



THE LODESTAR



RICHMOND LODGE A.F. & A.M. NO. 23 G.R.C.
112 CROSBY AVENUE RICHMOND HILL, ON L4C 9N5

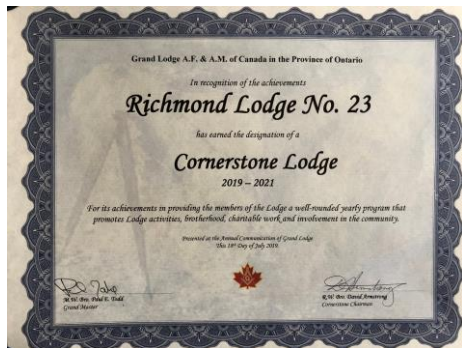
FOR THE INQUIRING MIND

196 TH YEAR
NOVEMBER 2019

WE DID IT!!

OUR LODGE HAS ACHIEVED THE CORNERSTONE LODGE DESIGNATION 2019 – 2021

At the Official Visit to our Lodge on October 16th, 2019, the District Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Bro. G. Alan Dresser, presented to our Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Ulysses Toledo, the Cornerstone Lodge Achievement Certificate for providing the members of the Lodge a well-rounded yearly program that promotes Lodge activities, brotherhood, charitable work and involvement in the community.



provides the basic tools for understanding and growing the larger intellectual edifice. So we may endeavour to “raise a superstructure perfect in its parts and honourable to the builder.” As the proper placement of the Cornerstone ensures a solid foundation upon which to build any structure, so to it teaches our Lodges the important lesson of having innovative and vibrant programs to ensure that our Lodges are strong, “until time shall be no more.” Just as the newly Initiated EA symbolically represents the Cornerstone of the Lodge and thereby its future; so too does the Lodge symbolically represent the Cornerstone of The Grand Lodge and its long-term sustainability. Each of the constituent Lodges have their own unique challenges, but we all stand together with one common goal, that of ensuring the sustainability of the Craft.



Cornerstone Project Overview

Introduction

The Cornerstone Project has been developed to assist Lodges with its primary purpose: to encourage and recognize Lodges that plan, implement and manage a well-rounded yearly Lodge

- Increased Lodge Vitality
- Enhanced Teamwork
- Increased Sense of Pride in the Lodge
- Use of the Designation of ‘Cornerstone Lodge’ (with the applicable years) on the Lodge Summons, Newsletter, Letterhead or other such Lodge material

program that promotes Lodge activities, brotherhood, charitable work and involvement in the community. The concept of the Cornerstone is derived from the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation. It is important because all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position and strength of the entire edifice. The Cornerstone is also symbolic to Freemasons because it

Benefits

When a Lodge makes the decision to participate in this program, they acknowledge their desire to increase the value of the experience that they provide to their membership. Participation will bring many Benefits:

Congratulations to you Brethren, for this prestigious achievement. Now let’s get to work on building up our qualifications for the next qualifying year which began June 1st, 2019 and ends May 31st 2021. The details of the standards that we have to meet are included within as a leaflet.



FROM THE EDITOR

IN HONOUR OF OUR VETERANS

He was getting old and paunchy
His hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew whereof he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Sam has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Veteran Died Today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Veteran Died Today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Veteran
Goes Unnoticed, and Unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Veteran,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And 'perhaps' a pension, small.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Veteran
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Veteran,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Veteran,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Veteran's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED TODAY"

- Contributed by V. W. Bro. Paul Natale

Masonic Education

Correct Lodge Behavior and Etiquette

Sitting in the East:

Brethren do not take a seat in the East without invitation from the Worshipful Master, it is the Worshipful Masters prerogative to choose from among the distinguished visitors whom will have the honour of joining him in the East.

Being always fully dressed:

Brethren should not enter the Lodge room without their apron. In respect to the formalities of the Lodge Brethren are expected to be full dressed and ready for labour.



Obeying the Worshipful Master and the gavel:

All members must obey the Worshipful Master with no exception. The Master of the Lodge is all powerful and his word is final. When the Brethren are rapped down all brethren should obey at once without further discussion.



Saluting the Worshipful Master when entering or exiting the Lodge:

Brethren entering should attend to the altar and await instructions from the brother escorting them in for when to salute. When exiting the Lodge the brethren

shall again attend to the altar and wait for the outer guard to respond to the tyler before saluting the Worshipful Master.

Behavior in the Lodge:

If any brother behave in such a manner as to disturb the harmony of the Lodge, and be admonished by the Master, and persist in his irregular conduct, the Master may order him to leave the Lodge room and, if he disobey such order, may suspend him until the next regular meeting of the Lodge. (*The Book of Constitution section 295*)

Masonic conduct:

A member of the Masonic order accepts the responsibility for maintaining a mode of life and conduct that is not only above reproach but is an example of good behaviour within the community. (*The Book of Constitution section 409*)

- Contributed by: **Bro. Nathaniel R. Guerrero**

Masonic Etiquette Summary: Masonic etiquette is simply the rules of good manners which make lodge meetings pleasant for everyone.

The position of Worshipful Master in the East occupies the most exalted position within the lodge.

A lodge which does not honor its Master, no matter how they personally feel about the man, himself, lacks Masonic courtesy.

The honor conveyed by the brethren in electing him, ...in other words, the historical traditions and the men who have gone before you must be given the utmost respect, if the traditions of the Fraternity are to be observed and proper Masonic etiquette is to be maintained.

21 SIGNS THAT YOU'RE A FREEMASON

1. You're grandmother is hundreds of years old.
2. You don't like to go counter-clockwise.
3. The words regular and irregular mean something else.
4. You're grandmother is just one year old.
5. You tailgate to see if the bumper sticker is Masonic.
6. The car ahead of you has a Square and Compass sticker. You honk three times and sincerely wonder why the driver is giving you an odd look.
7. Your children have biblical names.
8. You have a fondness for furniture made of acacia.
9. Your children have the names of Greek gods and goddesses.
10. You love and hate Dan Brown.
11. One more fish stick and you will go crazy.
12. $\langle E \rangle \langle v \rangle \langle E \rangle \langle L \rangle \langle J \rangle \langle X \rangle \langle J \rangle \langle L \rangle \langle \rangle \langle F \rangle \langle \rangle \langle E \rangle \langle J \rangle \langle O \rangle \langle L \rangle \langle F \rangle \langle R \rangle \langle M \rangle \langle O \rangle \langle S \rangle \langle \rangle$
13. You check to see if the refined gentleman at the bus station is wearing a Masonic ring.
14. You knock at people's doors and wait for them to return the knock.
15. You spend time scrutinizing old buildings looking for symbols of the Craft.
16. Your English have improved tremendously, albeit your penchance for old English is rather confusing to your friends and family.
17. Your favourite chair at your family's dining room is situated in the east.
18. Your wife or housemates are curious with what you do in the bathroom.
19. You Google historical figures and notable celebrities to see if they're Freemasons.
20. You do not talk about politics and religion but eagerly await the closing of the lodge so you can talk about politics and religion.
21. You laugh everytime you see goats.



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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

V. W. Bro. Brian Stapley

Bro. Bruce Reilly

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