



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 54, NO. 2

EDITOR, R.W. BRO. NORMAN J. SENN

FEBRUARY 1989

## MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP — 1989

The Program for the Workshop follows those of the 23 which have gone before, with a few exceptions.

Last year, many brethren asked for some free time in the Program so that they could shop in Banff or relax in the swimming pool or use other facilities at the Banff Centre. Also, it was felt by several brethren that there should be a discussion group after the second theme address.

Your Planning Committee has adjusted the Program to accommodate these changes.

### PROGRAMME

#### Friday 14th April 1989

- 3:00 pm Registration Commences
- Bookstore Opens
- 6:00 pm Supper
- 7:45 pm Announcements
- 8:00 pm Theme Address
  - Bro. Ralph Johnstone
- 9:00 pm Discussion Groups
- 10:30 pm Coffee & Danish Get-together

#### Saturday 15th April 1989

- 7:00 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Schools of Instruction
- 10:30 am Educational Presentation
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:15 pm Schools of Instruction
- 2:45 pm <<< FREE TIME>>>
- 5:00 pm Supper
- 6:00 pm Theme Address
- 6:45 pm Discussion Groups
- 8:00 pm Coffee & Danish
- 8:30 pm "Fun Time"

#### Sunday 16th April 1989

- 8:00 am Coffee & Danish
- 8:15 am Chairman's Remarks
- 8:30 am Devotional Service
- 9:00 am Brunch
- 10:00 am Departure

### LET'S TALK CHARITY

This year's theme is one which should always be on our minds as Masons. Indeed, it can be viewed as the very foundation of the fraternity.

What is Masonic Charity?

How does it relate to present day attitudes?

How effective is Masonic Charity within this Province?

Why do we endeavour to practice Masonic Charity?

Is Masonic Charity merely our way of presenting a good image?

These points and many more will be considered in the Theme Addresses and will, no doubt, stir much discussion in the Discussion Groups which follow.

### THEME SPEAKER

Ralph Johnstone, our Theme Speaker in 1989, was born in 1928 in Blantyre, Nyasaland. (now Malawi) He received his formal schooling in Glasgow, Scotland.

In 1946 he joined the RAF and spent the next eight years as a pilot with the RAF. His career included flying jets in 1949 and being a member of the RAF Aerobatic Team in 1950.

In 1954 he left the United Kingdom and settled in Canada (Toronto) where he joined the RCAF in 1955. He spent four instructional tours of duty with the RCAF, including the flying of helicopters.

He retired from the RCAF in 1973 and settled in Edmonton where he was a life insurance salesman for 5 years and then became an Estate Administrator with the Public Trustee's office.

He is married to Irene and has three sons.

Masonically, he was raised in Argus Lodge at Kingston, Nova Scotia and affiliated with Strathcona Lodge, Edmonton in 1972. He was W.M. in 1981 and DDGM of District No. 19 in 1984-85. Currently, he is a member of the Grand Lodge Research and Education Committee. He is also active in concordant bodies.

There is no doubt that with his extensive life experience and his experience and knowledge of Masonry, our Theme Speaker this year will deliver powerful speeches designed to make us think.

SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION (continued on page 2)

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Grand Master M.W.Bro. D.A.(Dave) Bruce  
Deputy Grand Master R.W.Bro. S.E.(Stan) Mottershead  
Senior Grand Warden R.W.Bro. D.R.(Don) Millar  
Junior Grand Warden R.W.Bro. C.D.(Cal) Shaver  
Grand Secretary R.W.Bro. A.F.(Al) Aylesworth

### SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION

#### The Master and His Wardens

This School directs its attention to the three principal officers' roles in the lodge and on the teamwork necessary to operate a lodge on a continual basis.

It will cover the planning process, basic communication skills, methods of ensuring involvement within a lodge, and much more....

#### Appointed Officers

The Appointed Officers of any lodge are the future of the lodge. It can never be too early to allow them the opportunity of honing the skills which they will need as senior officers of their lodge.

By the same token, the importance of their present offices can never be under-estimated. This school will address both areas.

#### Teaching Masonry to Masons

We are always encouraged to be open in our explanations to non-Masons of what the Fraternity is and what it stands for. This, however, raises concerns with some Brethren as to what can be discussed and what should not be discussed.

It also brings to light the fact that most brethren are not well versed in the various aspects of Freemasonry.

This school does not address the lack of knowledge directly, although much knowledge should be gained; it is designed to teach the participants how to have their brethren become more knowledgeable in the Craft. It will cover the resources available and how to use them, how to interpret the symbols of Freemasonry and a direction for research into Freemasonry, etc., etc.

#### Masonic Forum - Where Should Masonry be going?

A NEW IDEA ..... Here is your chance to,  
ask questions .....  
make points .....  
debate .....  
with a panel of well known, well versed Masons.

This is your opportunity to speak your piece on where Masonry should be going within this Province, within this century and into the next..

#### Masonic History

We are continuing our very popular historical series with two schools; one given in the Saturday morning, the other in the afternoon.

Learn about the development and history of Freemasonry in Germany.

Learn of the Masons who are not recognized by Grand Lodges in North America, including Alberta, but who exist under their own Grand Lodge - The Prince Hall Masons.

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Would there be any value in Grand Lodge stocking Masonic greeting cards for special occasions? If they were stocked would you use them?

#### ANSWER TO THE QUESTION FOR DECEMBER

The question asked why it is inappropriate to wear the golf club symbol.

While Masonry has become even more open in recent years, there are certain things which remain the secret of a Mason and in fact he promises not to reveal them. The primary secrets are those of recognition. To show a symbol of this nature, even though arguing that it is only recognized by Masons is what can be considered inappropriate at least.

### BOOKS OF INTEREST

For those who have not read it, The History of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, by M.W.Bro. J. Collett is a most worthwhile book. You are almost sure to find your lodge mentioned, and it may even have an event recounted about it. The history of the Grand Lodge is the history of individual brethren and individual lodges - all of them interesting in some way.

This book, which is in a style which can be read like a novel, is only \$7.00 - why not ask your secretary to send for one?

You can pick one up at Grand Lodge or at the Masonic Spring Workshop.

### TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION

Is there still a need for benevolence in Canadian society?

## THE GRAND MASTER'S QUESTIONNAIRE

In April of 1988, M.W.Bro. Bruce had a questionnaire placed in the Bulletin. There were 146 replies from a possible 12,000 Alberta Masons.

An analysis has now been done and the Bulletin will publish the results over the next 3 issues.

Question One was: "What practical ways can we use to create a more positive image of the Craft?"

The common theme in almost all answers "We must do something". The breakdown of what to do was:

advertise	25%
charity and community work	27%
improve image of Craft externally	46%
improve image of Craft internally	31%
do nothing	3%

Many respondents suggested more than one form of action. The suggestions related to internal image covered: the importance of self image; the importance of developing closer relationships between candidates, sponsors and investigators; and the stressing of careful selection of candidates. There is awareness of the time given to concordant bodies and the time lost in lodge through having to work in the third degree. The outside of lodge halls should be 'spruced up' and communication within lodges needs to be improved with quicker follow up of non-attenders.

Our external image suggested to some that we need professional guidance to help brethren and lodges to take a constructive and positive approach in discussing Masonry. Possibly a news editor or P.R. person to explain "image projection". Educational programs on "How to get involved in charity and volunteer work" were suggested.

Other suggestions included preparation of our own video tape, projecting a positive image without appearing superior, and making ourselves more visible in the community.

Some comments on charity within this question were to select a Grand Charity and focus on it, while others thought that the charitable acts should be left to the individual. It was suggested that each lodge should support some charity with time and labour and not just donations.

It was suggested that publicity on MHEBF recipients to local lodges could be a stimulus. Some felt that the MHEBF was for brilliant students and were unaware it is based on need.

The type of advertising suggested was for G.L. to release a statement on ideals and for lodges to advertise meetings, social events, and church parades. In addition, public tours of lodge rooms, especially at Heritage sites; town site notices of lodges and the display of M.M. certificates in work places.

The answers were very positive and constructive and should stimulate further discussion.

EXCERPT FROM  
SOCIETY AND THE MASON'S MORAL LEADERSHIP  
by V.W.Bro. J. Roberts

I am sure that there were times when I used inappropriate language only to regret it later. I guess there are also times and places where it might be considered OK by the group in which we find ourselves. But there are times when it is not only not necessary, it is entirely inappropriate. Festive boards are meant to be a time of good fellowship, laughter and story telling. But the honour of the Craft suffers when some stories are told. And I can tell you in all candour that I inwardly cringe when I hear some of the stories that are told, not because of my calling as a Minister, but because I am a Mason who really believes that we cannot leave behind in the Lodge Room those things that we claim to be a part of our daily living. I don't accept the dictum of many in our society that "boys will be boys" and that is sufficient excuse for off-colour humour. I accept only "Masons must be Masons".

FROM THE LODGE NOTICES  
THREE THINGS

These are things to cherish:  
A seed and a dream and a child;  
Else must the nations perish,  
And earth fall away to the wild.

These are the things to nourish:  
The budding of trees and youth;  
So shall the grown things flourish-  
Manhood and beauty and truth.

Out of the leaf-falls that perish,  
Retrieve from the waste of the wild,  
These are the things to cherish:  
A seed, and a dream, and a child.

Anonymous  
Vulcan Lodge No. 74

## BENEVOLENT FUND

Thanks go to the brethren who have responded to the appeal for funds. Donations have been arriving and if you wish to donate, please send your cheque marked "Benevolent Fund", to the Grand Lodge Office.

## MASONIC HIGHER EDUCATION BURSARY FUND

The donations for this fund were \$40,000.00 by mid December. This is an outstanding response and many brethren have dug deeply. The thanks of the Committee are most sincere.

Should you not yet have sent a donation, please remember the fund remains open all year so just send your cheque at any time through your Lodge Secretary.

## PROVERB OF THE MONTH

He who speaks the truth must have one foot in the stirrup.

## REMEMBER ME

I'm the man who asked to join the lodge. I'm the guy who paid over a hundred bucks to join, stood up in front of all of you and promised to be a loyal and faithful Mason.

I'm the guy who came to every meeting since that time but no one paid any attention to me. I tried several times to be friendly to the other Masons but they all had their "buddies" with whom they had to talk and sit next to. I sat down with some unfamiliar faces several times but they didn't pay much attention to me.

I hoped very much that somebody would have asked me to take part in some of the lodge work, but no one asked me. I was so willing to do the job but when I volunteered, no one seemed to notice.

I missed my first meeting since joining because my wife was really sick and I couldn't make it, but no one asked me at the next meeting where I was. I guess it didn't matter very much to the others whether I was there or not.

The next meeting I decided to stay home and watch a hockey game on TV. The following meeting I attended. No one asked me where I was the week before. You might say that I'm a good person, for I love my community and am active there. I loved the Masonic message and felt sure I could be a good Mason. You know what else I am? I'm the man who never comes back.

It amuses me when I think back on how the Worshipful Master and several of the members were discussing why the Craft was losing members. It amuses me now to think that they spend so much time talking about ways in which new members could be encouraged to join - when I was there all the time.

All they wanted to do was to make me feel NEEDED, WANTED AND WELCOME.

That's all.

## FIAT LUX

Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980 will hold its next meeting in Red Deer on March 11th, 1989. There will be a luncheon commencing at 12:30 p.m. and the Research Lodge meeting will commence at 2:00 p.m. Please inform the Secretary at 282-8170 if you intend to have lunch.

## REGIONAL MEETING

The next Regional Meeting for Master Masons will be held at Red Deer on April 1st, 1989 at 10:00 am. These meetings are intended to allow for an exchange of ideas from all members of the Craft and they are particularly valuable for the Master Mason who has not held office or at least has not reached senior office in a lodge. All other members of the Craft are of course welcomed, as their experience and historical perspective enriches the meeting. Please don't come alone - bring another brother to get the best attendance of the year.

## QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

Our whole society is plagued with the permissive morality, and if we fail to address it in our lives and in our lodges we do so at our peril.

V.W.Bro. J. Roberts

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