

B 2 B FaciliFacts

Presented by the Brother 2 Brother Committee of Grand Lodge

MARCH 2007



THE B2B TOOL KIT – RESOURCE MANUAL “Let’s Look A Little Closer At ...”

With this edition of the **B2B FaciliFacts** we begin to delve into the library of resource material that is contained between the two covers of the B2B Tool Kit Resource Manual. Over the next few issues we will look more deeply into the Three Guiding Principles of the Brother 2 Brother Program: **RETAIN - REVITALIZE - RENEW**

We will, in greater detail, look at the tools that are available to our Lodge Leaders through the B2B Program. But first, let us briefly review the each of our guiding principles:

RETAIN: *This principle provides guidance to lodge leaders in the development of the Mason who has been a member for less than one year.*

Use the Sponsor and Mentor Programs of Grand Lodge, encourage new Masons to visit other lodges, involve them in the ritual work and committee tasks and ask them to be involved in developing special events.

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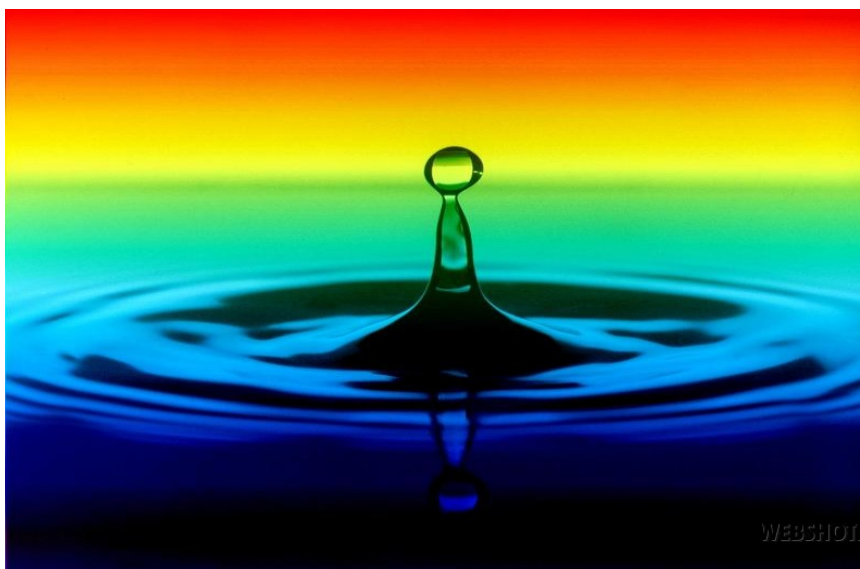
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MORE Teamwork Lessons from Wild Geese

When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation, then another goose flies into the point position.

Lesson # 2:

It pays to take turns doing the difficult tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people rely on each other's skills, capabilities and individual talents.



WEBSHOIS

ACTION

It only takes a single thought to move the world



“Let’s Look A Little Closer At ...” cont’d.

REVITALIZE: *This principle provides guidance to lodge leaders in the development of the Mason who attends lodge on a regular or irregular basis.*

Find the most appropriate lodge management style for your lodge, learn how to manage change properly and learn the techniques that will help the lodge have a successful year. Get your Brother involved. Use him as your B2B Facilitator or Chairman.

RENEW: *This principle guides the lodge leadership through the process of encouraging a Brother to see the light of Masonry once more.*

It reminds us of the importance of personal contact, of prompt and efficient meetings, of ample time for fellowship and renewal of friendships, the importance of visitation and for many, the important role they play as a Past Master of a lodge.

Now that we have completed a review of the principles that drive a successful B2B Program,

“Let Us Begin To Look A Little Closer...”



Section 4: RETAIN ... Retention of Active Members < 1 year

4.1 Purpose:

First impressions are extremely important and they are established early in our new members Masonic Life. We have planted the seed, but, as with anything that grows, we must continue to nurture it and ensure that when it must stand on its own that it is capable and prepared. So too must we nurture the new Mason and teach him the importance of early visitation and social programs.

4.2 The Candidate:

Your Lodge must always be mindful of the role a new Candidate plays. He is not only the most important person in lodge on his Initiation night, his is the most important person every night, because without him your lodge will at some point cease to exist. Reminding yourself of the following points will ensure the retention of new members, thereby making them life long active Masons, thus ensuring that your lodge will remain strong.

Always remember the Candidate and new Mason is

- The most important person in our organization - He is not a hindrance!
- He is the purpose of it. - Not an interruption in our work.
- A vital part of our organization - He is not an outsider.
- He is a human being with feelings and emotions - Not a cold statistic.
- He is an individual - Not a face or a number.
- A person who brings us his wants - It is our job to fill those wants. Enhance the Masonic Experience
- The life-blood of this organization.

4.3 A POEM FOR ALL MASONS: "I'M THE GUY"

The following poem captures a very important theme and creates in our hearts a sense of emotion. It reminds us that sometimes the obvious is often the most misunderstood. If all brethren were to remember this passage whenever they go to a lodge, it would help in strengthening our fraternity.

I'm the Guy

I'm the guy who joined our 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 when the last
meeting was held.

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.

It amuses me to think that 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!!!

Brethren - Just reflect on these words !!!

B2B Jurisdiction News

Challenge and Fear

Why do we challenge and stress ourselves with effort when we could just-so-easily curl up on the couch at the end of a tiring workday and “self medicate” with a TV sitcom? What makes us volunteer for a difficult, sometimes unrewarding job and subject ourselves to unwelcome and often unnecessary criticism? Why do we put our names forward for an officer's chair, knowing that many will not know, or appreciate the hidden “behind-the-scene” effort? Why do we attempt to learn difficult charges knowing there will always be too many non-working critics sitting on the sidelines? Is it for the thrill of it? No!

I think it is because if we move ourselves out of our *comfort zones*, we grow ourselves as men and as human beings. This challenge rewards us with confidence, not just in the completion of the task at hand, but rather in coming to know ourselves – knowing our strengths and weaknesses – thereby knowing our capabilities as a man.

Hippocrates, the renowned Greek physician said “Physician, know thy self”, realizing that knowing oneself is the result of hard work, honest soul searching and the fearless ability to challenge oneself. It does not, nor should it ever, come easily.

Sometimes a friend or even a critic, will nudge us on the way to self discovery by seeing something within us that we fail to see in ourselves. Probably the greatest challenge in self-discovery is fear itself. I may not like what I'll find if I challenge myself – I may expose feelings that others will surely criticize or I may just fail. As someone once said “It is better to have loved and lost, than to have never loved at all”. Let us substitute “tried” for “loved” and we get the message.

So my brethren, let us dig deep and find the courage in our hearts for honest examination. Mark Twain said “Courage is resistance to fear – mastery of fear – not the absence of fear”. It is in conquering our fear of failure that we allow our hearts to soar freely to unbounded horizons of hope and promise, in doing so, become more understanding of the fear and disabilities of those around us. And if we are of noble mind and heart, we will bend our knee to help and assist them to look within and conquer their own fears.

Editor's note: This message by RWBro. Charles Woods, DDGM - Toronto West District, was published in the January/February 2007 edition of the Toronto West newsletter “The Blue Print”

*The Brethren are encouraged to submit their B2B Lodge or District News via e-mail to: idwates@sympatico.ca
We would be pleased to include the news items in an upcoming edition.*

B2B Committee - Activity Summary

District Presentations

- **Waterloo, Wilson North & Wilson South - Waterloo**
- **Victoria District - Lindsay**
- **Algoma East District - Sault St. Marie**
- **Toronto West & Toronto Humber Valley - Etobicoke**

Lodge Presentations

- **Karnak Lodge No. 492; Georgian North District - Orillia**
- **Irvine Lodge No. 203; Wellington District - Fergus**

For More Informtion

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