

SECTION 2

FRIEND TO FRIEND



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SECTION 2 – FRIEND TO FRIEND PROGRAM

The Friend to Friend is a membership Program to perpetuate Freemasonry in the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario by providing quality products and services through lodges to individual Masons.

The program will assist lodges to enlighten friends of Masons in getting to know us better and to increase membership. It has been developed to exhibit Masonry and its philosophy to the non-Masonic public, especially those men considered to be potential quality candidates. It forms an integral part of other initiatives to bring Masonry to the forefront of public exposure through the use of display booths at International Ploughing Matches, public Open Houses in our lodges rooms and Information Booths at Shopping Malls.

These initiatives are augmented by other forms of reaching the public, such as the Friend to Friend Brochure, the video Friend to Friend Freemasonry in Ontario, and the Audio Tape "What is Freemasonry".

Friend to Friend Is?

- An event at the Lodge where members bring a non-Masonic friend/guest (a potential quality candidate) for the purpose of learning more about Freemasonry

Friend to Friend Is Not:

- An open house
- A mall information booth
- Just showing the "Friend to Friend" video to Lodge brethren

2.1 Benefits

The key element of the Friend to Friend Program is to build upon the public interest generated from the these Public initiatives, by inviting those expressing an interest in learning more about Freemasonry and acquaintances of Lodge members who exhibit the potential of a quality candidate, to a Lodge Friend to Friend Event.

The event is the catalyst of the Program; it brings together Masons and those who have expressed an interest in learning more about the Craft at a social evening. Its goal is to contribute to the revitalization of Masonry by retaining interest, rejuvenating lost interest and attracting quality candidates. In achieving this latter goal, the Program complements the Mentor Program, by generating new members.

Benefits are many:

- Motivates the interest of all current active members
- Rejuvenates the interest of our members who are not attending Lodge
- Attracts the interest and provides information to potential quality candidates

- Increases the level of pride among brethren
- Creates intensity among brethren
- A win/win for the Lodge

2.2 *Formats For A Friend To Friend Event*

- Friend to Friend Night – a “ formal banquet” followed by the Lodge Component of the Friend to Friend Program
- Friend to Friend Breakfast – “a morning breakfast” either at the Lodge or at a local breakfast establishment followed by the Lodge Component of the Friend to Friend Program
- Friend to Friend Luncheon – “ a noon luncheon” either preceded by, or followed by, the Lodge Component of the Friend to Friend Program
- Friend to Friend Evening -- Beginning with the Lodge Component of the Program followed by a social time with refreshments similar to a regular Lodge Night

2.3 Getting Started

The first thing on the Worshipful Masters Friend to Friend Agenda should be to appoint a Friend to Friend Chairman with four to five of the Lodge members who are interested in participating in the organization and execution of a Friend to Friend Event.

The Committee should impress upon the members of the Lodge the importance of the Friend to Friend Program to the long term success of Freemasonry and it is recommended that all of the Lodge revisit viewing the Friend to Friend Video.

Review the suggestions in the Manual which accompanies the Friend to Friend DVD.

2.3.1 Crucial Steps

- Start planning now, four to five months in advance. Begin by selecting a date for the Friend to Friend Night.
- Recognize that the Lodge Officers and new members are likely the best source of potential candidates they are the younger members usually, and are the future of the Lodge.
- However the senior members of the Lodge should also be encouraged as they may have relatives, or associates from their Church, Synagogue, or Mosques which they feel would make a valuable addition to the rolls of the Lodge.
- Business associates, other club or society friends are primary sources of guests for the Friend to Friend Event.
- Young men's organizations such as the Scouts, Cadet Corps, 4-H Clubs should also be considered; perhaps even invited as a group to an Open House at Lodge. They have a great kinship to an association such as Masonry.
- All Lodge Members must be keen to support a Friend to Friend Event to ensure the success of this Program.
- Remember to secure dispensation from Grand Office well in advance of the Friend to Friend Event.
- Once obtained promote the Event at every opportunity, reinforcing the benefits to the Lodge with the participation of all Lodge Members.
- Promote in the Summons.
- Draft a letter to those who will be invited, in conjunction with the Worshipful Master and have the Lodge Secretary mail it out.
- Draft an Agenda of the event Program and have copies for all

- Lodge Members, and quests; perhaps have the Secretary send them out with the Lodge Summons.
- The Invitations – Letter should be on Lodge Letterhead and include the following:
 - Date of writing
 - Guest Name and Address
 - Salutation
 - The name of the Friend whom supplied his name
 - Date and event location as well the Building phone number so that his family might contact him in case of an emergency
 - End – Sincerely yours
 - Signed by the Lodge Secretary.

Note the letter should contain the Lodge Friend to Friend Chairman's contact number. The letter should also state that the Lodge member who supplied his name will make arrangements to pick him up for the event.

The Agenda should outline the Evenings Program and be made available to all who are going to attend on that evening; perhaps the Secretary might mail the Agenda out with the Letter of invitation to the Guests.

2.3.2 Key Points

- Have a copy of the Friend to Friend DVD and a Player and Television to play it on for the Event.
- Obtain information booklets from Grand Lodge Office
- Select a knowledgeable Past Master to act as Director of Ceremonies and invite him to the Friend to Friend Committee Meetings.
- Request the Friend to Friend Brochure from Grand Office well in advance of event, and distribute them.
- If the agenda is not mailed out, remember to have it available at the Lodge door, perhaps handing it out as the Guests sign in.
- Remember to give interested Friends the contact number of the Friend to Friend Chairman

- Have the Guests sit amongst the members
- Present the Program in a timely manner and stick to the Agenda
- Select the Element presenters with care and give them the scripting for their segments several months in advance of the Event
- Present a clean and tidy Banquet facility, washrooms and Lodge grounds
- Send thank you letters out to the Attendees through the Lodge Secretary
- Prepare for questions and indeed invite them, perhaps distribute some to the Guests as a way to break the ice and set the tone for the Question and Answer Period

Note: There are suggested questions and answers in the manual that accompanies the DVD

Get Started Now!

You make it work by bringing a Non-Masonic Friend to Lodge

The Results will be absolutely astounding.

2.4 ELEMENT PRESENTATIONS

The presenters for these elements should be well versed in the content and extremely capable. Providing the scripting months in advance will ensure better presentation.

2.4.1 A Brief History of Masonry

Good Evening. My name is: _____

Worshipful Master, Gentlemen, guests of _____ Lodge, my Brethren.

This evening I will provide a brief history of Masonry. Modern or speculative Masonry originated with the British stonemasons of the Middle Ages. In approximately 1350 these Operative Masons began to form guilds for the practice of their trade. Commencing in the late sixteen hundreds these Operative Lodges began to admit Non-operatives. This probably had something to do with the Great Fire of London in 1666, whereby the King gave license to any one who could shoulder a hammer. Over the next one hundred and twenty-five years, non-operatives outnumbered the Operative Masons. We repeatedly emphasize to our newer members that we are not operative, but rather Free and Accepted or Speculative Masons. On June 24, 1717, four London Lodges met together and formed a Grand Lodge. This was the originator of the Grand Lodge of England. In 1725 a Grand Lodge was formed in Ireland and in 1736 a Grand Lodge was formed in Scotland.

The first recorded Mason in the New World was John Skene. In 1670 he is listed as a Merchant and a Mason, on the membership roll of the Lodge at Aberdeen, Scotland. John Skene came to North America in 1682 and settled in what is now Burlington, New Jersey. He served as Deputy Governor of East Jersey from 1685-1690.

By 1730 there were various groups of men meeting as Masons. The influx of British troops into the New World also saw the arrival of Masonry. The soldiers brought with them Traveling Warrants; these Warrants allowed the soldiers, who were also Masons, to meet and assemble in Lodges.

In this year the Grand Master in England appointed Daniel Coxe as Provincial Grand Master of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, for a two year term. Several local groups were given Warrants and by the year 1736 Masonry was well established in the Colonies.

A Provincial Grand Master was appointed in Massachusetts in 1733; this Provincial Grand Lodge, operating from Boston, warranted several Lodges, which are now situated in Canada. These Lodges are situated in Annapolis, Nova Scotia - 1738, St. John's, Newfoundland - 1738, and Halifax, Nova Scotia - 1750. St. John's Lodge of Friendship No.2 met in Newark, Upper Canada, now Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. This Lodge is now known as Niagara Lodge No. 2. Our Grand Lodge has petitions for

Membership dating from September 14, 1782. This Lodge is the oldest Lodge within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario. As a matter of interest there are approximately 640 Lodges, with a membership of approximately sixty thousand in the Jurisdiction.

This, then, is “A Brief History of Masonry”.

Thank you for your kind attention.

2.4.2 An Explanation Of The Lodge Room

Good Evening. My name is: _____

Worshipful Master, Gentlemen, My Brethren.

This evening I will explain the Lodge Room, its contents, the manner in which everything was used by Operative Masons and also the way in which they are adopted by us to symbolize lessons in morality.

To begin, the form of the Lodge is a parallelepipedon, which is a solid, bounded by three pairs of parallel sides, and in the shape of a brick. The Lodge is symbolically, not geographically, situated due east and west. The three pillars, which are situated at the Altar, are replicas of the different types of columns used by the ancient Greek architects. They symbolically support the ceiling of the Lodge. The Ionic pillar stands in the East and represents Wisdom, in the West stands the Doric pillar, which represents Strength and in the South, the Corinthian pillar, which represents Beauty. In the center of the Lodge Room is the Altar and on it is the Volume of The Sacred Law (which will be explained later in the presentations), above which is suspended the letter “G”, which represents God or Geometry, the basis of our Craft.

This is the Tracing Board. It was used by the Master Mason to draw a guideline for the workers to follow when erecting a building. To Masons, it represents the foundation of our lives and a plan to follow in order to become a better man and Mason.

This is the Rough Ashlar, which was used by the Operative Apprentice Mason, to practice on and to try and perfect his skill. To us it represents the new Mason and serves as an example for him to improve as a man and a Mason.

The Perfect Ashlar was used by the Operative Mason to perfect the finishing skills of their Craft. To us the Perfect Ashlar represents Moral Perfection.

This case contains the Working Tools of a Mason. Three of these are considered Movable Jewels. They are the Square, the Level and the Plumb Rule and are worn by the Worshipful Master and the two Wardens. They are called Movable Jewels as they are transferred to their successors on the night of Installation.

The Square was used to test the work of the buildings that had been completed. It teaches us that we, as Masons, must square our conduct with the Principals of Morality and Virtue.

The Level was used to ensure that every stone was laid correctly and that the walls of the building were perfectly horizontal. It reminds us that all men are equal and should be dealt with as equals.

The Plumb Rule was used to enable the wall of the structure to be virtually true. It reminds us that a Mason is to walk upright and not to be swayed too greatly in any direction.

The other Tools consist of the twenty-four inch gauge; from it we learn to compute the time and labour that will be required for the completion of our work. The Common Gavel and Chisel serve to remind us that all rough spots are to be made smooth and that hard work and determination will stand as a memorial to a life well spent.

The final three Tools are the Skirret, which was used to draw a straight line without the use of a straight edge; the Pencil, which was used to draw our architectural designs and make notes for future reference; and the Compasses, which was the chief instrument used in the formation of all architectural plans and designs. These three Tools remind us that the Supreme Being has revealed his divine will to man and that we are to bear his laws in mind and act in accordance with them.

In the four corners of the Lodge are Tassels hung from the ceiling. They represent the four cardinal virtues; self-control, bravery, wisdom and justice. These are the virtues upon which others depend.

On the floor of the Lodge, in front of the Altar, is the Mosaic Pavement. The dictionary defines "*mosaic*" as a collection of small pieces of material assembled together to form a picture or design. To us the Mosaic Pavement represents, symbolically, humanity as the pieces of material assembled and fitted together to form the grand design of life. It reminds us that we are all small pieces of life and, as such, should endeavour to fit together in order to complete the design that the Supreme Being created for us.

This evening, I have attempted to give a general description of the Lodge Room, and its furnishings and to explain that, when a Speculative Mason enters the Lodge Room, everything in it has a symbolic meaning and reminds him of the manner in which he should conduct his life.

This then is an explanation of the lodge.

Thank you for your kind attention.

2.4.3 An Explanation Of The Term: Volume Of The Sacred Law

Good Evening. My name is: _____

Worshipful Master, Gentlemen, my Brethren.

This evening I will explain the Masonic term “The Volume of The Sacred Law.” I’m sure that it seems too many people as though Freemasons, as well as other similar Fraternities and Associations, must sit up all night devising fancy names for very common things. “The Volume of The Sacred Law” or T.V.O.T.S.L., is a good example of this. I have been asked many times by younger Masons, “Why do we call it T.V.O.T.S.L., why not the Bible? Is it an old mediaeval name for it?”

The answer to that question is “No.” It is not an old historic name for it. The answer is that The Volume of The Sacred Law is not the Bible ... or not necessarily so. It may be another book.

Every Mason is required to declare his belief in One Supreme being, the Creator and Ruler of The Universe.

How that Mason, in his own finite mind, comes to understand the God in whom he believes is between him and his God. It is not the prerogative of others to specify exactly what, or how, he shall believe.

That attitude leads to the bigotry that has caused the martyrdom of countless individuals. Masonry stands for toleration and freedom of religion.

The Christian believes in God. For him T.V.O.T.S.L. is the Bible.

The Hebrew believes in God. For him T.V.O.T.S.L. is the Torah, the Law of Moses, corresponding to the first five books of the Old Testament.

The Moslem believes in God. For him T.V.O.T.S.L. is the Koran.

The Buddhist believes in Buddha. For him T.V.O.T.S.L. is usually the Theravada, although, since there are three main streams of Buddhism, each with its own scriptures, it could be another.

T.V.O.T.S.L. is therefore central to Masonry. No meeting may be held unless the Volume is open on the Altar and, if necessary to a member’s religious beliefs, his V.O.T.S.L. is open on the Altar. In international Masonic meetings there could be five, or possibly more V.O.T.S.L.’s on the Altar.

The Mason is admonished by the Order to read and study his V.O.T.S.L., the reason given being that God has chosen to reveal more of Himself and His will through it than by any other means.

The Mason is to make it the rule and guide of his daily conduct through life. Its open pages are a reminder of this for him, while he is in the Lodge, and if he makes its precepts his own, then to his latest hour he will be directed aright by The Volume of The Sacred Law.

This, then, is an explanation of the term “The Volume of the Sacred Law”.

Thank you for your kind attention.

2.4.4 An Explanation Of The Titles, Jewels And Duties Of The Lodge Officers

Good Evening. My name is: _____

Worshipful Master, Gentlemen, my Brethren.

This evening I am going to explain the Lodge Officers’ Titles, the jewels of their Office and their duties.

First you will already have noticed that the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. _____ has addressed you from the East. There are three Chairs in the East, from left to right, the Immediate Past Master - W.Bro. _____, the Worshipful Master - W.Bro. _____ and a chair reserved for the Grand Master, or his representative, usually the District Deputy Grand Master.

I will start with the Office of **Worshipful Master**. This is a mediaeval term. The title indicates courtesy and respect. The Office of Worshipful Master is the highest honour the Lodge can bestow on any of its Members. He is responsible for the well being of the Lodge and its Members. It is his duty to conduct the business of the Lodge, initiate new Members and perform various rituals. (The work of the Degrees; there are three Degrees). The jewel of his Office is the Square - suspended from his collar.

The **Senior Warden** is the Officer next in line to the Worshipful Master. In the absence of the Worshipful Master, he may open and close the Lodge and preside over the Lodge for all Lodge property. He is also Chairman of the business meetings of the Lodge. It is important that he work with the Worshipful Master in all aspects of Lodge business and Ritual, as he normally succeeds the Worshipful Master. The jewel of his Office is the Level.

The **Junior Warden** is responsible for the introduction of Candidates in the three Degrees. He is responsible for the Lodge while at refreshment hour. He directs the

Stewards. He is usually the Chairman of the Social and Entertainment Committee. As he is one of the three Principal Officers of the Lodge, he is required to work in close proximity with the Worshipful Master and Senior Warden. He follows the Senior Warden in Officer progression. His jewel of Office is the Plumb Rule.

Next is the office of Immediate Past Master. He holds this position in the Lodge by right of ancient custom; he is not elected or appointed. It is his duty to assist the Worshipful Master during each Meeting of the Lodge. Each Worshipful Master ought to use the knowledge of the Immediate Past Master, as he has just vacated the Chair of Worshipful Master and possesses a reservoir of current information that the Worshipful Master can make use of for the betterment of the Lodge. His jewel of Office is the Square from which the 47th problem of Euclid is suspended.

The duty of the **Director of Ceremonies** is to ensure that all visitors are properly introduced and that their comforts are attended to. He is also the Master of Ceremonies at any function that is held outside the Lodge. His jewel is the Crossed Rods.

The **Chaplain** is an Office that requires little comment, as his duties are apparent to all. He occupies an honorable place in the Lodge. His jewel is a Book on a Triangle.

The Office of **Secretary** is a most important one. It is his duty to record the minutes of every Meeting; collect dues and transfer them to the Treasurer; issue all Summonses for the assembly of the Brethren; maintain records of Membership; record the fees payable to the Grand Lodge; prepare all returns required by the Grand Lodge; present a yearly statement of Membership to the Lodge and countersign all orders of the Worshipful Master. All communications pass through the hands of the Secretary. The Secretary should be a Brother who commands the respect of the Brethren and who is impartial in all dealings. His Jewel of Office is the Crossed Pens.

The **Treasurer** is responsible to keep a record of all receipts and expenditures; submit the books and records annually to the Members of the Lodge; pay all accounts signed by the Worshipful Master and the Secretary; prepare statements of receipts, expenditures, assets and liabilities for the Auditors of the Lodge; and invest the surplus of funds, if any, in vehicles for the best advantage of the Lodge. His jewel of Office is the Crossed Keys.

The **Deacons** are messengers; the Senior Deacon of the Worshipful Master and the Junior Deacon of the Senior Warden. It is also their duty to attend the Worshipful Master and to assist the Wardens in the reception of Candidates and during the ceremony of the Degrees. They are to assist the Senior Warden in the preparation of the Lodge Room. They are also responsible for the collection of the ballots for new Applicants and Affiliates to Masonry. The Worshipful Master can direct them to serve on the several Committees of the Lodge. Their jewel of Office is the Dove Bearing An Olive Branch In The Beak.

The **Stewards** duties are to prepare the Candidates for the various Degrees, prepare the Lodge Room for various Degrees and assist the Junior Warden at refreshment hour. They are to ensure that the Brethren and visitors are made comfortable. They may be requested by the Worshipful Master to serve on the various Lodge Committees. The jewel of their Office is the Cornucopia.

The **Organist** - it is his duty to attend all Lodge Meetings and take such part in the ceremonies as the Worshipful Master may direct. His jewel of Office is the Lyre.

The **Assistant Secretary** - his duty is to assist the Secretary and he shall be under his direction and in his absence perform his duties. The jewel of his Office is the Crossed Pens With The Word Assistant written across them.

The **Historian** - his duty is to record and maintain an ongoing history of the events in the Lodge so that the future Members of the Lodge may know and appreciate the past. His jewel of Office is the Scroll Surmounted by the Torch.

The **Inner Guard** is to admit all Masons to Lodge, and to make sure Candidates for the various Degrees are properly prepared. He is to obey the commands of the Junior Warden and to give direction to the Tyler. His jewel of Office is the Crossed Swords.

The **Tyler** is situated outside the Lodge Room. It is his duty to ensure that none but Masons enter. It is also his duty to see that Candidates are properly prepared. He also sees that all Members and Visitors have signed the Attendance Register. He is to assist the Deacons in the preparation of the Lodge Room and to assist the Junior Warden when necessary. His jewel of Office is the Sword.

The **Past Masters** - although there is no Office specific to their rank, they are highly esteemed by the Worshipful Master and Members of the Lodge. They are encouraged to assist the Worshipful Master and serve on the various Committees of the Lodge. They take an active part in the conferring of the various Degrees, and provide a wealth of experience, invaluable to the Worshipful Master. They are easily identifiable for they wear a Past Master's jewel in their breast pocket.

That then is an explanation of the "Titles, Jewels and Duties of the Lodge Officers".

Thank you for your kind attention.

2.4.5 An Explanation Of The Aprons Of Masonry: Their Lessons & Symbolic Importance To Masons

Good Evening. My name is: _____

Worshipful Master, Gentlemen, my Brethren.

This evening I will explain the various Aprons of Masonry, their lessons and symbolic importance to Masons. The Freemason's Apron is a curtailed survival of the apron worn by Operative Masons, to protect their clothing from the abrasive surface of building materials, particularly stone.

After receiving knowledge and instruction in the symbolic form, the new Brother is at last given a tangible symbol of Masonry to wear as his own and eventually to carry away in the form of an Apron. This very ancient form of garment, according to Holy Writ, was the earliest clothing that our first parents made for themselves (Genesis 3:7). At any rate, inasmuch as stoneworkers are as old as civilization itself, the humble apron of Operative Masons can claim a greater antiquity than the Heraldic symbols of riches and power, the Golden Fleece and Roman Eagle. The Mason's apron is worn only in the context of Love and Harmony. Private piques and quarrels have no place within the tiled recesses of the Lodge. As a symbol, it admonishes us to protect our spiritual persons from the spot of sin or the stain of vice.

To the newly admitted Brother or **Entered Apprentice** it serves as a constant reminder, not only that he now owes certain duties to his Brethren, but also that they have now accepted him as a Brother Mason. The white lambskin apron of the Entered Apprentice is completely undecorated and serves him as a reminder of the blameless purity, which should be his constant aim. In shape it is a perfect square, an emblem of Morality, which represents the Good Man, Four Square, fashioned without reproach.

The badge of a **Fellowcraft** is a plain white lambskin apron, similar to that of the Entered Apprentice, with this difference, added are two sky blue rosettes, one in each of the two corners. The man who wishes to make a success of Life will continue to study. He knows that he needs more education and that his education did not cease when he left school or university. Here is the Masonic argument for education. The Second Degree exhorts us to give due attention to the cultivation of our intellectual Life, to exercise the mental faculties is just and pleasurable and just as profitable as the exercise of the physical powers. Note especially the two objectives: the study of the liberal arts and sciences.

The apron of the **Master Mason** is more ornate. It is bordered by a ribbon of sky blue, in five separate segments; three on the apron and two on the flap. The colour blue reminds us of the heavens, which declare the Glory of God and shows His handiwork. The triangular flap, with its border, reminds us of the Mason's Square, that other emblem of Morality. A Lodge, which has attained its one hundredth year of continuous service, is entitled to have gold trim added, as a special marking.

I now direct your attention to the Royal Blue Apron worn by several Members of the Lodge. These Brethren have rendered substantial service to the Craft and have been recognized by our Grand Masters for that service. Their apron, from the insignia in the centre, denotes Grand Steward.

There are several other aprons that are distinctive.

This one that I hold denotes the regalia of a **District Deputy Grand Master**. Several of the Brethren of the Lodge wear this distinctive Regalia. They were elected by their peers in this District to serve as the Grand Master's Representative for one year. They are Brethren who are highly respected in their Lodges and indeed their Districts for their knowledge and experience in Masonry.

This then is an explanation of the “Aprons of Masonry” and their importance to us as Masons

Thank you for your kind attention.

2.4.6 Summation

Good Evening, my name is _____

Worshipful Master, Gentleman, my Brethren,

Permit me to give you a brief summation of the symbolism of Freemasonry, in the three Degrees. Freemasonry is more than an outward symbol and ceremony, narration and fellowship. It has a tradition, which is mystical and personal, nevertheless, real and vital for the full understanding of the spirit of Masonry. That inner spirit of Masonry is nothing less than a consciousness of the presence of God, in the heart, soul and mind of the individual.

The **First Degree**, which is comparable in symbolism to birth, the beginning of Life, requires a trust in God and the thought uppermost in our minds in this Degree is the strength and power of the Great Architect of The Universe, the Creator and Supporter of a wonderful cosmos.

The **Second Degree** is the Degree of Life, knowledge and mental development; God’s all Seeing Eye observes us and it is He who is invoked to shed the rays of Heaven, to enlighten us in the paths of virtue and knowledge.

The **Third Degree** points to the inevitability of death, at the end of our earthly pilgrimage - but it does not stop there. Rather the emphasis is upon the attainment of the quest: “That in our perishable frames resides a vital and immortal principle, which inspires a Holy confidence, that the Lord of Life will enable us to lift our eyes to that bright morning star, whose rising brings peace and salvation.”

Gentlemen, this is but a brief discourse on the lessons we endeavour to impress on the new Candidates, who knock on our doors for enlightenment and knowledge.

Thank you for your kind attention.

2.5 *SAMPLE LETTERS. AGENDA, MEMORY JOGGER etc.*

The following examples will provide your lodge with some guidance in various areas of the program.

2.5.1 Invitation to a Friend to Friend Event

LODGE LETTERHEAD

Mr. Robert Gatt
Secretary
135 Port Royal Trail
Scarborough, Ontario
M1V 2H4

Mr. John Doe
111 Anyplace St.,
Pickering, Ontario
L2N 7H3

Date

Dear Mr. Doe,

I am writing to extend an invitation for you to join with us, and your friend, **Joe Cisco**, at the Lodges' Friend to Friend Evening, to be held on Wednesday, May 11th, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

An overview of Freemasonry will be presented which will include a question period and a tour of the **Scarborough Masonic Hall situated at 2201 Ellesmere Ave., (corner of Markham Rd and Ellesmere Rd., southeast side.)**

Your friend, **Joe Cisco**, will make arrangements for your transportation to and from the Scarborough Masonic Hall on this evening.

Fellowship and a light buffet will be served in the Banquet Hall after the presentations.

In closing should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at **555-297-9744**

Yours truly,

Robert Gatt
Secretary

cc. **Joe Cisco**
cci.

2.5.2 Appreciation Letter: For Attending The Event

LODGE LETTERHEAD

Mr. Robert Gatt
Secretary
135 Port Royal Trail
Scarborough, Ontario
M1V 2H4

Mr. John Doe
111 Anyplace St.,
Pickering, Ontario
L2N 7H3

Date

Dear **John**,

I am writing at the request of **John Smith** the Worshipful Master of the Lodge to extend the Lodge's appreciation for your attendance our Lodges' Friend to Friend Evening, which was held on Wednesday, May 11th, 2008.

It is our sincere wish that you enjoyed the presentations and the company of the members of the lodge on that evening.

Should you require and further information on Masonry or wish to discuss membership please feel free to contact me at 555-297-9744.

Yours truly,

Robert Gatt
Secretary

cc. **Joe Cisco**

LODGE LETTERHEAD

Mr. Robert Gatt
Secretary
135 Port Royal Trail
Scarborough, Ontario
M1V 2H4

Mr. John Doe
111 Anyplace St.,
Pickering, Ontario
L2N 7H3

Date

Dear Sir and Brother. Doe,

I am writing at the request of W.Bro. John Smith, Worshipful Master and R.W. Bro. Jack W. Doe, Friend to Friend Chairman to extend our appreciation for your attendance at our Lodges' Friend to Friend Evening, held on Wednesday, May 11th, 2008.

It is our sincere wish that you enjoyed the presentations and the company of our visitors to the lodge on that evening.

We feel that events such as this are necessary in order to enhance the presence of Masonry in the several communities in which our members reside.

An added benefit is that the invited guests, in addition to expanding their knowledge of Masonry have an opportunity of viewing the lodge and speaking to several of our members.

Once again, thank you for your participation.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Robert Gatt
Secretary

cc. W.Bro. John Smith, W.M.
R.W. Bro. Jack W. Doe

2.5.3 Agenda

LODGE LETTERHEAD

DATE – STARTING TIME
LOCATION

AGENDA

- 6:00 P.M. - SOCIAL HOUR
- 6:30 P.M. - DINNER
- 7:30 P.M. - LODGE – WORSHIPFUL MASTER’S OPENING REMARKS
- 7:35 P.M. - FRIEND TO FRIEND DVD
- 8:05 P.M. - A BRIEF HISTORY OF MASONRY
- 8:20 P.M. - AN EXPLANATION OF THE LODGE ROOM
- 8:40 P.M. - AN EXPLANATION OF THE TERM: THE VOLUME OF THE SACRED LAW
- 8:50 P.M. - AN EXPLANATION OF THE TITLES AND DUTIES OF THE LODGE OFFICERS
- 9:10 P.M. - AN EXPLANATION OF THE APRONS
- 9:20 P.M. - SUMMATION
- 9:25 P.M. - QUESTION AND ANSWERS
- 9:35 P.M. - WORSHIPFUL MASTERS CLOSING REMARKS
- 9:40 P.M. - REFRESHMENTS IN THE BANQUET ROOM

2.5.4 Memory Jogger

Plan Ahead! Use this Memory Jogger to plan all your “Friend to Friend” events.

Give one to each member of your Lodge and urge them to use it. Your prospect list is the cornerstone of your participating in the Friend to Friend program. To help build your foundation, we've listed categories of friends and relatives for you to consider. Start by jotting down the names of people who immediately come to mind. When you draw a blank go through the following Memory Jogger list and see how many pop up.

sons	cousins	brother-in-laws	work place	neighbours
brothers	uncles	father-in-laws	church	teams
school friends	nephews	son-in-laws	clubs	organizations

When you seem to have run out of names, go through the list again, very slowly exploring each group. You will be surprised. Every time you do this there's a good chance another name will crop up. Fold the sheet and carry it in your wallet, so that it is not forgotten. Go back to it every few days and carefully review it

Insert Memory Jogger

2.5.5 Possible Wording for the Introduction of the Event

Welcome the visitors to the lodge room.

Describe that this is how a lodge looks at WORK versus the lodge at REFRESHMENT as was witnessed downstairs. All Lodge rooms are similar to this layout.

Introduce the Lodge Officers and their describe their regalia. Begin at the top and ask the Officers to stand when introduced and remain standing.

- MASTER OF THE LODGE, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE SQUARE.
- SENIOR WARDEN, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE LEVEL.
- JUNIOR WARDEN, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE PLUMB RULE.
- TREASURER, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE CROSSED KEYS.
- SECRETARY, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE CROSSED PENS.
- ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE CROSSED PENS WITH THE WORD ASSISTANT.
- SENIOR DEACON, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE DOVE BEARING AN OLIVE BRANCH IN THE BEAK.
- JUNIOR DEACON, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE DOVE BEARING AN OLIVE BRANCH IN THE BEAK.
- INNER GUARD, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE CROSSED SWORDS.
- SENIOR STEWARD, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE CORNUCOPIA.
- JUNIOR STEWARD, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE CORNUCOPIA.
- DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE CROSSED RODS.
- ORGANIST, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE LYRE.
- HISTORIAN, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE SCROLL SURMOUNTED BY A TORCH.
- CHAPLAIN, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE BOOK ON TRIANGLE.
- TYLER, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE SWORD.
- Last but not least, the IMMEDIATE PAST MASTER, Collar and Apron. Jewel: THE 47TH PROBLEM OF THE 1ST BOOK OF EUCLID.

These are the Officers in a Lodge.

- NOW ... WOULD ALL THE PAST MASTERS PLEASE STAND. (SPREAD IN YEARS)
- NOTE DIFFERENT COLOURED APRONS/COLLARS: FROM PURE WHITE TO PALE BLUE TO ROYAL BLUE.
- INTRODUCE (PLEASE STAND) EAM, FC, MM, PM, VW, RW.
- INTRODUCE THE OLDEST MEMBER IN ATTENDANCE AND THE NEWEST MEMBER NOTE THE DIFFERENCE IN YEARS OF SERVICE.
- CLOSE WITH YOUR COMMENTS.

2.5.6 Masonic Overview

What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is the oldest and largest world-wide fraternity dedicated to the Brotherhood of Man under a Supreme Being. In a society whose moral values are being severely tested. Masonry brings men together for fellowship and the promotion of integrity and good citizenship.

Where Did Freemasonry Get its Start?

Our traditions can be traced directly to the associations of operative masons. They were men of outstanding character and high ideals who built the cathedrals and buildings of the Middle Ages.

With the decline of cathedral building in the 17th Century many guilds of craftsman, called "Operative Masons" started to accept into their membership those who were not working members of the Mason's craft and called them Speculative or Accepted Masons. It was in these groups called lodges comprised mainly of "Accepted" masons that Freemasonry as we know it today had its beginning.

In Seventeen hundred and Seventeen 1717 four such lodges which had been meeting regularly in London England united to form the " First Grand Lodge of England" under the direction of a "Grand Master".

From that first Grand Lodge, Freemasonry has spread throughout the world. Today some 150 Grand Lodges have a total membership of approximately five million masons.

Our Grand Lodges currently recognizes approximately 140 other Grand Lodges throughout the World. Each of these Grand Lodges is presided over by a Grand

Master, assisted by a Deputy Grand Master and a Board of General Purposes. These jurisdictions are usually subdivided into Districts under the custody of a District Deputy Grand Master and each district is comprised by a number of individual lodges, each ruled by a Worshipful Master. In Ontario (2008) we have 44 districts and a total of (578) lodges comprised of approximately 52,130 Masons.

The District in which we belong is called the [District Name] District. [District Name] is comprised of [###] lodges, all meeting in [###] Lodge building or Masonic Temples.

There are numerous other appendant bodies of Masonic origin that are recognized by Masonic Grand Lodges including Royal Arch Masons, The Scottish Rite, the Shriners and many more. The common thread running through all of these bodies is that they are continuances of Craft masonry and their members must be Master Masons in order to join.

Freemasonry supports many charitable institutions such as, The Ontario Deafness Research Foundation Autistic Homes of Ontario, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The Masonic Foundation of Ontario has a bursary program for university and college students and an awareness program to educate youth on the hazards of drugs and alcohol.

What is Freemasonry and What are its Objectives?

Freemasonry is a non religious organization which throughout its very many years of existence has maintained a consistent set of principles which are in parallel and which compliment those of all the Major Religions of the world, while at the same time promoting the simple but important objectives of helping all men and women everywhere to live happy lives. These principles include: Kindness and consideration at home; honesty in business, courtesy towards others, dependability in one's work, compassion for the unfortunate, and being a good citizen of the world.

While Freemasonry's activities and work may vary from town to town and from country to country its principles and objectives remain the same wherever it exists in the world. The organization of Freemasonry is based on a system of Grand lodges, each sovereign within its own territory. There is no central authority governing all Grand Lodges. To be acknowledged by others, however, acceptable traditions, standards, and practices must be maintained.

How Do You Become a Member?

One of freemasonry's customs is not to solicit for members. However anyone should feel free to approach any Mason to seek further information about the fraternity.

Membership is for men (21) years of age or older who are of good moral character, and who believe in the existence of Supreme Being.

What does Freemasonry Expect From its Members?

Freemasonry welcomes applications from men who seek harmony with their fellow man and who wish to participate in making this world a better place in which to live by formatting Masonic ideals of reverence morality, kindness, honesty, dependability and compassion.

2.6 Introduction to Friend to Friend Video

2.6.1 Total Quality Masonry

In his Address to the 139th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, Grand Master C. Edwin Drew stated that "...our commitment is to endeavour to improve our communications at all levels and by all available means...Our aim should be to improve the QUALITY of our membership... Our focus should be on TOTAL QUALITY MASONRY, the pursuit of excellence in all our Masonic activities."

M.W. Bro Drew further announced that " a Canadian edition of the "Friend to Friend" program, with new materials, including a specially made-in-Ontario video tape, would be available to all lodges in September 1994, together with a custom designed membership brochure."

To achieve the Grand Master's commitment, a program of revitalization is required – one that addresses three key elements

- retaining the interest of current active members;
- rejuvenating the interest of those who have slipped to being members in name only; and
- attracting quality candidates

Such a program of revitalization requires taking the Masonic message into the community. This can be achieved through a number of interrelated initiatives, including:

- distribution of the "Friend to Friend" brochure;
- extensive use of the video "Friend to Friend (Freemasonry in Ontario)";
- instituting "Friend to Friend" nights in the lodge;
- holding Open Houses; and
- conducting Information Booths in public locations, such as shopping centres.

2.6.2 What is the Friend to Friend Program?

IT'S MISSION: "Friend to Friend" is a membership program to perpetuate Freemasonry in the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario by providing quality products and services through lodges to individual Masons.

The "Friend to Friend" Program will assist lodges to enlighten friends of Masons in getting to know us better and to increase membership. It has been developed to exhibit Masonry and its philosophy to the non-Masonic public, especially those men considered to be potential quality candidates. The program forms an integral part of other initiatives to bring Masonry to the forefront of public exposure, such as display

booths at International Plowing Matches, public Open Houses in our lodge rooms, and Information Booths at Shopping Malls. These initiatives are being augmented by other forms of reaching public, such as the “Friend to Friend” brochure and the video “Friend to Friend (Freemasonry in Ontario).”

The key element of the “Friend to Friend” Program is to build upon the interest generated from these public initiatives, by inviting those expressing an interest in learning more about Masonry and acquaintances of lodge members who exhibit the potential of a quality candidate, to a lodge “Friend to Friend Night.” That event is the catalyst of the program. It brings together Masons and those who expressed an interest in learning more about the Craft at a social event. Its goal is to contribute to the revitalization of Masonry by retaining interest, rejuvenating lost interest and attracting quality candidates. In achieving this latter goal, the program complements the “Mentor Program” by generating new members.

The purpose of this Manual is to provide guidance on conducting a successful “Friend to Friend Event.”

To assist lodges in attracting interested persons to a “Friend to Friend Event”, and retaining that interest, the following aids have been produced.

2.6.3 Friend to Friend Brochure

The handy pocket-sized brochure is highlighted by a collage of famous Canadian members of the Craft. Each lodge has been given a quantity of brochures for its members to distribute to friends and acquaintances who might be interested in learning more about Masonry, and who might be a potential guest at a “Friend to Friend Event.” The brochures can also serve as handouts at public information displays, Open Houses, etc. The brochure contains an explanation of the collage, a short overview of the Masonic degrees, information on what Freemasonry is, who Masons are, what they believe in and do, and the qualifications to be met to become a Mason.

2.6.4 Friend to Friend (Freemasonry in Ontario) Video

This 16-minute video, produced in Ontario by Ontario Masons, is the keystone of the public outreach program and the initiative to improve the quality of our membership. A complimentary copy of the video has been provided to each lodge for its own use and can be shown to a broad audience; to Masons in lodge or at social functions; to non-Masons and families of Masons in the privacy of their own homes; at Open Houses; on local T.V. and at Information Booths. The video also forms the centerpiece of the “Friend to Friend Night.”

ABOUT THE VIDEO

“Friend to Friend (Freemasonry in Ontario)” takes the viewer on an informative, exploratory journey of Freemasonry from early Ontario to the present day through the

voice and eyes of a modern-day Mason. The video basically answers the who, where, why, how and what about Masonry. Its objective is to entertain, inform, stimulate questions and clarify what Masonry is and what Masons do. It also reinforces the Mason's commitment to his family and highlights his community work.

The video explains the basic principles, goals and beliefs of Masonry. It takes a reflective look back at how Masonry flourished in early Ontario and its influence on modern-day Masons throughout all of Ontario today. It shares factors that may have influenced decisions to become a part of Freemasonry. It answers some important philosophical and moral questions that may have been asked at one time or another. The video illustrates how today's Mason practices his Craft through involvement in a host of community, charitable, educational and social endeavours.

No phase of Masonry is left out of "Friend to Friend (Freemasonry in Ontario)" and a lot of questions from how to become a Mason to qualifications for joining are covered. Enjoy the video and use it as a valued added WORKING TOOL in and outside of your lodge. ADDITIONAL DVD COPIES OF THE VIDEO ARE AVAILABLE for lodges or individual members; order by sending a cheque for \$10.00 to:

The Grand Lodge of Canada
363 King Street West
Hamilton ON L8P 1B4

IMPORTANT

- write on your cheque "Friend to Friend video";
- be sure to include your return mailing address;
- and allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

2.6.5 Friend to Friend "I Greet You" – Proposed Format For An Event

*(REMEMBER to secure proper DISPENSATION WELL IN ADVANCE of the function.
NO fee required.)*

The following format has been used with success; however, other variances are available. The essential elements of the evening are; a short Masonic overview; viewing of the "Friend to Friend" video; a discussion period; and questions and answers. The ultimate goal is to have every member bring a non-Masonic friend. The added benefit of the evening is the level of pride stirred in Masons talking to guests about their beloved Craft, which turns their intensity level up a notch, and the lodge is the recipient of a renewed and more vigorous Brother.

TIME OF EVENT

6:00 p.m. Social Hour. It is important to have everyone meet and become acquainted as they arrive, preferably escorted by their Masonic friend. Casual introductions can be made while people circulate.

6:30 p.m. Dinner. This should be informal – no head table, no speeches. An Invocation (blessing) and a Toast to the Queen and the Craft, before dining will suffice. After eating, the W.M. or Master of Ceremonies will extend a word of welcome to all and explain very briefly the format to follow. Members of the lodge may be required to pay for their meal, depending on the lodge custom, but all guests should be at no charge. The Friend (Host) will introduce his guest; the W.M. would then introduce the Lodge Officers.

7:30 p.m. Lodge. The members of the lodge escort their guests to the lodge room and sit with them, if possible. Do not herd the guests in as a group of lost sheep. The lodge will be set up, but not opened, and members will wear their regalia. The speaker presents a Masonic overview.

8:00 p.m. Video. Show the video “Friend to Friend (Freemasonry in Ontario)” and discuss it after with the guests. The speaker then proceeds to continue his explanation by touring around the lodge room, explaining the layout and the various visual items, such as the Altar, ashlar, working tools, introduce the officers and their regalia, also any G.L. officers, advising that no one is ever asked to join a lodge. The friends, having shown an interest by their presence that evening, could, through their host, request an application, which is on hand at the Secretary’s desk, along with the new consent form. After a suitable question period, all members and guests retire to the banquet hall for an informal coffee hour.

9:30 p.m. Adjourn. The W.M. thanks the guests for coming and hopes they have enjoyed the evening. Perhaps he will see them back again in the near future. If they still have any questions in retrospect at a later date, tell them to feel free to call their host, or any member of the lodge.

HELPFUL HINTS

Before undertaking a “Friend to Friend Night,” ensure that the lodge room, building and grounds are clean, presentable and properly maintained.

Publicize the program to the membership; stress that bringing a guest is the key to success.

Select a knowledgeable, friendly Past Master as the Master of Ceremonies for the event; someone with a flair for casual social intercourse (a salesman-type), and preferably a younger member close to the average age of the potential candidates.

Impress upon members the importance of the “Friend to Friend” Program to the long term success of Freemasonry, and the need for each member to bring a suitable friend or acquaintance to the lodge’s “Friend to Friend Night.” Recognize that Lodge Officers and new members are likely the best sources of potential candidates; they are the younger members usually, and are the future of the lodge. They must be keen to ensure the success of this program.

Neighbours, relatives, business associates, other club/society/association friends and church/synagogue/mosque acquaintances are primary sources of guests for this type of evening. Young men’s organizations such as the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Rover Scouts, Cadet Corps, 4-H Clubs, should also be considered, perhaps even invited as a group to an “open house” at lodge. They have a great potential and a kinship to an association such as Masonry.

The Master of Ceremonies and other presenters should not “lecture” from prepared speeches; the more casual the presentations, the better; keep the evening “lively”)

The talk on Masonry in the lodge room should cover subjects of interest to the guests (see “Guidelines for Masonic Overview” for suggestions). This presentation must be crisp, non-technical and in layman’s terms, so as not to bore or turn off the guests.

In introducing the “Friend to Friend (Freemasonry in Ontario)” video, state that it is only 16 minutes in duration, and give a short summary of its contents and aims.

The fellowship prior to and following the formal part of the evening is our opportunity to reveal the lessons of friendship which we espouse. Make sure the guests are attended to and that none are left standing alone at any time. Many people do not join organizations because they fear the initial period of getting to know everyone, or are tense in strange social situations. Fellowship and sincerity can turn the internal key for a man to really want to be a part of the Craft, and allows him to feel that it is really possible to do so!

Questions should not only be invited, they should be encouraged. The secret to the success of the evening is to be quite free and open in answering any questions without giving away anything that would detract from our ceremonies or secrets, particularly if it appears that several guests are potential applicants. From past experience, it can be assumed that there will be questions concerning Masonry and Religion, and Masonry and Secrecy. For guidance, see “Possible Questions....Suggested Answers.”

GUIDELINES FOR MASONIC OVERVIEW

There are many subjects that could be covered, but time is short and the purpose of the whole evening is to give the guests a broad-brush look at what Masonry stands for and why we are proud to be recognized as members of the Craft. To get our message across, however, certain points should be made. The following points may be of assistance in developing an overview:

Simplistically, the objective of Freemasonry is to take good men and make them better. Through its lessons and charitable works, and the fellowship amongst its members, Masonry stresses the principles of kindness and consideration at home, honesty in business, courtesy towards others, dependability in one's work, compassion for the less fortunate and being a good citizen of the world.

Masonry is the oldest fraternal organization in the world. Freemasonry claims to be descended from the men who erected the great Gothic stone cathedrals of Britain, beginning some 650 years ago. The "Regius Poem," dated around 1390 describes the granting of the original Charter to Masonic guilds in York, England, in the year 926. Over the years, as construction methods changed, the need for stone buildings declined and so did the need for guilds and lodges. To preserve the moral and other benefits offered to society by these Masonic organizations, the lodges began to admit members who were not practicing stonemasons. As time passed, lodges came to have fewer and fewer stonemasons, and more and more, "non-operative," or "accepted" Masons. It was from these "mixed" lodges that modern Masonry descends. Modern Freemasonry was founded in England when four lodges banded together in the year 1717 to form the first Grand Lodge. From Britain it spread over much of the world, playing a significant role in our culture and civilization.

Masonry is not a secret society; if it were, evenings such as this would not be possible. Masonry is a fraternal association of men of good will and high ideals, proud to be members and to discuss its objectives with non-Masons. There are certainly secrets associated with membership in Masonry, but they are restricted to means of mutual identification.

The Masonic emblem of the "Square and Compasses" is widely recognized and often seen being worn by members of the Craft, especially in North America. In other jurisdictions, however, old traits of secrecy die hard, and membership in the Craft is not outwardly advertised. Since such emblems are readily available, however, Masons learn other means of recognition by which they may prove their legitimacy to others or seek it from a stranger when necessary to preserve the integrity of Freemasonry.

Because of our historical roots with the medieval stonemason, it is only logical that Freemasonry has adopted his Working Tools: the Twenty-four Inch Gauge, the Chisel, the Gavel, the Square, the Level, the Plumb Rule, the Skirret, the Pencil and the Compasses, and make use of them in our Ritual. (Point out the Working Tools during the portion of the evening in the lodge room.) As we are "speculative," rather than "operative" Masons, however, these tools are used in a symbolical sense in building proper moral conduct.

As noted, modern Freemasonry began in London, England, in 1717, and rapidly spread throughout the world. Within 20 years, for example, the Craft had traveled to North America with the military forces and the colonists. Similarly, it quickly spread to other parts of the globe. A Mason from any Grand Lodge recognized by another, may visit a lodge in that other jurisdiction simply by proving that he is a Mason in good standing and with the permission of the Master.

The dictionary defines “God” as the one “Supreme Being, the creator and ruler of the universe.” Certain religions use other terms to define the Supreme Being. As Masonry does not espouse one religion over others, the universally accepted term “Supreme Being” is generally used in reference to God. Regardless of the term used to identify “God,” however, the common denominator among all Masons, regardless of religious persuasion, is a commitment to and the declaration of a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being, as no atheist can become a Mason.

There is no one “governing body” over this wide-spread Order. Each country, or political entity within a country, is governed by its own sovereign and independent Grand Lodge. Other Grand Lodges will recognize its right to call itself Grand Lodge of its jurisdiction, and will be in amity with it, provided it has exclusive control over the operations of Masons within its jurisdiction, and abides by the established principles of Freemasonry. Our Grand Lodge currently recognizes approximately 140 other Grand Lodges throughout the world. Each of these Grand Lodges is presided over by a Grand Master, assisted by a Deputy Grand Master and a Board of General Purposes. These Grand Jurisdictions are usually subdivided into districts, under the custody of a District Deputy Grand Master, acting on behalf of the Grand Master, and each district is comprised of a number of individual lodges, each ruled by a Worshipful Master. In Ontario, we currently have 44 districts and a total of approximately 600 lodges, comprised of approximately 55,000 Masons.

Although the requirements for joining Masonry are not onerous, Masons are proud of their fraternity, and carefully guard its intrusion by those who are not members. Masons consider that the benefits they receive from membership must be protected from intruders and are careful before admitting a self-proclaimed Mason into lodge. Much has been made of the secrets of Masonry over the centuries by non-Masons. The secrets basically boil down to various signs, tokens and words of recognition by which a visitor can prove himself to be a Mason and thereby eligible to be admitted into a lodge in which he was not known.

While Charity has a significant role in Masonry, fund-raising for particular purposes is not its all-consuming goal. Throughout North America, Masonry and its concordant bodies support many charitable and worthwhile causes, in the amount of over half-a-billion dollars annually. That is an average of more than \$1,400,000 each and every day! Through financial support of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario, we support hearing research, a bursary program for university and college students, and an awareness program to educate youth on the hazards of drugs and alcohol. The funds to support these projects, now in excess of \$4 million, come almost entirely from donations made by our members. All lodges and Grand Lodge have Benevolence Committees to provide financial assistance when a small boost is required to see a member or his family over a rough period. Grand Lodge also places particular emphasis on individual lodge support of the Blood Donor Program. Ontario Masons make or sponsor over 15,000 blood donations annually.

Masonry is primarily interested in generating fraternal fellowship and building strong moral character. It differs in that, unlike most clubs, societies and similar organizations, Masonry does not actively solicit for new members.

There are numerous other appendant or concordant bodies of Masonic origin that are recognized by Masonic Grand Lodges, including; Royal Arch Masons, the Scottish Rite and Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (the “Shriners”). The common thread running through all of these appendant bodies is that they are continuances of Craft Masonry, and their members must be Master Masons in order to join.

While it is important to give the guests some idea of the costs of joining and retaining membership, treat the subject in a low key manner, but in a positive light that Masonry is not expensive in terms of today’s economy and the shrinking purchasing power of the dollar. Stress that dues are the primary source of income to the lodge and cover the costs of operation, including providing a lodge facility and monthly notices and news items.

2.6.6 Possible Questions Suggested Answers

QUESTION: What is Freemasonry?

ANSWER; Freemasonry is an organization which, throughout its many years of existence, has maintained a consistent set of principles that are in parallel with and compliment those of all major religions of the world, while at the same time promoting the simple but important objectives of helping mankind to live happy lives.

QUESTION: Is Masonry a religion, or some substitute for religion?

ANSWER: Masonry recognizes each individual’s right to his own beliefs, and prohibits discussion of a religious nature in lodge. As such, it is not a substitute for religion; each member seeks the way to pursue his religious convictions in the manner best suited to him

QUESTION: Is Masonry a Secret Society?

ANSWER: No; if membership in Masonry required secrecy, members would not wear or display insignia indicating their association with the fraternity. This is not to say that Masonry does not have secrets, but those secrets are almost exclusively related to recognition of others who are also members of the Craft. These modes of recognition permit strangers who share membership in the fraternity to sit together in a lodge anywhere in the world and enjoy each other’s fellowship.

QUESTION: Why are Masons called “Masons”?

ANSWER: Today’s Free and Accepted Masons take their name from the builders of the great Gothic Cathedrals that were erected many centuries ago in England and Europe. Because they were highly skilled, ancient Operative Masons were permitted freedoms during an era when most citizens were bonded to the land as serfs. The experience of being able to enjoy the privileges of a rare Middle Class in that era caused Masons to realize that they had duties, obligations and responsibilities to each other and to their Society. To preserve those ideals for the benefit of future ages to come, these original Masons adopted their working tools as symbols to teach the importance of just, upright and moral living and to impress upon the mind realizations that can lead to higher achievement and nobler deeds in life. These symbols are still used in lodges today, and the lessons they teach are practiced by Masons world wide.

QUESTION: Since Masonry does not admit women, what would my wife do if I became a Mason?

ANSWER: While membership in Masonry is restricted to males 21 years of age or older, of good moral character who believes in the existence of a Supreme Being, there are several organizations, including the Order of the Eastern Star and the White Shrine of Jerusalem, in which Masons can participate along with their ladies. There are also youth organizations recognized by the Masonic Order, including DeMolay for boys and Job’s Daughters and Rainbow for Girls.

QUESTION: How much time would it take to be a good Mason?

ANSWER: Each lodge has one regular meeting every month, often with the exception of the summer months; in addition, other meetings may be called from time to time for special purposes. Masons are also encouraged to visit other lodges; so a Mason can be as active as he wishes. Masonry, however, recognizes that each member has obligations to his family, his work, his religious beliefs, his community and himself. These must take priority, and Masonry does not interfere with his ability to meet these obligations.

QUESTION: How does one become a Mason?

ANSWER: Because tradition requires every Mason to come free of any coercion, Masonry does not solicit for members. An interested man must ask. If he meets the age and moral requirements, he need only submit an application signed by two members of the lodge as sponsors.

2.6.7 Company's Coming Is Our House in Order?

For generations, Masons conducted their meetings in isolation of the outside world. Even though Masonry is not a secret society, non-Masons were virtually never invited within the lodge building. This isolation has ceased; lodge rooms are being opened to the general public; in fact, exposure of the lodge room to prospective candidates is at the heart of the "Friend-to-Friend" Program. Exposure to the basic principles of Freemasonry is the key to whetting the appetite of a potential candidate so that he will seek further answers to his questions, and provide himself with the basis to decide whether the Craft has something to offer him, and whether he has something to offer the Craft.

Whether the interior of the lodge remains a secret enclave for Masons alone or not, it is impossible to hide from the public that a particular building is the gathering place of the local Masonic Order. The public's perception of the Craft will be formed on the basis of what it sees; if not inside, then outside. If we wish to create a good impression, it is imperative that the grounds be well groomed and the building exterior well maintained.

With the institution of the "Friend-to-Friend" Program, we must also ensure that we are proud of the interior of the lodge before we fling open our doors to the public, including prospective candidates that we are trying to impress. Take stock of your lodge building and its surroundings. Are you proud of what you see? Are you ready to welcome strangers who could become new friends?

The acid test, of course, is to honestly answer the question: "if the first person through the door at an Open House was my Mother, would I be proud, or look for a dark corner in which to hide?" If the answer is Pride!—your lodge and its facilities are ready to launch the "Friend-to-Friend" Program. If it is Hide! Get a work team together with cleaning equipment and paint, gardening utensils and plants, and spruce the place up. In all honesty, can we be proud of our Craft and our involvement as Masons, if we are not proud of the facilities in which we conduct our meetings and spend a significant portion of our time?

Should the building require more than cleaning, contact the Grand Lodge Advisory Committee on Lodge Buildings. Remember that any project involving the construction of new facilities or the renovation of existing facilities must be undertaken in strict conformance with the Building Codes, Fire Regulations, Electrical Standards and Zoning Regulations

Before the "Friend-to-Friend" Program can be considered to be truly launched, every member of every lodge in our Grand Jurisdiction must be able to state in all honesty:

COMPANY IS COMING.....

AND OUR HOUSE IS IN ORDER!