

The District Light

**The information bulletin
of Niagara B District**

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bhodwitz@gmail.com

What Do You Say?

(or How to Talk to Cowans)

Judging by the number of applicants that lodges are reporting, there is renewed interest in masonry.

The question recurs: how do we promote the craft without soliciting?

The first step is to be open about our belonging.

The second is to be open with our comments and explanations when asked about the order.

Every man who enters the portals of a Masonic Lodge must come of his own free will and accord but he can only come if he knows of the opportunity. Here are a series of simple but precise answers to common questions. Knowing these responses will give you the confidence to expand on any of the ideas that interest your listener.

What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is a fraternal society which is based on certain moral and religious doctrines. Being a fraternity, it is restricted to men. We believe in a supreme being and in a future existence. We appreciate and promote the moral doctrines including Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Are you a secret society?

A really secret society is one in which the membership is not known. Freemasonry is quite well known. We wear and display of the Craft. We meet in buildings which are well marked as Masonic.

The only 'secrets' are a few passwords and gestures which are used within a lodge during the meetings.

Is Masonry religious?

Masonry is not a religion in any sense of the word, but it is religious in that we accept only men who profess to a belief in a god and so we do not accept atheists.

The religious beliefs of any member are never discussed. Various religions might be represented in a lodge.

Is Masonry is a political organization?

No political discussion is permitted in any Masonic Lodge.

Is Masonry is a benefit society?

We have no insurance benefits. Masons are encouraged to be charitable in their communities but the lodges do not have the means to care for members.

One masonic group, The Shriners, does charitable works, especially through their hospitals.

What do you do in the lodge?

We meet once a month. Each time we have a business meeting similar to that of any organization. There are three levels or degrees of masonic knowledge. Occasionally, the lodge advances one of the members to a higher degree. Despite the degree attained, all masons are equal to each other.

What do you get out of belonging?

Here you must put the benefits you receive into your own words. Humans are social beings at the core of their nature. Men, especially, long for attachment and the positive affirmation that comes with "safe and dependable fellowship". They enjoy being with like-minded people, yet having the opportunity to experience new ways of seeing things. We, as members, have come to know that Freemasonry provides an environment and opportunity to meet many of these deeper needs. Individually, we may be attracted to the social aspect, or the educational insights, or the appeal of the history and ancient teachings.

How do I join?

We do not solicit members. We can answer your questions but the impulse to join must come from you. If you like what you see and hear, then applying to a lodge is easy to do.

Masonic Charity

W.Bro. David Plyley has been our Masonic Foundation/ Benevolence chairman on the District Deputy's team. This report is based on information he submitted.



Our Provincial/District Project

Three years ago, M.W.Bro. Donald A. Campbell chose Project Prostate Hope as the charitable focus for the province. Our present Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John C. Green, has continued the project and R.W.Bro. Gregory A. Faraday has adopted it for our district.

Why?

Research is expensive but the reward may be felt by any or us. Prostate cancer will touch us all whether we are one of the 1 in 7 who will contract this disease, or helplessly watch as one of our friends or loved ones fight it!

At the Official visits I have explained that this project is as much about ourselves as others. It is my belief and hope that cancer research funded by projects just like this one will eventually end the spectre of this dreaded disease.

How Much?

The provincial goal is to raise one million dollars for Prostate Cancer Research, and we in Niagara B have been working to do our share.

Every donation to Project Prostate Hope through The Masonic Foundation of Ontario helps The Grand Master's two year project.

The goal of one million dollars sounds sky high, but if every Mason in Ontario gave approximately \$12.00

per year for his two-year term this goal could be met with money to spare.



Is That All?

Donating more than the minimum is encouraged because not all masons are able to contribute. We are aware that some of our members may experience financial hardships and do not have disposable income.

(In my time I spent close to two years repairing lawnmowers in my garage after a business closure cost me a good job.)

When we take such things into consideration, we can appreciate that the active and able Brethren should consider contributing quite a bit more.

How Can We Help?

We as Masons are called upon at our initiation to exercise the virtue of charity.

Regular giving, no matter how small the amount, is an excellent way to make charitable projects work with the least impact on our resources. Just as our own households function better on a regular and steady income.

The Masonic Foundation (or any charity) has a much easier time if they can plan around a reliable stream of donations.

Our District Deputy's "Dime a Day" campaign is a 'painless' way to do good. Of course, a one-time gift is also a valid choice.

Please help with this effort. The Dime-a-Day totals can be brought to any masonic meeting to be forwarded to the district team.

Direct donations can be sent to the Masonic Foundation.

David Plyley can help with that. Contact him at 289-303-7101 or dave55plyley@hotmail.com.

In a world full of people
who couldn't care less,
be someone who cares more.
~Author Unknown~

You cannot do a kindness too soon
for you never know how soon
it will be too late.
~Ralph Waldo Emerson~

Spring

By a certain instinct, man has found in the seasons a symbol of his faith, the blossoming of his spirit attuned to the wonder of the awakening of the earth from the white death of winter. A deep chord in him answers to the ever-renewed resurrection of Nature, and that instinct is more to be trusted than all philosophy. For in Nature there is no death, but only living and living again.



Something in the stir of spring, in the reviving earth, in the tide of life overflowing the world, in the rebirth of the flowers, begets an unconscious, involuntary renewal of faith in the heart of man, refreshing his hope.

So he looks into the face of each new spring with a heart strangely glad, and strangely sad too, touched by tender memories of springs gone by never to return, softened by thoughts of “those who answer not, however we may call.”

Positive Leadership

"It is the nature of man to rise to greatness if greatness is expected of him." –John Steinbeck

Someone who thinks we are capable of great things can fill us with such confidence that we rise to their expectations. Positive motivation arises from and creates love and gratitude.

To create something positive and lasting, we must practice positive motivation.

If we would be Masonic leaders, we must act first with compassion for others, and recognize high potential in those who do not see it in themselves. If we expect greatness from others, they will achieve it.

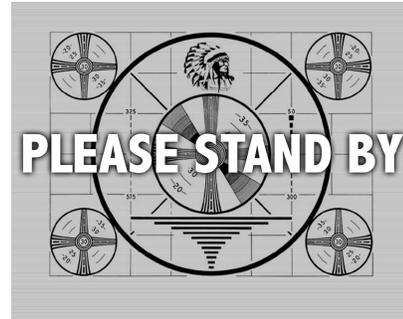
Blood Types Explained



Masons promote blood donation. A very clear explanation of blood types is found at <https://youtu.be/xfZhb6lmxjk>

Media Messaging

___ Many people get their information from the television coverage of events. That would be sufficient if the reporting was accurate and complete but we know that ‘sound bites’ and compressed views are the norm.



Lately we have been witnessing the ‘highlights’ of the American political process. We can appreciate the following observations:

“T.V., by its very nature rewards those who are loud. It adores conflict. It is a medium that is all about passion not reason.”

Warren Kinsella

“It’s 70% how you look, and it’s 20% how you say it, and, unfortunately, it’s only 10% what you actually say.”

Gord Campbell

