

Unity Lodge #58, A.F. & A.M. Thorndike, Maine



Greetings Brother:

There is not much for Masonic activity this summer but September and renewed meetings will be here soon. There are still raffle tickets available for the REMINGTON SEVEN CDL 308. The drawing is September 10, 2016 after a BBQ.

September 15, 2016: Our stated communication. 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting.

September 29, 2016. The annual 1th District Meeting at Sebesticook Lodge #146 in Clinton; Time: 6:30 supper w/ semi-public meeting at 7:30; Retired Game Wardern and Brother John Ford & retired State Trooper Mark Nickerson will provide a very entertaining night for all (fun and lots of laughs).

Grand Master Pulkkinen asks us to join him in contributing to the relief of our Brethren and their families in flood stricken Louisiana.

Several Masonic buildings have been heavily flooded and many Masons and Masonic families are among the reported 70,000 displaced by this storm and flooding described by the American Red Cross as the "worst natural disaster in the United States since Hurricane Sandy" in 2012.

This effort is being coordinated nationwide by the Masonic Service Association.

Please make checks payable to "Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation" and send to:

Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation, P.O. Box 430, Holden, ME 04429-0430

Please note "Louisiana Appeal" in the memo line of your check.

Thank you.

Dues notices are inclosed for those my records show as having unpaid dues which with assessment for Grand Lodge per capita tax are \$55 per year. Those whose primary membership is in another Maine lodge only owe \$40.00 to Unity Lodge. Money can be sent to the current secretary or better yet attend a meeting and enjoy fellowship with other members –and pay in person.

I hope to see you soon.

Fraternally,

Bruce, Secretary

Stated meeting are on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 with a 6:30 supper

<http://unitylodge.hutchinsbrothers.com/>

Bruce Hutchins, 1053 Halldale Rd, Montville ME 04941. tel/fax 382-6226, email bruce@hutchinsbrothers.com

I would like to be able to send out notices via email to save cost and time while letting you know what is happening. If you would like to receive email please send me a message to the address above and also let me know if there is any interest in having a Lodge Facebook group to help stay in touch. Other suggestions are also welcome.

The following is from a recent SHORT TALK BULLETIN published monthly by the Masonic Service Association.

Are New-Member
Expectations Realized?
By Brian J. Murphy

The author is currently Grand Master of the Grand Lodge AF & AM of Montana. This was his Grand Master's message in the March, 2016, issue of the "Montana Freemason." The Grand Lodge of Montana is observing its 150 Anniversary this month.

--Editor

"The secret of CHANGE is to focus all your energy, not on fighting the old, but building on the new." -Socrates

Many of the "buzz words" overheard during the recent Conference of Grand Masters of North America included: change, retention, education, paradigms, connectivity, technology, social media, communication, security, perceptions, traditions and so forth.

These notions are nothing terribly new. We've been hurling them about for years, but these days they are certainly being emphasized to a much greater magnitude.

There appears to be a consensus among many that **THIS IS A GREAT TIME** to be a MASON!

Things **ARE** changing in a positive way! Worthy young men **ARE** seeking what we offer in Masonry, and boy, do we ever need them .. in a **BIG** way.

But here's the rub ... many have done their homework. They do what they do best. They use the tools and technology they are familiar with. The internet has made the world a very small place, so they go online; read articles; research the pros and cons; delve into our historical significance; view YouTube videos showing austere men dressed in tuxedos and white gloves performing precision-driven floor work to grandiose music amidst elegant and palatial surroundings.

They witness learned men of stature reciting meaningful and profound dissertations meant to provoke thought and capture hearts. They've probably gone on Facebook or other social media and observed images of Table Lodge banquets lined with well-dressed, distinguished gentlemen enjoying Masonic camaraderie and fine food, toasting and singing odes to the Fraternity and the glory of God.

The young prospects of today come hungry for knowledge and preloaded with wonder and awe and great expectations before they ever knock at our door. They're anticipating great leaders who will offer them guidance and mentorship -- someone to fill their sails and help them navigate our world's tumultuous waters.

And if not the enlightened societies of Voltaire, Mozart, Washington and Churchill, they're hoping to at least be accepted into a Fraternity that promotes philosophical discourse and provides instructions for personal improvement. If not drawn to the pageantry and mysteries of Masonry, young men have forever been lured by the core ideals of Freemasonry. They're expecting Freemasonry to fulfill its purpose and do what it actually claims to do, and has done for generations.

And when that ravenous neophyte finally wanders up to knock at the door of your Lodge, what will he find? Brothers, I'm of the firm belief that we do not have a membership problem -- we have a new member retention problem.

So even when we do gain a zealous disciple, and IF that new Master Mason can somehow manage to overlook the worn out carpet, peeling paint, dead flies on every windowsill, shoddy ritual work, empty chairs, lack of education, lousy food (I once had cold spaghetti on a paper plate), inconsistent dress code, and absence of the intellectual enrichment he's craving, and decides not to commit "Masonic suicide," but stays on because he sees

an opportunity for himself to benefit the Lodge with fresh ideas and build the Masonry that suits his needs, like his grandfather would have . . . will we let him? Will we allow him to question our outmoded ways? And if we do, will we empower him to appeal our out-worn modus operandi and introduce us to his world? Will we permit him to improve the menu with tastier recipes?

Brothers, the answer HAS to be YES!

Because in doing so, that new, young Mason will bring friends whom he knows share his same desire to affect positive change in themselves, families, community and the world. They then become the much needed spark plugs and fresh batteries to crank the engine. They're the ones to throw a new set of tires on our dilapidated jalopy, push it out of its rut, and get it rolling under its own power once again.

Listen, we all realize small town Lodges are suffering. I've visited more than a few that easily have enough members but are stalled for lack of a quorum. Everything has a shelf life, and not unlike that deserted carton in the back of every fridge; the one that no one wants to smell or dispose of, there are Lodges whose expiration date has long come and gone.

To repeat, we have a retention problem. Quite frankly, why would a Lodge want to get new members when it cannot keep the ones it already has? What's the point?

Personally, what I've learned and come to know is this: no Worshipful or Most Worshipful can make someone care. No one can. To quote myself: "We can suffer all futility save that of lethargy and indifference." All we as individual Masons can hope to do is set our standards higher, lead by example and inspire others to do the same.

The core Brothers, the ones who actually show up and want to improve themselves, their Lodge and the world --YOU are the ones who have to labor even more earnestly. YOU are the operatives that must have a shared vision and a plan to enact for the future and your own destiny. Doing nothing is not a plan. Waiting for something to happen, or for some magic Grand Lodge miracle cure, is not a plan.

Lodges who haven't had a new candidate in a while, SHOULD be the most prepared to deliver the best Masonic experience for that new high school principal who just moved to town. An abandoned building is a tombstone for the dead. During all that downtime, the idle Lodge is the one who would best benefit by fundraising for that new coat of paint and carpeting from this century. Believe me, when a community observes Brothers in motion; engaged in improving themselves, inside and out, they'll be more likely to ask the questions we're all yearning to hear:

"Excuse me, but what's a Mason? How do I become one?"

Brothers, be prepared to smile with polished confidence when you answer.

End Short Talk Bulletin

Masonic Etiquette, Part 2

(Not all of these are strict customs here but are good general ideas)

10. BALLOTING:

Do not enter or leave the lodge room during a ballot.

Why? It is discourteous to leave the lodge room during a speech, during a degree, etc. There are several natural periods, such as at the end of one section and before the next begins, or when the Master puts the lodge at ease until the sound of the gavel. Then, and only then, you may leave the lodge without being considered rude.

It is Masonic Law in Maine that all members present are required to ballot for candidates.

13. SHOULDERING THE WORK:

It is good Masonic Etiquette to accept a request made in the name of the lodge if it is within your abilities.

Why? A lodge is a working "beehive of industry". A request made of you from your lodge acknowledges that the lodge trusts you to competently fulfill such a request based upon your knowledge.

14. CORRECTION OF VERBAL ERRORS:

Lodge customs state that no one except for the Worshipful Master or his prearranged designee, may correct any mistake that may occur during the course of a Ceremony, and even he does so only when the error is a serious one.

Why? It is discourteous to point out others mistakes in front of the lodge brethren. If you are in possession of a mind which allows you to be able to perform each and every degree and ceremony, perfectly, please advise the Worshipful Master of such that he may take advantage of your services to mentor others.

15. EXHIBIT GOOD POSTURE:

Why? Good posture is necessary while within the Lodge room. Lounging, leaning and slovenly attitudes should be avoided.

Poor posture is considered poor Masonic etiquette.

16. NO PRACTICAL JOKES NOR OFF-COLOR STORIES:

Why? The great lessons of Masonry, which are taught by our ritual, should never be demeaned by levity or pranks.

The lodge room is not a proper location for the telling of practical jokes, pranks, horseplay nor off-color stories.

17. USE PROPER MASONIC NAMES:

Why? It is common courtesy to be accurate in speaking a brother's name, so it is proper Masonic etiquette to address officers, members, and visitors by their correct Masonic titles and addresses.

18. ENTERING LODGE AFTER THE MEETING HAS BEGUN:

If a brother should enter the Lodge after the opening ceremony is under way, he should go to the Altar to salute the Master.

If he must leave before the meeting is over, the correct Masonic etiquette of his departure is that he should salute the Presiding Master at the Altar before he departs.

The salute should always be given properly and not in a careless or perfunctory manner.

Good Fellowship by Wilbur D. Nesbit

Ho, brother, it's the handclasp
and the good word and the smile
That does the most and helps the most
to make the world worth while!
It's all of us together,
or it's only you and I —
A ringing song of friendship,
and the heart beats high;
A ringing song of friendship,
and a word or two of cheer!
Then all the world is gladder
and the bending sky is clear!

It's you and I together —
and we're brothers one and all
When even through good fellowship
we hear the subtle call,
Whenever in the ruck of things
we feel the helping hand
Or see the deeper glow that none
but we may understand —
Then all the world is good to us
and all is worth the while;
Ho, brother, it's the handclasp
and the good word and the smile!