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Workman?

by RW Bro. L. A. Schon

How often have we heard that comment:—"Why doesn't the lodge undertake some community project?" and I have thought that I would like to discuss this question.

Let us consider this from the angles of (a) desirability, and (b) results.

What, first of all, is the purpose of Freemasonry? All associations are formed for some specific purpose. The purpose of churches is to spread their philosophy in religious matters and to urge their adherents to practice it. The purpose of labour unions is to promote the interests of their members in their working conditions and wages. The service club provides an outlet for its members for public community service. Schools and universities exist to diffuse and transmit knowledge to their students. These are examples with which we are all familiar. We automatically think of its purpose when the name of an association is mentioned.

What then, is the purpose

that warrants the existence of Freemasonry?

I am sure that you will agree with me, that the purpose of Freemasonry is to educate its members in the practice of all the cardinal and divine virtues: Tolerance, Humility, Honesty, Integrity, Kindness, Charity, Benevolence, Brotherly Love, etc., which it does by means of symbolism. It is an instructive institution, dedicated to teaching its members the divine eternal truths, secure in the knowledge that when these are practiced, happiness can be the only result. In this, it closely resembles the university. The university teaches advanced knowledge to its students, so the Craft teaches the divine virtues to its brethren. The university requires a high standard of knowledge in all those seeking to become its students, and the Craft requires a high moral standard in all those seeking membership. The University student must strive to his utmost, to absorb the knowledge presented to him,



Canadian children's author, W Bro. Palmer Cox (1840-1924) created this Brownies' Christmas tree in 1891.

so must the brethren concentrate to absorb the virtues taught to them symbolically by the Craft. Just because the university teaches medicine, we do not expect them to undertake the medical needs of the Community, nor because they teach engineering, do we expect them to build bridges or buildings, or undertake the construction of roads. We

know that they teach these principles, and they expect that their students will put them into practice, for the public good. Freemasonry likewise, teaches the divine principles to its brethren and expects them also to put these truths into daily practice.

It is the difference between pure and applied science.

continued on page 2



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Teacher or workman? from page one

These are two distinct phases and each serves best within its own sphere.

Daniel Webster has said "Knowledge, in Truth, is the great Sun in the Firmament, Life and Power are scattered with all its beams." Like the sun, Freemasonry scatters knowledge and truth through its beams, being its brethren. If any organization undertakes any project for which it was not formed, it no longer justifies its own existence, and this would mean the neglect of its own purpose and thereby weaken or even destroy itself. This leads us to the questions, "Is it necessary to look for other purposes? Are its own purposes being still carried out? Are they still needed?" Has time solved the purpose for the existence of the Craft? Does the world still need men who will practice its teachings?

I submit that the world has never been more in need of men who practice these virtues, and that the teachings of the Craft are more needed today than ever before.

What brought each one of you to seek admission in the Craft?

If the Craft is successful in its teachings, the brethren will carry out into their daily lives the truths learned within the lodge, and that this is so, is evidenced by the fact that so many freemasons are leaders in their communities.

John Wesley said, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." This briefly, is the teachings of Freemasonry in practice.

The Craft provides you with the tools, But you are expected to do the job.

The Craft can only teach you the virtues, it cannot put them into practice for you. You,

and you alone can do that.

Let us concentrate more on learning and practicing the truths taught by the Craft, than expecting the lodge to undertake projects which should be our own personal responsibility. ■

Reprinted from the Masonic Bulletin 1939.

Masonic notes

On September 22 Peter Renzland organized for the Toronto Society for Masonic Research (in their words 'resolutely independent of any "Masonic" organization whatsoever'.) a Lecture & Panel Discussion on 'The Future of Universal Freemasonry — Cosmopolitanism in Civil Society.' How they heard about it is anyone's guess, but at least a half dozen anti-masons turned up to protest the meeting, prompting a front page story in the *National Post* and an excuse to reprint an illustration purporting to represent the masonic handshakes.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, 29 September, nearly 1,000 people gathered in Pine Bluffs, Arkansas, as MW Bro. Cleveland K. Wilson presided over the cornerstone laying of the new headquarters for the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Arkansas. Other than the local press and a few masonic mailing lists, the event went relatively unreported. ■

The tree and the soil

by VW Bro Ed Lewis, Grand Chaplain

Following somewhat along the lines of our Grand Master's theme for this year, "look beyond the trees," I hope to focus on the tree itself.

In Our Christian *Volume of*

Sacred Law, Jesus tells a story about sowing seed and the soil in which the seed lands: rocky soil, shallow soil, and the good soil.

As we consider this story from a masonic point of view, think of the seed or sapling as a newly initiated brother, and the Lodge into which he has been initiated as the soil. The seed has all kinds of potential; and I will speak about that in future columns. For now let's consider the soil.

When a new member is initiated, he enters a whole new world in the fraternity. His growing up to become a fruitful freemason depends largely on how we receive him into our midst.

We can be like rocky soil. We can take part in his initiation; we can say hello to him at the festive board; but if that is all that we are prepared to do for that new brother, there is no wonder why he may drop out even before he completes his degree work.

We can be like the shallow soil. We can greet; we can be friendly; we can promise to help him through the work he has to do for the next degree. But if it is only a promise, or the help is only given half heartedly, or if it is a skip-or-miss type of support, it will not be long before the new brother starts to lose interest and may never come back.

Or we can be good soil. We can live up to our obligation of brotherly love and care. We can help our newly initiated brother to settle into the life and workings of the lodge. Being good soil means getting to know the new member, making him feel at home in the lodge room and at the festive board. Greet him; let him know who you are; sit with him in the meeting and help him understand what is happening; introduce him to the other members; don't let him stand or sit alone; help him with his memory work; be in contact with him between meetings.

Help our new brother know what Freemasonry is all about.

For me, this is being the good soil in masonry. I encourage you to emulate this type of ground.

There is another book about 'Good Soil' available to the lodge— it is called *The Mentoring Program*. Check with your Worship Master to see if it is available in your lodge. ■

Conference update

Here's a present for you and your lady that will last for years! The Conference is really two in one—one for you and one for your lady. We've extended the deadline for the low rate of \$190 single / \$220 a couple, to 31 December. After that, it's 20% more, at \$220 single, \$265 a couple.

Come and spend a weekend full of practical advice and inspiration at Delta's four diamond Sun Peaks Resort at their off-season rate of \$109 per night, plus tax.

Also consider attending if you are active in a concordant body, as well. ■

Update

Your Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes has been busy since the last Annual Communication. A subcommittee has been struck to review the rôle of Regional Representatives—to report to the next Board Meeting this December.

An *ad hoc* committee has been formed to review the *Lodge Officers Guide* and bring it up to date. The committee consists of a brother from each of the five districts on Vancouver Island. It is expected that the work will probably take about two years to complete. Members of the committee are RW Bro. Grant Kitching (21), RW Bro. Richard Armitage (22), VW Bro. Art

Berry (5), W Bro. Alan MacPherson (1), and RW Bro. Bill Killan (27).

A dispensation has been granted to a group of freemasons who wish to form a new lodge. Named Excelsior Lodge, the meetings will be held in a room at the Vancouver Club. The lodge will initially be supervised by RW Bro. Ernie Meyer (District 13) during the lodge's preliminary work. The first meeting of **Excelsior Lodge UD** was held on 29 October.

A committee is preparing a protocol book for the use of all Grand Lodge officers when visiting lodges and districts. The committee is composed of RW Bro. Rick Money (30), RW Bro. Jim Baker (3), VW Bro. Michael Cockerell (1). The book will include the masonic etiquette of processions, entering lodge, retiring from a lodge, festive boards, proper attire for Grand Lodge officers, and more. The book will be passed to the *ad hoc* Committee reviewing the *Lodge Officers Guide* for them to review protocol referred to in their booklet.

A brother attended the Leadership Camp sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan to learn of the work of the camp. A report was submitted to the Board at its first meeting. Connection has been made with the Grand Guardian Council of Job's Daughters to see if members of the Job's Daughters would be interested in attending the camp in the future. The Camp is for Grades 10, 11 and 12 students only.

Discussions have begun with the principal officers on preparing a video/DVD for non-masons to view. About Freemasonry in general and details about Freemasonry in British Columbia and Yukon, it would eventually be available on the website of our jurisdiction.

The survey of all freemasons initiated since 2002 has been sent to all lodge secretaries

who in turn have sent copies to brethren who are in that category. RW Bro. Don Stutt with a team of three brethren will receive and review responses, and present a report to Grand Lodge in June 2008.

An Open Installation of the officer of **Haida Lodge No. 166** took place on 20 October. The chairman of the Ritual Committee attended to observe the event. The Committee will report back to Grand Lodge in June 2008.

Registrations for the Officers Conference at Delta Sun Peaks resort are increasing daily. Presenters and facilitators have been booked. Remember this is also for spouses and partners to attend – they will have their own workshops to attend. Dates: 25-27 April.

This summary report is supplied from the Board of General Purposes regarding major items the Board is working on.

In memoriam

We share in the sorrow of MW Bro. C. William Ferguson in the passing of his wife Joan Adella (*née* Wilson) on 8 October 2007.

We also note with regret the passing of RW Bro. Richard E. Barr on 22 September. His tireless efforts on behalf of **Vancouver Lodge No. 68**, District 13, the Vancouver Masonic Centre Association, Scottish Rite and Gizeh Shriners will be sorely missed.

Clandestine

Grand Lodges that do not meet the standards for recognition are being formed and promoted at an alarming rate. There are several of which you should be aware. The Regular Grand Lodge of England is creating lodges in many European and South American countries.

There have been reports that plans are to create lodges

in America as well. There is a movement called the United Grand Lodge of America of Accepted Free Masons that is also trying gain a foothold on this country. Another group calling itself the Grand Lodge of All England is attempting to create lodges in England. The Grand Orient of France has also created several lodges in this country. With the renewed interest in Freemasonry brought on by recent books and movies, it appears numerous clandestine groups are trying to capitalize on this situation.

Further information can be found at recognitioncommission.org/

Lodge notes

W Bro. Harald Stokke is a "double master". Not only is he a Past Master of **Doric Lodge No. 18** in Nanaimo he has been appointed "Senior Master" for the new BC Ferries vessel *Coastal Renaissance*; the first of three new Coastal class ferries being built in Flensburg, Germany. W Bro. Stokke will lead a contingent that is overseeing the delivery of the new vessel for it's near 10,000 nautical mile journey to BC and it's area of operation in the Strait of Georgia. The *Coastal Renaissance* will be based in Nanaimo operating on the Departure Bay - Horseshoe Bay route.

This September the brethren of **Comox Lodge No. 188** paid a surprise visit to **Nanaimo Lodge 110** when their Worshipful Master, W Bro. Brian Buchanan revived the tradition of the travelling Bible, presenting it to W Bro. Clint Sadlemayer. Nanaimo Lodge 110 has also received two fine masonic rings from one of their Ladies of the Broken Column, to be raffled off with proceeds going to the Cancer Car Project.

Tickets will be available at

Lodge Officers' Conference 2008

INSPIRE, INFORM, ENABLE!

Take your lodge to the next level, with your lady's support! Plan to attend the Officers' Conference at the Delta Sun Peaks Resort next April 25, 26, & 27, 2008.

Conference Fee:

\$190 single/ \$220 per couple
(before November 30)

Rooms: \$109 per night plus tax.

Jon Broadberry

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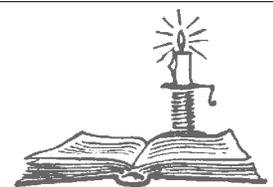
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at
Grand Lodge*

\$5 each, from the lodge, and there will be a strict limit on the number of tickets sold. ■

Cost containment

by W Bro. Dan Zrymiak
Cost Containment and Accountability

One of today's realities is that the nominal cost of maintaining the same level of services is increasing and will continue to increase as long as we are forced to address two influential factors: overall inflation and decline of membership.

Every year, our Grand Lodge proposes a *per capita* charge. The purpose of this article is to recognize the effects of inflation and membership decline on our *per capita*, and propose appropriate responses. Let's consider the following scenarios:

1. No increase in *per capita*: We have many talented leaders and volunteers who are capable of finding efficiencies or rationalizing obsolete or ineffective programmes and initiatives. In the event that such efforts lead to a proposed *per capita* charge that is equal to or less than the current amount, no change is needed, and the Grand Lodge should vote under the current constitutional arrangement.

2. Increase in *per capita* attributed to inflation and membership decline (nominal increase): On a yearly basis, our Finance Committee should track annual inflation and membership levels.

To address this, I would propose the adoption of a multiplier to automatically calculate a new *per capita* rate adjusted for inflation and membership where $P_c = \text{Current Per Capita rate}$, $P_a = \text{Per Capita rate adjusted for Inflation and Membership decline}$ = Inflation rate (e.g. 3%), $M = \text{annual membership decline}$ (e.g. 5%) $P_a = P_c \times (1.00 + I)$

$X (1.00 \times (1.25)^M)$

Assuming P_a was \$25 with 3% inflation and 5% membership decline, $25 \times (1.03) \times (1.0625) = 27.36$. The adjusted *per capita*, when inflation and membership levels are considered, increases from \$25 to \$27.36.

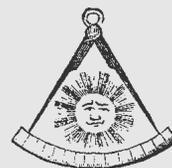
As a contingency, a buffer of 10% could be applied so that the nominal increase level could be the greater of 10% or the adjusted *per capita*. Any proposed increases up to the nominal increase could be voted on under the current constitutional arrangement.

3. Increase in *per capita* beyond inflation and membership decline (real increase). Extraordinary circumstances and expanded commitments may require a real increase beyond the nominal levels. This is a burden that would be imposed upon all members, not just voting members. In the event that such an increase were proposed, it would be proper to allow the Finance Committee to express their position to the entire membership, and allow the brethren to speak, vote, and make the appropriate democratic decision.

In order for this to occur, a constitutional amendment would have to be adopted to permit all Master Masons to vote on budget approvals where the proposed annual *per capita* adjustment exceeds the greater of 10% or a nominal increase.

Expanding the eligibility of brethren permitted to vote does not diminish the importance of being a Principal Officer or Past Master, but it increases transparency and accountability for financial concerns. This is would be a safeguard and a deterrent to a reckless increase in spending.

By limiting the scope of suffrage to financial approvals, our traditions, rituals, and priorities will not be threatened by random bloc-voting, nor will reckless proposals be



Grand Master's Itinerary DECEMBER 2007

| | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Sat | Installation | San Juan lodge No. 175 | Friday Harbour, WA |
| 6 Thu | Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes | | Victoria |
| 6 Thu | District 21 | Goldstream Lodge No. 161 | Langford |

entertained as this is solely a vote to accept or reject a real increase in *per capita* levels.

Adoption of this idea would require several constitutional amendments, and would force our brethren to acquaint themselves with accounting, economics, and governance.

I welcome feedback as I believe this is an essential first step towards the involvement of Master Masons at Grand Lodge proceedings. ■

W Bro. Dan Zrymiak can be contacted at dan.zrymiak@absu.accenture.com

Recognition

At our 2007 Annual Communication, this Grand Lodge adopted a resolution reading in part: "BE IT RESOLVED that it shall be the policy of this Grand Lodge to recognize and to offer to enter into fraternal relations with any and all Prince Hall Grand Lodges..."

This means that it will be our policy to recognize Prince Hall jurisdictions. This is not the same as actually recognizing them. Recognition is still a process that requires that formal communication and mutual recognition that defines "fraternal relations."

This resolution does not change our relationship with individual Prince Hall jurisdictions; it defines our policy for future relationships. The key clause is the middle one recognizing the historical

legitimacy of Prince Hall Freemasonry as descended from **African Lodge No. 459** of Massachusetts.

Mutual recognition between any jurisdictions depends on current practices as well as historical legitimacy. This requires a mutual investigation and approval on a jurisdiction by jurisdiction basis.

Until our Fraternal Relations Committee has exchanged communications and agreements of mutual recognition with another jurisdiction, and recognition has been approved by Grand Lodge, no intervisitation with lodges under that jurisdiction may take place.

Brethren travelling to foreign climes should always contact our Grand Secretary's office before attempting to visit lodges under other jurisdictions. ■

The text of the full resolution is available on our Grand Lodge website at freemasonry.bcy.ca/prince_hall/grandlodges.html

Happiness

by Mary Emily Case

Let no one say he stoops to toil. He who feels that he stoops is not a man of high character. It is an exalted privilege that we are permitted to do anything that is of use. All work stands above us and beckons us up. Happy is he who sees every duty as above him and worthy of his best. ■