

B 2 B Facili-Facts

OCTOBER 2006



Committee Introduces New Message “Enhance the Masonic Experience”

On Saturday, September 30th, 2006 close to 30 brethren from the Districts of Waterloo, Wilson North and Wilson South attended a series of seminars conducted at the Waterloo Masonic Temple. This day gave your Grand Lodge Brother to Brother (B2B) Committee its first opportunity to unveil its “New Message” to the Brethren of the Province.

It is the Committee’s hope that this new focus will rejuvenate the Brother to Brother Program throughout our Grand Jurisdiction. The B2B program is designed to provide individual Lodge’s with the resource materials to better manage the principles of the program, namely; RETAIN - REVITALIZE - RENEW. Today, because of the Craft’s hard work, we are seeing an increase in the number of men petitioning for membership. These new members bring with them a new enthusiasm to our Lodges and a desire to learn more about our Fraternity. Clearly, we need to have the programs in place to meet these new demands and ensure that once a Lodge gets new members, that it keeps them. The B2B program provides the means to accomplishing just that.

How do we as leaders of our Lodges create the interest that will regularly draw members to meetings?

“Enhance The Masonic Experience”

How do we provide each and every member with the experience and satisfaction they are seeking?

The Committee believes that this can be best accomplished through lodge leadership that demonstrates a willingness to do or try something a little different. By using interesting and different Masonic education, thought provoking discussion and quality ritual, a lodge will be successful in stimulating the Brethren’s mind.

In other words, conduct meetings with a goal to *“Enhance The Masonic Experience.”*

The essence of Brother 2 Brother is ... *Members being involved and making a contribution!*

After a man takes that first step and comes into the light as our Brother, it is ... **Our Responsibility** to ensure that he becomes an active and productive member of our family!

A lodge is simply not a place to initiate candidates. It must train its members to understand the truths contained in the ritual, show benevolence, cultivate social virtues, bring to life the fundamental tenets of Masonry.

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MASONIC REMINDERS:

- > *Masonic life is a measure to be filled.... Not a cup to be drained.*
- > *A Mason’s right to vote in the running of his Lodge, is only surpassed by his responsibility to ensure it is run well.*
- > *The lodge must be thought of as a Masonic home, each mason is a part owner and each has a stake in its success*

2006—2007 Committee Members From Around The Province



*Extending a Helping Hand ...
Brother 2 Brother*

Dennis Hawman; Orillia (chairman)
 Sonny Clark; Brockville
 Gord Crutcher; Thornhill
 Allen Hackett; Consecon
 Bob Haley; Kingston
 David Inglis; Walkerton
 Ian LaFluer; Newmarket
 Robert Schroeder; Sault Ste. Marie
 David Snedden; Elmvale
 Iain Wates; Port Carling

Committee members are eager to help your Lodge "Enhance The Masonic Experience"

Committee Introduces New Message

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Many leaders of our Craft have commented on the benefits of the B2B program, however, they are probably best summed up in comments made by MWBro. Robert J. McKibbon, Grand Master 1999-2001, when he said ...

"In many ways the operation of an older vehicle is like the operation of our Lodges. A vehicle owner gets used to the little squeaks, the slight pull of the steering wheel, the noise of the muffler and many times does nothing until the vehicle breaks down. Our Lodges can be the same. We become overly complacent with the operation of our Lodges. One by one the Brethren break away and those who remain are content to carry on with the familiar. The B2B program is a valuable tool. Don't passively read it and put it on the bookshelf. Actively use the ideas that are contained within it."

The Committee encourages you to heed the lessons learned in our past; but actively pursue the challenges that are ahead. We must lead with a sense of urgency, listen to the voices of the future and implement ideas and programs that will make Freemasonry in general and your Lodge in particular, stronger in the future.

We are having success in attracting new men to our Fraternity, let us never forget**Keeping them in Freemasonry is our greatest responsibility.**

Your Brother to Brother Committee is eager to help your Lodge "Enhance The Masonic Experience". Speak to the individual committee members in your area, contact your District Deputy Grand Master or e-mail Dennis Hawman (Committee Chairman) at dhawman@primus.ca

Committee members will be pleased to come to your Lodge or District meeting and show you how easy it is to get started. How easy it is to get the Brethren in your Lodge, focused on how best to put an action plan together that will meet the needs of your individual Lodge. ***Extending a helping hand ...Brother 2 Brother.***



I'm The Guy

*I'm the guy who joined your organization.
I'm the guy who paid dues to join.
I'm the guy who stood up in front of all of you and promised to be faithful and loyal.*

*I'm the guy who came to your meetings and no one paid any attention to.
I tried several times to be friendly to some of the fellows,
but they all had their own buddies to sit next to.*

*I sat down several times but no one paid any attention to me.
I hoped very much, that somebody would have asked me to take part in something,
but nobody noticed when I volunteered.*

*I missed a few meetings after joining because I was sick and couldn't be there.
No one asked me, at the next meeting, where I'd been. I guess it didn't matter.
It didn't matter very much to others whether I was there or not.*

*The next meeting I decided to stay at home and watch television.
The following meeting I attended but no one asked, where I was at the last meeting.*

*You might say I'm a good guy, a good family man who holds a responsible job,
who loves his community and his country.*

You know who else I am? I'm the guy who never came back!

*It amuses one, when I think back, on how the officers and members were discussing why they
were losing members. They spent so much time looking for new members,
when I was there all the time.*

All they needed to do was to make me feel needed, and wanted, and welcome!!!

Ideas For Your Lodge or District

Form a Traveling Degree Team; give yourself a name ... recruit Past Masters or Past Grand Lodge Officers for this team. Specialize in conducting the Fellowcraft or Master Mason's degree and perform them in and around your District.

Form a District Lodge of Instruction Team ... conduct a couple of events per year, concentrating on specific aspects of the Ritual.

Form a Study Group in your District ... seek out like minded Brethren who have a strong desire for knowledge about our Craft and its Origin.

Form a Breakfast or Lunch Discussion Group ... it could be open to Masons and Non-Masons where topics could be wide ranging. In many instances, groups like these have spawned new members for the Fraternity.

