



Masonic Youth Initiatives Committee Report – Ottawa District 2

June 7th 2010 Arnprior, Ontario

W Bro. Charles Singh, Ionic Lodge #526

Goal: *“To explore the world of Youth Organizations... to see how we can help”*

MW Bro. A. J. Petrisor, Grand Master 2007-09

Background: The Grand Lodge AF&AM of Canada in the Province of Ontario, continues to promote the work of this newly established Committee, now at the District level. Locally, DeMolay and Rainbow, for Young men and women respectively, have enjoyed the support of Masonic family over the years; but generally limited to the Masonic community. This year was indeed an “exploratory” one with the challenge of establishing exactly what G.L “support” means, and how to put that into action. As a Senior DeMolay, a Past Canadian Parliament Chairman and currently an Advisor with Ottawa Chapter, Order of DeMolay, it’s an on-going effort to engage the attention of concordant bodies towards the young men and their efforts. Their pledge to the principles of ***Filial Love, Reverence for Sacred Things, Courtesy, Comradeship, Fidelity, Cleanness and Patriotism*** fits well with the Masonic tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Awareness takes many forms, and building meaningful relationships has been the goal over the past few years:

- DeMolay Volunteers at **MasoniChip**, June 2008 and 2009, Ionic Lodge, Westboro Temple
- Senior DeMolays fund tickets for Youth Leaders (and adult Advisors) to attend **Valentine’s Charity Ball**, February 2007.
- Funding Tickets to **Senators NHL** game, April 2009 (Edinburg Lodge with Bros. Shawn Woods and VW Bro. Dave Mackey also contributing).
- Servers at **Events & Celebrations** (Carleton Chapter #16 R.A.M, Tunis Shriners, Carleton Lodge March 2010 – MW. Grand Master present at Arctic Char Night).
- Invitation to DeMolay Master Councillor to **Grand Master’s Reception** in Pembroke, 2009
- Chocolate Donation:** enabled fundraiser for MasoniChip clinics & Relay for Life T-shirts (Bro Alan Lawrie, Ashlar Lodge and VW Bro. Dave Mackey)’09
- Eastern Star **Chapter Presentation** of “Flower talk” – (Norm and Janice Pound) February 2010
- Donations from PMMWA Assn. towards **Member Development**; presented by R.W. Bro. Ivor Bailey at Masonic Appreciation Night - Fall 2009
- Donations** from The Builders’ Lodge , W Bro. Richard Loomes; Tunis Shriners (Illus. Sir James Doel) at **Masonic Appreciation Night** – Fall 2009; **ALL concordant bodies were represented !!**
- **Leadership Camp Fund** donations solicited by Senior Councillor from Ionic Lodge #526, Carleton Chapter #16 RAM, and Hazeldean Lodge (3 x \$100).

Senior DeMolays play an important role in the development of members and the Chapter. We were invited this year to Renfrew, Edinburgh and Hazeldean Lodges to initiate three Senior DeMolays into the Craft (Bros. Ledger, Cromey & Wooden). I am hopeful that this “**Degree Team**” will develop and be available to promote the Youth and show what the junior relatives of our Fraternity are capable of as they progress through their Masonic journey.

On April 28th, 2010, I convened a **meeting of current leaders** (Members and Advisors) of Ottawa Chapter, Order of DeMolay and Ottawa Assembly, Rainbow for Girls. This meeting at Walkley Road was attended by R.W. Bro. Jack Ledger (DDGM, Ottawa 2), R.W. Bro. Ivor Bayley (DDGM, Ottawa 1), as well as District Leaders; namely, V.W. Bros. John Forster; Les Richardson, and W. Bro. Richard Loomes, Youth Initiatives Committee member. This was an historic meeting; not only because all interested bodies were assembled, but all the respective leaders were present. It was an opportunity to build mutual understanding and support, and I hope there will be more of such meetings as we all get better acquainted. The Youth’s presentations were well received by all. I can confirm that Ottawa DeMolay and local Masons have a great relationship, with many Senior Demolays now having taken on Leadership roles in their respective Lodges and appendant bodies. It was suggested that **District Secretaries** be the contact-point for specific requests to advertise & publicize events with the help of all **Lodge Secretaries**. They offered their personal support and will appreciate reminders of events such as: **Masonic Appreciation Night (November) and Installations (January and June). Every Lodge should make an effort to attend.**

Lastly, my thanks to R.W. Bro. Jack Ledger, W. Bro. Keith Richard, a host of Past Grand Lodge Officers, Past Masters and brethren for their support and encouragement. W. Bro. Gordon Hutchison, District 2 Computer Resources, publicized many events for DeMolay, and you should also know that R.W. Bro. Ivor Bailey and W. Bro. Rob Uhrig of District 1, were equally supportive. I managed to attend most official visits and Installations to show our thanks and appreciation to our DDGM for his commitment to the Youth.

Recommendations:

1. That Ottawa District 2 encourage all Lodges to (continue) show their support for our Youth. Begin with a **visit to Chapter meeting** (4th Wednesdays) **or a public Ceremony** noted above. ***Include them when possible, support their programs, and affirm their good works.***
2. That our Masonic Leaders and Youth Leaders convene regularly to plan and share ideas of mutual support. The Youth Committee Chair should visit Lodges within the District to promote Youth activities ; engage the Brethren ; and actively promote the fact the DeMolay and Masons can work together to develop and grow the Leaders of tomorrow.
3. That this Committee be henceforth called: **The Youth Committee**, with a view of including Youth outside the Masonic family; specifically, the community at large.

Respectfully Submitted,
W. Bro. Charles Singh, Ionic Lodge #526
Youth Initiative Committee, Ottawa District 2