



Work Lectures

Masonic News for Metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia
January / February 2010
Improvement

IN THIS ISSUE:

- P1: Metro & County Association News
- P2: Old Tiler Talks: On Finding Out
- P3: Upcoming Events; *Masonic Marksmanship*
- P4: Roswell 165's MELD Program; *Self-Study*
- P5: 5th Dist. Master's Message; *Instructor-Led*
- P6: Essay: Why did you become a Mason?
- P7-8: Essay: Continuous Improvement; *Checklist*
- P9-11: Essay: The Ideal Lodge; *Announcements*

DeKalb County Masonic Association

On November 10th, the following brethren were elected and installed as the 2010 DCMA officers:

President: James Tyroff, PM, Philologia 178 & Member, Metro Daylight 743

1st VP: Jim Cline, PM, Clarkston 492

2nd VP: Dallas Johnson, Member, Alpharetta 295 & Clarkston 492

Secretary/Treasurer: William Eleazer, PM, Glenwood Hills 703, PM, E. A. Minor 603

January finds the DCMA at Glenwood Hills 703 and February at Chamblee-Sardis 444. Please see page 3 for more detailed information.

Gwinnett County Masonic Association

Many thanks to WBro. Phil Bowman, Past Secretary of the GCMA, for the following details about the 2010 officers and calendar:

President: Wiley Forrester, PM, Buford 292

Vice Pres.: Kenneth Purl, PM, Lawrenceville 131

Secretary: Bill Barks, PM, Norcross 228

Treasurer: Preston Wood, PM, Grayson 549

January finds the GCMA at Buford 292 and February at Sweetwater 421. Please see page 3 for more detailed information.

Fulton County Masonic Association

No, you read that right. While the FCMA has not yet been formed, several Fulton County lodges are discussing the formation of one. I would direct inquiries to our 2010 Grand Tyler, WBro. Robert Young, who I understand is involved. I will post information as it becomes available.

The New Year Equals Instruction

As we wrap up the holidays and embark on the new year, it is again time for the 5th District School of Instruction, the Masters & Wardens Workshops, and the Grand Master's Forum. This year we will also have a second School of Instruction for our brethren on the SW side of town hosted by Capitol View starting in mid February. See page 3 for actual dates and times.

Other Announcements Please

Brethren, if you want your Metro area Masonic Association or Lodge announcements included in this newsletter, just email me the information, *david at morelight dot org* and I'll be happy to include your organization's info. Be sure to have something about Masonry in the subject, so that the spam filter doesn't grab it.

Web Space Available

I am also offering my services and hosting, voluntarily (free), for simple web pages, like those for:

Bryan Lodge 303 <http://303.morelight.org>

and the DCMA <http://dcma.morelight.org>

After initial setup, these pages only require annual updating, and they generally remain current as posted all year long. However, I just do not have the time to extend this offer to complex sites requiring constant updates. Sorry.

Old Tiler Talks: *On Finding Out*

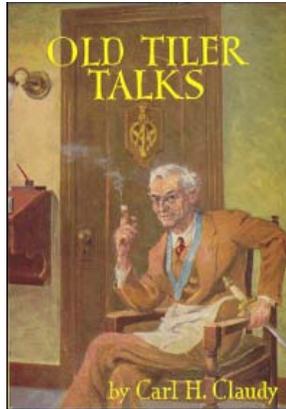
By Carl H. Claudy, PGM, District of Columbia - mostly written in the 1920s

"I'm sore!" announced the New Brother to the Old Tiler.

"Where?" demanded the Old Tiler. "I'm no doctor, if it's your teeth or your back."

"It isn't. It's my feelings."

"That's different. As a soother of sore Masonic feelings I am the best doctor in captivity!" smiled the Old Tiler. "Pull out your symptoms and let's look at them."



"It's being jumped on, if you must know," began the New Brother. "I asked a friend to give me his petition to the lodge and Brother Smith heard it and walked all over me. How was I to know we didn't go around asking for petitions?"

"How do you usually find things out?" asked the Old Tiler.

"But I think I ought to be told these things! I think I should be instructed what to do and what not to do. I think. . ."

"I don't think you think," interrupted the Old Tiler. "I think you think you think. Really, you just react. Now answer a few questions, like a good patient, and I'll cure your pimpled feelings, relieve the congestion in your inflamed emotions and reduce the swelling in your cranium and you'll feel a lot better. In the first place, what's your business?"

"Why, I am in the hardware business-I own the store at the corner of Main and Oak Streets-what's that got to do with it?"

"When you went into the hardware business, did you know all there was to know about it?"

"I'll say I didn't and don't now. But what. . ."

"I'm doing the question asking!" snapped the Old Tiler. "Did all the other hardware dealers of this town give you good advice? Did they all surround you day and night with counsel and assistance? Or did they let you paddle your own canoe?"

"Just that. I learned what I know by asking questions and reading, by listening to others who knew the game, by. . ."

"Exactly. You hung up a sign and launched out for yourself, and they accepted you at your own value-as a competitor, a man, a business agent, able to fight your own battles. That's what we do in the lodge. We make you a Master Mason. We give you instruction in Masonry. We make you us. Then we turn you loose and expect you to act as if you were a man and a Mason, not a school child. If we spent all our time

telling every new brother all we know, we'd have no time to practice brotherhood. We expect you to open not only your ears but your mouth. There are seventy-six men in that lodge tonight, any one of whom will answer any question you ask, and if they don't know the answer they will find some one who does. But to expect the seventy-six to force information on you is unreasonable. They don't know what you know; they have natural reluctance to put themselves in the position of teachers, when they don't know if you want to learn or what you want to learn. Ask a question and you'll hear something. Stick around with your mouth shut and you won't.

"The fraternity has certain customs and usages. Those who denounce it in public can do it no harm, but defense can harm it. If a man gets up in public and says he thinks the public school is useless, the church is a bad influence, and the government a failure, banks a hindrance to business and the automobile a blot on civilization, do you defend the school, the church, the government, the bank, the automobile? Every thinking human being knows the public school has made this country what it is, that the church makes men and women better, that this is the best of all governments and that the automobile is the greatest of time savers. These things are self-evident. The man who denies them makes himself, not the thing he criticizes, ridiculous. Criticism of Masonry hurts the man who utters it, not the Craft."

"All that is true. I admit it, but I didn't know it!"

"No, but I'm telling you because you asked me. I thought you knew all this. How was I to know you didn't? You never told me you didn't!"

"Well, er-I thought-I mean-"

"You thought you thought but you thought wrong!" smiled the Old Tiler. "Just remember, we are old, old; we have ideas, ways of doing and thinking, which have grown up through the years. You will learn them gradually as you attend lodge and talk with well-informed Masons. Don't be afraid to open your mouth. No one will laugh at you, all will help. But don't ask questions outside the lodge and don't talk outside the lodge until you know what you are talking about."

"I know one place outside the lodge where I can, do and shall talk! defended the New Brother.

"In spite of what I say?" demanded the Old Tiler, somewhat tartly.

"Yep, in spite of what you say! And that place is right here in the anteroom," smiled the New Brother. "And thank you."

Special Events for January & February, 2010

Collected from various websites, newsletters and emails

Day	Date	Time	Location	Function
Sun	03 J	2:00p	Clarkston 492	Public Installation of Officers
Wed	06 J	2:00p	Clarkston 492	DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club
Wed	06 J	7:00p	Fulton 216	Installation of Officers
Sat	09 J	9:00a	Gainesville 219	MELD Mentor & Investigation, Stew. & Deac. Workshop
Tue	12 J	7:30p	Gate City 2	Fellow Craft Conferral (tentative)
Wed	13 J	7:00p	Atl. Masonic Ctr.	5 th District School of Instruction (Open/Close/Business)
Fri	15 J	7:30p	Glenwood H. 703	DeKalb County Masonic Association Meeting
Sat	16 J	8:00a	Atl. Masonic Ctr.	GM's Forum and Lodge Officers Workshop, Dist. 4, 5, 7
Sat	16 J	9:00a	Meridian Sun 26	MELD - Mentor and Investigation courses
Wed	20 J	7:00p	Atl. Masonic Ctr.	5 th District School of Instruction (Entered Apprentice)
Sat	23 J	9:00a	Macon Scottish R.	Trial Commission Workshop
Tue	26 J	7:30p	Gate City 2	Master Mason Conferral (tentative)
Wed	27 J	7:00p	Atl. Masonic Ctr.	5 th District School of Instruction (Fellow Craft)
Thu	28 J	7:30p	Buford 292	Gwinnett County Masonic Association
Wed	03 F	2:00p	Clarkston 492	DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club
Wed	03 F	7:00p	Atl. Masonic Ctr.	5 th District School of Instruction (Master Mason)
Thu	11 F	7:30p	Chamblee-S. 444	DeKalb County Masonic Association
Fri	12 F	7:00p	Capitol View 640	5 th District Mini School of Instr. (Open/Close/Business)
Sat	13 F	8:00a	Masonic Home	Children's Home District Ambassadors Workshop
Sat	13 F	7:30p	Sweetwater 421	Gwinnett County Masonic Association
Fri	19 F	7:00p	Capitol View 640	5 th District Mini School of Instr. (Entered Apprentice)
Thu	25 F	7:30p	Chamblee-Sardis 444	Entered Apprentice Conferral (tentative)
Fri	26 F	7:00p	Capitol View 640	5 th District Mini School of Instr. (Fellow Craft)
Sat	27 F	8:00a	Masonic Home	Children's Home Lodge & District Ambassadors Workshop
Sat	27 F	8:00a	Masonic Home	Children's Home Endowment Fund Workshop
Fri	05 M	9:00a	Shellman's Bluff	Workday, all Districts
Fri	05 M	7:00p	Capitol View 640	5 th District Mini School of Instr. (Master Mason)
Sat	06 M	9:00a	Shellman's Bluff	Workday, all Districts

Masonic Marksmanship Events

Brethren, I am collecting (and publicizing) any information that I can collect about Masonic Marksmanship Events - Pistol Shoots, Turkey Shoots, Trap Shoots, whatever - and will list that info here. If you have any information potentially of interest to Georgia Masons who shoot, please email me, *david at morelight dot org* . More detailed info when I get it; here's what I have so far:

Pistol Shoots:

Chamblee-Sardis 444, spring (hopefully)
 Generous Warren 20, spring
 Yaarab LOH, fall
 SunCoast Masters & Wardens Assn (N FL), fall

*Also of interest, but not Masonic:
 Northeast Georgia FOP Pistol Shoot, spring
 and fall*

Turkey Shoots:

Cochran 217, fall
 Campbellton 76, Sat before Thanksgiving
 Tallapoosa 126, Oct/Nov/Dec (3 dates)

Sporting Clays:

Fourth Annual Shrine Sporting Clays
 Charity Shooting Event, 10 July
 - \$10,000 purse; proceeds to Shrine
 Hospitals and Georgia Peach Care



MELD Certificates Presented at Roswell 165

Bill Kayma, MELD (Masonic Education and Leadership Development) Director of the Fifth Masonic District, presented MELD Certificates and pins to 13 members of Roswell Lodge during their Awards Evening on November 19th, 2009.

Roswell Lodge conducted workshops on the five on-line courses of MELD, where 14 brothers completed one or more courses, and nine brothers completed all five courses. WBro. Kayma commended Roswell Lodge on their excellent work and thanked Worshipful Master Lynn Hicks and MELD Director, WBro. Brad

Williams, for their leadership in bringing Masonic Education and Leadership Development to so many of their members.

The Roswell MELD director states that this program will continue in the next Masonic year and will add the two district taught courses of "Investigating" and "Mentoring".

Anyone interesting in being a part of this program contact Bro. James Powell, Roswell Lodge's MELD Director for 2010. For more information, see <http://roswell165.com>



Pictured above from left to right Brothers: Fred Swain, Jim Maultsby, John Butler, Dan Brown, Randy Stewart, Todd Webb, Bill Kayma, Lynn Hicks, Mance Towery, James Powell, George Waldrop, and Mike Rothenberg; not present: Norman Black and David Mitchell.

Grand Lodge MELD Programs - *Self Study*

Through the <http://glofga.org> website, the Grand Lodge offers the following self-study courses to help the brethren lay a good foundation of Masonic knowledge; each has 50-150 questions:

1. The Masonic Code course is designed to make the brethren familiar with the various sections of the Georgia Masonic Code, so that one will be able to identify what sort of things are covered and to locate the relevant sections easily.
2. The Masonic Etiquette course will educate the brethren about the various customs which, when followed, help preserve the peace and harmony of the lodge.
3. The Masonic History course should help do away with the misconceptions and guesswork about our past and traditions.
4. The Masonic Rules of Order (or Parliamentary Procedure) course will reduce confusion about conducting lodge business, including motions, amendments, handling petitions, and more.
5. The Masonic Manual course improves familiarity with the contents of the Georgia Masonic Manual, a great reference.



Message from the Fifth District Master

WBro. Bill Kayma, PM, Sandy Springs 124 - Fifth District Master and MELD Director

Greetings from the Fifth Masonic District Convention. The Officers of the Fifth Masonic District are working hard to be of service to the Lodges of the Fifth District. That is our only mission, and I encourage you to take advantage of our offer to serve you.

Each Lodge was selected by an officer of the Fifth District and asked to visit those Lodges before the end of 2009. They carried a package to the incoming Masters outlining the services we can provide to the Lodges and a calendar of events. If you are the WM of a Fifth District Lodge in 2010 and have not received this package, please contact me at (770) 973-0628 or by e-mail at bkayma@bellsouth.net.

In addition to conducting the annual District Convention we provide a number of support services to the Lodges. We recognize the Mason of the Year and Lodge of the Year. We depend on the Lodges to submit their nominations for this recognition by August first of each year. I believe every Lodge in the District has someone in their Lodge that provides exemplary service to the fraternally and these brothers should be recognized by their Lodge by submitting them for Mason of the Year.

Remember that Lodge of the Year submissions are based on activities from August 1st through July 31st of the current year. There are no forms to fill out as the submissions are free form and

come in many shapes and sizes. Quantity does not necessarily equal quality. I encourage every WM of the Fifth District to strongly consider submitting their Lodge for Lodge of the Year. We post all submissions on the Fifth District Website after the convention, for you to view for ideas of programs being conducted by our most active Lodges.

The Fifth District Officers have a Degree Team available to confer any degree for a Lodge that requests it, given ample time to coordinate and prepare for it. We also have brethren available to deliver lectures.

We are reworking our extensive *Speakers Bureau* listing, which will soon be available on the Fifth District Website. If your Lodge can use a program for a Communication or special event, check us out and we will do our best to meet your need.

The Deacons and Stewards workshops are a valuable tool to train the future leaders of a Lodge. I encourage each WM to consider hosting a Deacon's and Steward's Workshop in your Lodge on a mutually agreeable weeknight. If you are interested in hosting an event, talk with your District Deputy and he can arrange it with the MELD Officers.

The Fifth District Website can be found at <http://5dist.morelight.org>

I encourage you to visit often and bookmark this website.

Grand Lodge MELD Programs - *Instructor Led*

Through the MELD Directors appointed for each District, the Grand Lodge offers the following instructor led courses; contact your MELD Director or DDGM to find out more:

1. The Lodge Mentor's Course is designed to formally certify one or more lodge members to fulfill the role of Lodge Mentor, covering all aspects of candidate education - *other than that of the Catechism Coach* - including customs, etiquette and history.
2. The Masonic Investigations Course is a great tool to educate and/or refresh all members about the importance of thorough investigations, as well as providing tips on how to conduct a good investigation.
3. The Stewards and Deacons Workshop is designed to help junior officers and any members, especially new members, learn the basic non-ritual aspects of the lodge, especially what goes on behind the scenes.



Why did you become a Mason?

Bro. Kirk Hegwood, SW, Chamblee-Sardis 444

Brethren, I have a "simple" question for you:
Why did you become a Mason?

Other questions for some "Mind Candy" are: Why (if you are) are you still active in your lodge? Why (if you're not) aren't you active in your lodge? How do we keep our brethren active in lodge?

Over the last number of years as I've worked my way through the chairs and visited other lodges, I've often wondered why there are some lodges full of vitality and others that, to be frank, are on their death bed. The questions I ask are not new questions whatsoever. In the early 1960s Dwight Smith wrote a series of articles for the Indiana Freemason Magazine that was put together in two booklets: *Whither Are We Traveling?* and *Why This Confusion in the Temple?* Even during the 1960s, Freemasonry was having problems, and his answer to the problems of Freemasonry as a whole was to "Try Freemasonry". In other words, for us to turn to our most basic tenets of making good men better, one Mason at a time.

At a weekend retreat that Gate City Lodge put together, which was attended by members of Chamblee-Sardis, Sandy Springs, Palestine and Norcross Lodges, as well as a guest from La Fraternidad Lodge No. 387 (GL of NY), I asked these same questions to those Masons as I put forth to you and the answers, were of course varied. They joined for brotherhood, spiritual growth, service to man, and other reasons. No one Mason had the same answer, which should come as no surprise, because we as men, as Masons, are not the same and are on different

paths to make ourselves better men. We each have the same goal - *with different paths and different starting points* - but we are each **Trying Freemasonry!**

How can we remind ourselves why we became Masons and to actively pursue that most basic tenet of following that path to making ourselves better men? I don't believe this can be done by doing the same boring, repetitious stuff of dinner, opening, reading the minutes, paying the bills, and closing the lodge. Is this how we become better men? Is this how we spark interest and enthusiasm in new brethren? Does this bring our inactive brethren back into our fold? Why did they leave in the first place? Many of us and our lodges as a whole have become complacent. We see the degradation of our complacency all around us. Falling membership rolls, lodges in disrepair, lack of public recognition, and such forth.

There is hope for us however, because we are Freemasons and we have some very valuable services that we can offer to our fellow man AND ourselves. These services are found in the answer of "Why did YOU become a Mason?" Remember the "Why" and be proactive with the "Why". By doing so, you can help your inactive brethren remember the "Why" and those that are in the profane world that see us in action will ask, "How do I become a Mason?" Work with your other lodge members to put on even a simple event or assist in some public benefit. Add some spark or interest in your meetings. Don't be complacent, change IS good. Breathe life into your lodge and most all, "Try Freemasonry" and remember the "Why."

"Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.
Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst for the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.
Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back the horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future in strength, courage, hope and love."

-Sir Francis Drake

Email your answer
to kirk.hegwood@gmail.com and we
will print some of
the responses in a
follow-up article.



Continuous Improvement

WBro. Tim Bryce, PM, Sutherland 174 & Dunedin 192, GL of Florida

As Masons we are admonished to seek further light; to continually learn and grow as Masons for the purpose of developing ourselves, thereby improving our communities, Lodges, and the world overall. Even the old expression, "Freemasonry takes good men and makes them better," implies a learning experience.

Let me say from the outset that the burden of responsibility for continuous improvement in Freemasonry rests with YOU and nobody else. Your Lodge may offer supplemental education, but more than anything YOU are responsible for your development, not anyone else. YOU must take the initiative. In most cases, your Brothers will assist you in your development, but YOU must demonstrate your willingness to learn and improve. If you believe your Masonic Education was concluded upon completion of the Master Mason degree, and if you do not possess the intellectual curiosity to learn more about Freemasonry, then perhaps you have joined it for the wrong reasons. Continuous improvement is an inherent part of being a member of the Craft.

There are numerous sources available to you for ongoing Masonic development:

1. Personal Observations - there is probably no better instructor than your own power of observation as you will be able to watch others succeed and fail in their Masonic assignments, their work habits and ethics, as well as their Lodge politics. This requires an attention to detail, the ability to detect changes, and an inquisitive mind that constantly asks, "Why?"

When studying people, consider their strengths and weaknesses, what motivates them, their character, and their formulas for success or failure, e.g., what worked and what didn't? Never hesitate to ask questions, particularly as a new Mason.

2. Publications - the fraternity offers a wide variety of publications, everything from Lodge newsletters, to printed magazines, and eZines available over the Internet. The Internet also provides news services to stay abreast of Masonic activities (see Google and Yahoo!). There are

also a considerable number of Masonic blogs, discussion groups, videos and podcasts available to you.

The point here is you should develop a habit of staying current in Freemasonry.

3. Participation in other Masonic groups - other Masonic bodies are available to you for participation, including Masonic Research institutions and libraries, Masters and Wardens Associations, the allied and appendant bodies, e.g., York Rite, Scottish Rite, High 12, Easter Star, Grotto, Shrine, etc.

4. Training - Masonic schools of instruction are quite common in just about every jurisdiction and are primarily concerned with ritual work. Sometimes there are other programs available aimed at developing the skills of Lodge officers.

5. Certification Programs - certification programs authenticate your level of knowledge in a subject area. Such programs typically require the person to take a test or examination, which can be rather extensive. In Freemasonry, you are often certified in terms of your level of expertise in ritual work, lectures, or knowledge of Lodge operations. If you have any interest in becoming a Lodge officer, you would be wise to pursue the certification programs of your jurisdiction.

It is one thing to earn certification, quite another to maintain it. Most certification programs require people to renew it periodically, such as every three years. A lot can happen in three years, which is why you should constantly stay abreast of developments in the fraternity.

6. Mentors - years ago there was a period where mentors were assigned to new employees to chaperone them on their journey through the corporate world. Mentors were basically a "Big Brother" program where senior employees would offer sage advice to neophytes on adapting to the corporate world. But this is a program that has slowly been phased



Continuous Improvement

(continued)

out over the last few years. Interestingly, some Masonic jurisdictions offer a mentor program but very few people are aware of it. Nonetheless, if you find a Brother you respect who is willing to act as your mentor, by all means listen to them carefully. A mentor has three primary duties to perform:

- * Role Model - a mentor has attributes the subordinate wants to aspire to attain.
- * Teacher - a mentor has to be able to teach, not just academic or technical lessons but also those pertaining to Masonic life; e.g., policies and procedures, protocol, socialization, politics, etc.
- * Guidance Counselor - to guide the subordinate on their path through the fraternity, explaining options and making recommendations.

Very important, both the mentor and the subordinate must realize the mentor will not have all of the answers, but should be able to point the subordinate in the right direction to get the answers they need.

7. Other Vehicles - there is a variety of other ways for perpetuating Masonic development:

- * Roundtable discussions - held on a regularly scheduled basis to discuss pertinent subjects. In other words, your own in-house research society.
- * Private Blog or Discussion Group - to use as a clearinghouse to discuss topics pertaining to your Lodge and the fraternity overall.
- * Masonic Boot Camps - representing off-site retreats for in-depth discussions or training.

If such vehicles do not presently exist in your Lodge, you might be able to earn accolades from your Brothers for setting up such forums.

Again I remind you, your Masonic development is up to **YOU**, not your Lodge. In most cases, your Lodge will encourage and support you in your professional development, but they cannot spoon-feed you. **YOU** must show the initiative. To assume your Masonic development was finished upon being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason would be a grave mistake.

Masonic Development Checklist

WBro. David Herman, PM, Chamblee-Sardis 444

Brethren, I have compiled the following suggested checklist for an individual's Masonic Development. Much discussion with learned brethren has gone in to its creation, and I recommend it for the newly Raised or affiliated member as well as for any Georgia Mason seeking a basic Masonic Education.

During the first quarter after having been Raised or affiliated, a solid comprehension of the Master Mason's Catechism should be the main priority.

During the second quarter (or if seeking appointment as a Steward), one should attain White Card (catechism) proficiency and complete the Masonic Etiquette self-study course.

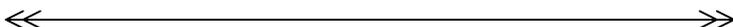
During the third quarter (or if seeking appointment as a Deacon), one should complete the Rules of Order and Masonic Code self-study courses, as well as becoming well-versed with one's lodge by-laws and achieving Blue Card (Ritual) proficiency.

During the fourth quarter (or if seeking to become a good candidate for election as a Warden), one should take the Masonic Manual and History self-study courses, as well as the instructor-led Masonic Investigation course.



Pictured above: Residents and Staff of the Georgia Masonic Children's Home on their annual trip to Stone Mountain Park on October 10, 2009. The DeKalb County Masonic Association sponsors this trip every year, through member lodge contributions.

Many lodges, associations and districts have similar programs in support of the Home. It is support from Masons like you that make these programs possible. Please take pride in our children, and support these programs.



The Ideal Lodge

WBro. Allen E. Roberts, PM, Babcock Lodge 322, GL of Virginia

Reprinted from the MSA's Short Talk Bulletin of October, 2009

The *master* Master Mason Dwight L. Smith, Past Grand Master of Masons in Indiana, provoked a discussion among several members of The Philalethes Society. That's an international Masonic research society over which Dwight was then presiding. The discussion concerned Lodges and what can make them ideal.

An ideal Lodge: That's an intriguing thought. What is it? What can it do that other lodges don't?

First, an ideal Lodge isn't interested in bigness. The largest Temple in the state is cold and useless if there isn't the warmth of Brotherhood in it. A numerically large membership is worthless if the members don't attend and don't participate in Masonic fellowship. A sizable bank account usually suggests the Lodge is more interested in saving for the next depression than it is in Brotherhood.

Because it's not interested in numbers only, the ideal Lodge will see that no man receives the degrees until he knows what Freemasonry is and is not. An Indoctrination Team will visit every petitioner. It will meet with him and his family. It will tell them what's expected of the man if he's accepted into the Lodge. It will answer their questions truthfully and fully. This means the fellows must know what Freemasonry is all about. It also means some petitioners will learn this Order is not for them. It does mean that those who believe it's what they want can become the life-long-active Master Masons we should be seeking.

A word of explanation about the preference for Teams instead of Committees. There is a description of committees which is all too true: "A committee is a group of men who, individually-, can do nothing, but who can, collectively, decide that nothing can be done." Committees have chairmen. Usually everything is left for him to do. If he does nothing, that's what the committee does. Teams. if properly manned. work as a group. A good group can accomplish much, much more than any individual. I've proven this in many seminars.

The ideal Lodge is interested in Fellowship. So, it will have feasts and fun. Have you ever thought about why those first four Lodges in England came together? It was for a feast. For fellowship. For Brotherhood. It's only incidental that from that meeting the first Grand Lodge of speculative Masons was formed. There wasn't any mention of ritual in the early days. Members looked forward to those Masonic feasts. They wouldn't miss the opportunity

of meeting with their Brothers on common ground. It was an adventure.

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After the "do-gooders" turned our Masonic Lodges and Grand Lodges in this country into Puritanical gardens in the 1850's, the feasts and fun disappeared from Freemasonry in the United States. This is not so in foreign climes. In Canada and Scotland fellowship still takes place. A Scottish Masonic leader told me when I was visiting Scotland: "The shorter the degree, the longer the harmony." Harmony is what the "after Lodge get together" is called. And it is fun-not Tomfoolery.

Members care for each other in the ideal Lodge. Everyone knows of the needs of everyone else. If a member is too ill to work. his fellow members will mow his lawn, do his grocery shopping, take care of the home work, and sit by his side if necessary. Whatever is needed his Brothers will provide. It will be done cheerfully. They believe in Freemasonry's First Tenet Brotherly Love. They find nothing effeminate in one man loving another.

Let me tell you a long story briefly. Before the days of the War Between the States, Ann noted some unusual activity by her husband. He left the house at odd hours; he often took little items from their home with him, not telling her why. One night he asked her for a shawl she no longer wore. The next day while she was in the village shopping, she saw a beautiful young lady wearing that shawl. Angrily she followed the girl. Into a shack walked the young lady. Not far behind went Ann, bursting through the door. She found the young lady bending over an obviously sick woman lying on a crude bed.

The woman greeted Ann with a smile. They talked. Ann learned the woman and girl had almost



The Ideal Lodge

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frozen and starved to death. Then, mysteriously, the young lady found food, coal, wood, and clothing outside the door one morning. Almost every morning since then she found the same thing. Both were regaining their health. And through some avenue just as mysterious, the young lady had been given a well-paying job.

When they had settled down after supper to their usual tasks. Ann looked at her husband and smiled. "Today," she said, "I learned the great secret of Masonry. It's to do good and not tell about it."

This is exactly what those members who belong to ideal Lodges have been doing for centuries. They have been helping others and not bragging about their good works. This is what members of ideal lodges will continue to do for centuries to come.

All of us are individuals. This is recognized in the ideal Lodge. Some of us want to sing. Others like drama. There are some who ride motorcycles and want to do this with a group of like-minded men. Or it might be horses. Different activities appeal to different men. We all know this. So why not encourage them to do their own thing?

Wouldn't it be fun to have a quartet in your Lodge? How about a string band? Couldn't a dramatic group provide excellent programs for your Lodge? Not to mention the District and Jurisdiction? Wouldn't it be excellent public and internal relations for these groups to appear throughout the community? Especially if they were sponsored and supported by the ideal Lodge? What about the dozens of other activities various men are interested in? Shouldn't it be easy for a Lodge to find enough interesting things for its members to do to keep them active in the Lodge?

In widely scattered cases some of these things are now being done. But the scale is too small. Even so, where there is activity there is more than casual interest in the Lodge. Why not give it a try? Of course, there's work involved. But not too much. Especially if the leadership will delegate responsibility and authority. There's no need for the Master to lead a quartet, a dramatic group, an orchestra, or anything else. This should be delegated to the best man for the job. Then it will get done as it should. No one man can do everything. No one man knows all the answers. (This you will learn as you study more about leadership. What you learn will amaze you.)

Once you've decided you want your Lodge to be ideal, how are you going to let your members know their Lodge is once again worth attending? By telling them about it. The usual post card won't do. Neither will the "bulletin" that contains little but the names of the officers, members and committees. You're going to have to get out a newsletter. More work? Not really. Every Lodge has at least one member who knows how to write news stories. He may have been overlooked because he's not a Past Master, or even an officer. Many Masonic gems are being cast aside for this reason.

Delegate! Find the member who will write your newsletter. Tell him your goals and plans. Then let him tell the membership what those goals and plans are. The response just may surprise you. But don't expect miracles. If your Lodge has been practically dormant for years, you're not going to arouse much interest in a month. Keep the good programs rolling. Keep your members informed about what's happening, going to happen, and has happened. More and more will start attending Lodge, even it's out of curiosity. Once you have them there, inform and entertain them - Masonically. Keep the civic programs out of your Lodge. Give them what they can find nowhere else-Freemasonry. If you do, your members will keep coming back.

Freemasons are hungry for Masonic information. You'll find this is true wherever you travel. It is difficult to believe that many Masons have no idea where they can find good Masonic books and material. Only a small fraction of our members know there's a Masonic Service Association ready, willing, and anxious to serve them. Most members have serious questions they want to ask, but have no way of knowing where to find the answers.

The ideal Lodge will hold periodic Study Classes. Here well-informed Brothers will impart the Masonic information the members are seeking. Here they will find the questions the ritual raises answered. Here they will be given an opportunity to give and take in the discussions. They will be asked to search in depth for some of the puzzling aspects of Freemasonry. They will be given the chance to pass along their new-found knowledge to their Brethren.

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The Ideal Lodge

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We all know ritual is important to Freemasonry. It's the first thing we encounter in our journey into Masonry. Too often it's the only thing stressed in our Lodges and Grand Lodges. It's too important to take lightly. The ideal Lodge realizes this. So, it forms ritual classes to help the ritualists achieve perfection. It is during the conferring of the degrees the new member forms an opinion of the Craft. They are entitled to nothing but the best for the money they've paid to receive degrees.

Classes are where budding ritualists should be allowed to confer the degrees. After our man has been raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, what are we going to do with him? Are we going to let him leave without words of encouragement? Are we going to let him leave empty handed? Not if he has become a member of the ideal Lodge.

The Indoctrination Team has learned all about his likes and dislikes. It has learned what type of work he does; what his hobbies are; what special activities he enjoys. These have been cataloged and his file will be on record in the Lodge. The Master will have this file and will know exactly what to ask the new Master Mason to do. If he sings, he can become a part of this group. If he plays an instrument, the band may be where he wants to make his contribution. If he likes to cook, the stewards Team will have a valuable addition. The important thing is to put him to work doing what he wants to do.

In the ideal Lodge the new member's endorsers will see that he attends his Lodge regularly. They will take him to other Lodges and other Masonic functions. They will see that he finds all the things Ancient Craft Masonry has to offer.

The Lodge Educational Officer, Historian, or someone designated by the Master will see that the new member has Masonic literature to read and study. He will be given a good Masonic publication before he leaves the Lodge on the night he's raised. He will be told where and how he can obtain more Masonic books and literature. In an ideal Lodge this will be no problem. It will have an excellent Masonic library.

There is plenty of work to be done in the ideal Lodge. There is no reason for any member not to have a job he will enjoy doing. Most active men aren't interested in being just bodies on the sidelines. They want to participate in some way. This is one big reason so many Lodges have small attendance. Too many members don't feel they are important. The ideal Lodge will see this doesn't happen.

There's no limit to the heights the ideal Lodge can reach. There's no limit to the activities the ideal Lodge can have. All it takes is ideal Leadership to set the course.

Remember, Leadership is all-important. Study it in depth. If you will, both you and your Lodge will be the beneficiaries. So will your Grand Lodge and all Freemasons.



Other Announcements

The Lodge System of Masonic Education

Brethren, each Master is charged to comply with **Section 25-123** of the Masonic Code, to wit: *It shall be the Master's, or Acting Master's duty to see that each candidate, before receiving either degree of Masonry in his lodge, and before standing examination on the Master's degree, shall have previously received that section of The Lodge System of Masonic Education, applicable to the candidate's status.* In order to assist lodges with this worthy endeavor, the 5th District Speakers Bureau is soliciting learned lecturers to volunteer their time to give one or more of these educational passages, along with well-informed answers to questions that may arise. Interested brethren should please contact Ross Laver, rosslaver@masonicmessenger.com

Lost Apron!

Brethren, it has been reported that WBro. Clifford Pucket is missing his Past Master's apron. It is not in any way identified as his (no personalization), and was last seen at the DeKalb County Masonic Association meeting at Tucker Lodge 42 in September; we suspect it was picked up by accident. Please get in contact with WBro. Puckett via Tucker Lodge at (770) 938-6513 if you find an extra.

Please contact me, *david* at [morelight dot org](http://morelight.org), if you have any contributions or feedback to this publication, including requests to be added to or removed from distribution.

