

Orion Lodge No. 51^{of}
The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted
Masons of British Columbia & Yukon
103-416 Westminster Avenue West, Penticton, British Columbia V2A 1K5

Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of
Masons of British Columbia and Yukon
1495 West Eighth Avenue
Burnaby, British Columbia V6H 1C9

03 January 2019

RE: Lodge Health Assessment - Community Relations Enquiry

Dear Brother, Grand Secretary,

It gives me great pleasure to extend warm fraternal greetings on behalf of our Worshipful Master, Right Worshipful Brother Paul Tupholme, the Officers and brethren of Orion Lodge No. 51. The purpose of this correspondence is to reply to an enquiry posed by our District Deputy Grand Master for District No. 10, Right Worshipful Brother Rod Marquet, regarding the high self-assessment for Community Relations in the Grand Lodge Health Assessment. This enquiry caused a serious reflection on the part of the brethren and need for discussion in open Lodge. Below can be found some of the considerations given to our Lodge Health Assessment, in regard to Community Relations:

1. Orion Lodge received our Warrant in 1909. A Centennial Booklet, Orion Lodge No. 51 1909 – 2009, 100 Years list accomplishments in those first 100 years. A copy of which is given to every first-time visitor and can be found in the Grand Lodge Library, the Penticton Library and the City Museum located here in Penticton.
2. Orion Lodge No. 51 has participated in the Remembrance Day wreath laying ceremony conducted every November 11th. A very public display of Freemasonry.
3. One-hundredth anniversary granite obelisk erected and properly dedicated by the Grand Master and Grand Wardens in a very public display of civic pride. This obelisk is located on City property, right next to City Hall (2009).
4. Constable Aston public memorial commemorating 100 years since he was murdered in the line of duty and buried in the old cemetery located on Fairview Road, Penticton. There is much civic history on this topic.
5. Since its inception in 1998 through the present, an Orion Lodge No. 51 member has served as the South Okanagan Cancer Car Coordinator.
6. Local Cancer Car volunteers (non-masonic) are honoured and Long Service (Dennis Marsh) awards presented annually at our summer BBQ.
7. Under the direction of the Cancer Car Coordinator, the Okanagan Cancer Car No. 13 participates in four South Okanagan parades and the Penticton Shrine Club Car Show every spring and summer; Summerland, Penticton, Osoyoos, Oliver and Okanagan Falls.
8. Honoured Ladies remembered and involved formally, three times a year. Orion Lodge summer BBQ, Installation Banquet, Poinsettias, fudge and Card mailed every Christmas. Plus, Orion members drive ladies to the pool two to three times a week for exercise.
9. Salvation Army Christmas Kettle campaign since 2013; Orion Lodge No. 51 signage posted on the kettle at the local Canadian Tire with \$1,653.75 raised in 2018.
10. Active presence on Facebook.

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11. Church Parade conducted in 2018 and again planned for 2019.
12. Penticton Highway sign initiative. This began in District No. 10 with Worshipful Brother Rod Henderson of Summerland Lodge 56 and was then headed by Worshipful Brother Terry Ruttan of Orion Lodge No. 51 for Penticton. Terry was for a brief time Chairman of the Grand Lodge Community Relations Committee and he together with Rod developed a package for use by Grand Lodge. This initiative brought Orion Lodge in close communication with the Elks, Lions International, Rotary Club, Eagles Club and Kiwanis International.
13. Orion Lodge has held a Masonic Day open to the District for four out of the past five years and plans another in March this year.
14. Benevolence disbursed this past year - \$1056.00.
15. Charity given this past year was \$1,000.00 to new Patient Tower at the Penticton Hospital, in recognition our contribution at the first Penticton Hospital (Haven Hill). An additional \$200.00 was donated to the DDGM for use in a District No. 10 charity initiative.
16. In 2012 Orion Lodge No. 51 noticed that many of the Category Items found in the Grand Lodge L.E.A.P. Award were already practiced by our Lodge. Given that the participation in 2012 was only nine percent of the Lodges listed on the Grand Registry and that we have now continuously received the "Excellence" Award one might deduce that would place us high among other Lodges in this jurisdiction regarding Community Relations.
17. Post-secondary Bursary of \$1,000.00 granted in five of the past six years.

Like many Lodges in this jurisdiction, Orion members support their community in ways too numerous to list. Most just go on about it quietly. In the case of the Grand Lodge Health Assessment and Community Relations in particular, Orion Lodge No. 51 took great pride in our presence in this community. As for measurable results:

- a. 2018 one new Master Mason
- b. 2018-2019 two Petitions for Initiation.
- c. One demitted Brother reinstated.
- d. Two active seekers.
- e. One additional seeker referred to Penticton Lodge No. 147 as we focus on our good fortune.
- f. One "Rusty Square" installed as Senior Steward.

I remain, most sincerely and fraternally, yours,

Richard W. Porter, PGC
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Via: Electronic Mail