of informative and entertaining evenings be established for the interests of all members. Needless to say any such plans for the year should be flexible to accommodate changes as and when necessary.

No one person can possibly hope to achieve all the above without assistance from others. For this reason dependence and involvement of the Senior and Junior Wardens is essential. This then becomes your management team, ably assisted by all other committee members of the Lodge together with the Secretary and Treasurer.

The success of the lodge in any given Masonic year rests with the direction and leadership of the Worshipful Master.

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Submit your request to the B2B Team Leader,
V.W.Bro. Iain Wates

at

idwates@sympatico.c



In short, without forward planning of your year and team participation then not only will you have failed as Worshipful Master but the Lodge will have suffered even more.

7.11.3 The Worshipful Master - Protocol

This is an area that causes much concern amongst Brethren. Many evenings, and special events, good manners and proper etiquette can make a good evening a most treasured and memorable event.

The reception of visitors in a timely and respectful manner is not only expected but is a required must. The Worshipful Master along with his Brethren will always stand to receive visitors and honoured guests. If a senior Grand Lodge Officer is being received due honours and an invitation to assume the gavel [when required] is mandatory. We are not attempting to write a new book, correct procedures are very well detailed in the Masonic Manual and Meeting the Challenge.

Remember the Worshipful Master is indeed responsible for his lodge and its well being. A smile is contagious and led by a Master who has established well thought out plans and directives for the year will result in a happy and content group of Masons, who will cherish the Lodge meetings for many years to come.

7.11.4 - The Senior Warden

As a Senior Warden, you have a year to prepare for the journey to the East. Will you be ready?

Before anything else is done, have you approached a Past Master of your lodge to be your installing Master? Have you obtained approval of same from the Worshipful Master?
PLAN PLAN!!!!

It is expected that the Senior Warden will support the Worshipful Master in all aspects of Lodge management and will carefully commence **PLANNING** for the year in which he will advance to the East. He should have completed his **PLANS** for committee chairmen and Lodge officers [where they are appointed by the Worshipful Master] prior to his installation.

A general *PLAN* should also be completed for the full year as Worshipful Master. Last minute planning is not acceptable or indeed conducive to a successful Masonic year.

Once again it is imperative that the three Principal Officers of the lodge be consulted. **TEAM** effort results in high spirits, participation of all members and a strengthening of Lodge unity.

7.11.5 The Junior Warden

It seems all "Junior" Wardens are informed of two things. First, refreshments and banquets, and two, the Junior Warden's lecture.

This office provides the opportunity to experience building your own team [of Stewards and New Masons] to administer and deliver to all Masons the joy and satisfaction available during the Social or Banquet Hour. Much of your effort can support the well being of your Lodge and the attendance of the members [and visitors].

The office of Junior Warden in addition, as a member of the management team, allows for your contribution of time and talent in support of the Lodge and the Worshipful Master, gaining much valuable experience as you continue on your Masonic journey.

7.11.6 Grand Lodge and the Three Principal Officers

The three principal officers are voting members of Grand Lodge and are expected, where possible, to attend the annual communications of Grand Lodge in July of every year. Grand Lodge is the governing body of Masonry and this being your parliament it is essential you have an understanding and knowledge of how it operates and contributes to Masonry in general.

All three Principal Officers, as mentioned, are eligible to vote for officers and members of the board. They, as well as all Past Masters, should also attend the District meeting held at Grand Lodge in July, at which time the District Deputy Grand Master for their respective District will be elected.

You are the Leaders of your Lodge and you should demonstrate Leadership and Responsibility by your attendance and active participation at all Grand Lodge and District events.

Your attention is also directed to The Book of Constitution. A current copy must be provided for all new candidates at time of Initiation. The same applies to the Worshipful Master at time of installation. The guidelines and rules of operating your lodge are therein contained and the Worshipful Master must be familiar with them.

In particular, the Worshipful Master is responsible for the issuing of the Lodge Summons and its contents. His message should be informative and enlightening. Remember to direct your thoughts to those who do not attend Lodge on a regular basis. Do NOT forget shut-ins.

It is also important to take note of section 240. Have you a copy of "The Proceedings"? Does your Lodge publish this information in the Summons? Does your Lodge include in their meeting some time to detail to the Brethren those points of interest?

7.11.7 Grand Lodge Support

From our Grand Master and all Officers of Grand Lodge, Past and Present, an enormous amount of talent, experience and expertise is available in support of your Masonic goals. Through these resources assistance can be obtained in almost every facet of Lodge management, Masonic direction and indeed confirmation of your own suggestions and ideas. Many programs and valuable information is available from Grand Lodge. Have you visited The Grand Lodge library????

One of the most recent and most exciting developments has been the creation of the Lodge Resources Committee, under which the Friend 2 Friend-Mentor, Brother 2 Brother, Officer Progression and Protocol & Etiquette Teams are administered. These “grass-roots programs are available to help you, the leaders of the lodge, more effectively operate your lodge and develop programs that will ensure the lodge is sustainable long into the future.

These programs are dependent upon one another and each acts as a building block towards a strong lodge future. Are these programs firmly entrenched into your lodge operating plan?

IF NOT -- WHY NOT??

7.11.8 Conclusion

This article has been prepared to assist in informing the Three Principal Officers of the Lodge of what is expected of them and to make them aware of the resources available to support their PLANS. Remember, MASONRY can be a lot of fun and a very enjoyable experience. It is extremely important to remember to communicate that happiness to others. All this can be achieved when you:

PLAN YOUR YEAR!!

PLAN YOUR LODGE MEETING!!

PLAN FOR ADVANCEMENT!!

Jurisdiction News

This is an excerpt from the “Message From The East” in the lodge summons for Royal Arthur Lodge No. 523 in Peterborough District. These comments reinforce the importance of engaging the members of your lodge by asking them to get involved and be a part of the solution. It also reminds us all how important it is for our DDGMs to have a theme for their year and promote it extensively. RWBro. Robert McBride, DDGM for Peterborough District has used the theme of TEAMWORK throughout the year. This is a perfect example of how lodge members have pulled together for a common cause. “Working Together Brother 2 Brother.”

“All of us have stories to tell and each one deserves to be heard. By telling and listening to stories, we can develop a much richer understanding of each other, our words, and ourselves. Brethren, thank you for participating in such an excellent discussion during our Masonic Education night, last meeting. If you missed it, we talked about what we expected Masonry to be when we joined and what we feel about the Craft now. Each speaker exuded amazing insight and passion based on their own personal feelings, experience and knowledge. It was very “cool” to hear such diverse views from brethren both new and older. Feedback on the evening has been positive. We need more opportunities to listen and share our ideas and perspectives.”

Fraternally, Drew Wilson; WM

Maybe This Is Something We All Should Try!!



LODGE ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

The inclusion of these randomly chosen lodge activities, in this periodical, is solely for the purpose of providing the membership at large with some examples of ways to better involve their lodge members. With the hope that someone in your lodge might say ... "We should try something like that."

From ...

Wellington Lodge No. 635 – Toronto York District ... this has been an extremely rewarding start to 2008. Within lodge we have initiated new members, witnessed the Police Degree Team raise a member and have had the Wardens Group "The Levelers" of Toronto York District pass a member. We have also enjoyed the First Annual Family Ski Trip at the luxurious Carriage Hills Resort in Horseshoe Valley where more than 80 people shared a wonderful weekend.

Merrickville Lodge No. 55 – St. Lawrence District ... again this year the Merrickville MENSA won the St. Lawrence Masonic District Quiz, well done fellows. It has been a busy time of late. Many brethren made the Fraternal Visit to Rising Sun Lodge No. 85, where we also enjoyed in the Annual Fish Fry Feast. Many satisfied Masons walked away that night. We also made the trek to Nation Lodge No. 556 in Spencerville where there was a banquet in honour of the Deputy Grand Master, RWBro. Raymond S. J. Daniels and much support was provided that evening to our own Bro. John Finland who received his 50 Year a Mason Pin.

Tuscan Lodge No. 437 – Sarnia District ... this spring has been a very busy time for the brethren. Many members attended the Beef BBQ at Huron Lodge No. 392 and we again held our very successful, Fourth Annual Festive Board at the Air Force Club.

Royal Arthur Lodge No. 523 – Peterborough District ... thank you to all the brethren and their families for again participating in Percy Lodge's Annual Sandy Flats Sugar Bush Weekend. There was lots of fun for kids of all ages. It is a wonderful family event.

Myrtle Lodge No. 337 – Niagara District "B" ... what a wonderful time was had as Ladies Night was celebrated in conjunction with the Hugh Murray Chapter of the RAM fundraiser of the play at the Garrison Little Theater Group in Fort Erie. There were 65 brethren and ladies present from our lodge. The members also gathered later in the month to travel to North Bay to recognize and support our Bro. Douglas Miles Wilson who was Initiated in Myrtle Lodge No. 337 on April 25, 1944. On this occasion Bro. Wilson was recognized by Grand Lodge for his good work in the Craft and other bodies with the "**William Mercer Wilson Award**" The Grand Master, MWBro. Allan J. Petrisor was in attendance to present this prestigious jewel.

