

# B 2 B FaciliFacts

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

SEPTEMBER 2008



## A NEW YEAR BEGINS !

**CONGRATULATIONS** ... to all Brethren who have been elected or appointed to a new Masonic Office. The B2B Team of the Lodge Resources Committee of Grand Lodge wishes each of you our best wishes and strong support as you begin this new leg of your Masonic journey.

Brethren, our Masonic light is becoming much brighter. More men are discovering that the real secret of Freemasonry is, "Making Good Men Better" and as a result our membership future looks more encouraging. As published in the Preliminary Proceedings at our Annual Communication held in Toronto in July, we experienced strong growth for the third straight year and we should be proud of our accomplishments. There is also very encouraging news on other fronts ...

Our Demits and Suspensions continue to decline at the rate of 1.5% – 2.0% per year and Reinstatements continue to fluctuate between 100 – 125 brethren each year.

Finally, for the first time in close to seven years we saw our degrees conferred drop-out rate decrease. In fact it was a 25% improvement over the previous year.

It is clear that the Masons of this great Province are taking the challenge of "Making A Difference" to heart. We still have a long journey ahead of us, but our path is now much more brightly lit. Building on the momentum that has been created is paramount in our quest towards the long-term sustainability of our lodges.

**Remember ... Working Together Brother 2 Brother, We Can Achieve Extra-Ordinary Things !**

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### **B2B FaciliFacts** **Back Issues** **Available**

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### **The ABC Masonic Desk Top Reference**

The ABC Desk Top Reference was developed as a guide to help lodges provide opportunities for its members to have meaningful participation; to make meetings more interesting and to promote fellowship. It was designed as a handy, grass-roots, easy-to-use resource booklet containing a collection of practical, reasonable and do-able suggestions that lodges could use to help regain their meaningful place in the lives of present brethren and for others who will choose to join us in the years ahead. It has been compiled from numerous suggestions, many observations and several discussions offered by concerned brethren. This A-B-C Desk Top Reference contains three focus areas: **Attendance-Membership, Business Meeting Practices and Community-Social Involvement.** The following are excerpts from that publication:



## **The ABC Masonic Desk Top Reference**

### **Attendance-Membership**

- Start on time! Don't wait for latecomers. Admit them at an appropriate time.
- End on time! Important for fellowship, long distance travel, poor weather.
- Speak clearly. Project your voice to be heard throughout the room.
- Grips, words and signs are important and should be given, repeated correctly and distinctly.
- Perfect openings and closings keep the meeting moving with dignity and purpose.
- 'Calling off' and 'Calling On' should be done smartly and with conviction.
- Strive for purity of ritual performance and precise floor-work presentation.
- Have regular lodge 'schools of instruction' for officers for them to gain a confidence and comfort level with the ritual or floor-work. Foster a team approach. (*Reference: The Work and Guidelines for Officers in The Mechanics of The Work*)
- Review and practice protocol and etiquette. Both are very important and are in noticeable decline; especially during Festive Boards and refreshment time. Along with the ritual, floor-work, benevolence and tradition, they distinguish our organization from others.
- Be a greeter. The WM and Tyler (and other members) welcome members and visitors at the door of the lodge or anteroom.
- Never leave a candidate alone in lodge, in any degree. Always reassure him, explain things, answer his questions and never alarm. Sit with him during refreshments.
- Offer to drive an older member, or a Mason new to your area, to meetings and sit with him during the lodge meeting.
- Exemplify a Committee of Inquiry interview - one of the most important duties that can be assigned to members. *Reference: Guidelines for the Committee of Inquiry; Meeting The Challenge.*

### **Business Meeting Practices**

- Ensure senior officers and secretary to have a sound understanding of procedural rules, the Book of Constitution (current edition), lodge by-laws and the Order of Business.
- Type the Order of Business on card-stock, keep handy at Secretary's desk, Worshipful Master's dais.

**Business Meeting Practices – cont'd.**

- Do not skip any Order of Business items. Members should know that every item has been addressed. If no business under an item, read item title, pass to the next item.
- Highlight essential parts of the Minutes and paraphrase correspondence. Keep the business portion of the meeting moving smartly and with purpose. Avoid tedious and boring repetition. No need to re-read redundant material such as full addresses; every 'if, 'and or but ; information to be covered by Committee of Gen. Purposes Report.
- Shorten the reading of accounts. Secretary states the total number of accounts plus the total amount, mention the largest items and those charges, without having to itemize each and every entry. Example: "There are 15 accounts totaling \$1,650.00 of which the A/C repair at \$X and the taxes at \$Y are the largest. The other accounts are business supplies and heating costs. Full list of accounts is available at my desk."
- Avoid 'dead' spots where nothing is happening. Fill such time with announcements, Masonic education, introduce visitors, present certificate or award, etc. The quality of your meeting is critical to the health of the lodge and will either attract or deplete attendance and participation.

**Community Involvement**

- Create a Public Relations Office for press/radio newsworthy announcements.
- Appoint a member to write items for your summons, district newsletter, Ont. Mason
- Organize and participate in local community events, fairs, radio auction, blood donor clinics, parades (need dispensation to wear regalia), classic car show, list is endless.
- Participate in the Adopt-A-Highway Program.
- Provide/lay a wreath during Remembrance Day cenotaph service. Join the parade.
- Develop a Masonic Transportation Service to drive patients to their medical appointments.

**Social Involvement**

- Make a 'pilgrimage' to the monument of our first Grand Master at Woodhouse. Include your ladies, do some area sightseeing on your travels. Examples: St. Jacobs, Niagara-On-The-Lake, etc.

**Social Involvement – cont'd.**

- Organize a couples cruise with supper and invite friends.
- Form a coffee club in the lodge lunchroom, say every Friday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Open to all Masons, families and friends. Consider making muffins as well as having coffee and donuts. How about trying soup and sandwiches or pizza, say, once a month. Celebrate birthdays and special achievements. Have games, colouring books and cards for the kids (they usually come during the summertime). You will be surprised at the spin-offs this initiative creates and the number of visitors from near and far.
- Organize a Christmas party for member's kids, parents and invite friends. Arrange to have a magician, balloons, hot dogs and hot chocolate or pop/juice, a small toy exchange and, of course, Santa and perhaps Mrs. Claus.

*The list of things to do is endless. Use your imagination. Take a calculated risk. Enjoy the occasion and really get to know your fellow brethren. You'll reap the benefits of your initiatives plus have fun planning and participating in them.*

**LODGE ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE**

*The inclusion of these randomly chosen lodge activities are examples of ways to better involve your lodge members. Our hope is that someone in your lodge might say ... **"We should try something like that."***

**Strong Lodge No. 423, Muskoka Parry Sound District ...** time flies when you are busy. Congratulations to all who helped make our summer season so eventful. Once again the Cow Pasture golf Tournament was a great success, the annual Fish Fry was the largest yet and the Barn Threshing Floor Degree was again well attended and a highlight for many this year

**Saugeen Lodge No. 197, Bruce District ...** the lodge should be extremely proud of how visible it has made Freemasonry in the community. The MasoniCHIP program identified 121 children, with the help of 8 lodges in the district; long service 50 yr & 25 yr pins were presented; Masons and wives visited their Walkerton, Indiana brethren where they were royally treated and the golf tournament raised money for the Outdoor Education Centre. Congratulations to all who made these events happen.

**St. Andrew's Lodge No. 642, Windsor District ...** it has been a busy time before our summer break. A District Divine Service was held at the Masons War Memorial in Malden Park and another excellent Ladies Night held at Lilly Kazilly's, along with our non-Mason guests. It was great to have the opportunity to thank the ladies who make our lives that much better.

**Muskoka Lodge No. 360, Muskoka Parry Sound District ...** although the weather has been less than stellar, our summer has been jammed pack. The annual Lodge Officers Attitude Adjustment afternoon was well attended, with many Past Masters and a distinguished visitor present. The annual (40 years) Summer Visitors Night was attended by close to 100 Masons, including the Grand Master & Deputy Grand Master. Finally, Muskoka Lodge again hosted, with the help of other district lodges, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual District Charity Masonic Motorcycle Ride in support of the Diabetes Association. Outstanding weather, beautiful scenery and great fellowship was enjoyed.

# Brother 2 Brother

**Membership Retention**

**Personal Improvement**

**Member Satisfaction**

**Lodge Vitality**

**Engage - Involve - Succeed**

*The Brother 2 Brother program* can help you to achieve these goals in your lodge and can provide guidance in the development of a road map that can lead your lodge to a sustainable future. Learn more about the Tips, Techniques and Tools that are available by contacting the B2B Team at:

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