

B 2 B FaciliFacts

Presented by the Brother 2 Brother Committee of Grand Lodge

APRIL 2007



The B2B Tool Kit – Resource Manual “Let’s Look A Little Closer At ...”

4.4 THE NEW APPLICANT - THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

Importance and Purpose

After the reception of a petition, the single most important event in the life of a Masonic Lodge is the function performed by the Committee of Inquiry. It is impossible for every member of a lodge to personally know all of the potential petitioners to the lodge. In these days of declining membership, the Brothers who sign the petition of a prospective member may be blinded by friendship, a concern for the shrinking membership of their lodge or, very simply, they may not have sufficient concern for their lodge to see beyond the surface of the potential initiate whose petition they are signing.

It is the duty of this committee to be unbiased by improper solicitations and uninfluenced by mercenary motives of Brothers, well meaning friends, and relatives of the prospect. The committee must seek the truth about the depth of the character of whom they investigate. Just as importantly, they must consider the financial circumstances of the petitioner, the organizations he is already involved in, the kind of company he keeps, the reputation he has in the community, in his work place, and with the general public he comes in contact with every day.

As per Section: 318 of the Book of Constitution the purpose of this committee reads as follows: “Each application, having been read in open lodge, **shall be referred to a committee of inquiry** of 3 or more Master Masons appointed by the Master, none of whom shall have proposed or seconded the application. The committee shall inquire into the character and qualifications of the applicant and shall report in writing thereon to the lodge at its next regular meeting held after the lapse of not less than four weeks, or as soon as possible thereafter.”

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Thoughts to Ponder

Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people ... to attain uncommon results.

The depth of a soul is not measured by what appears on the surface.

Integrity comes when character is tested; keep true and never be ashamed of doing what is right.



WHAT WOULD YOU ATTEMPT TO DO IF YOU KNEW YOU COULD NOT FAIL?

(UNKNOWN)

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

The following six words may be of assistance in conducting the interview:

1. WHO is he? _____
2. WHO does he know? _____
3. WHO does he associate with? _____
4. WHAT are his reasons for petitioning? _____
5. WHAT is his attitude toward God? _____
6. WHAT is his profession? _____
7. WHAT is his general reputation at work? _____
8. WHAT is his standing in the community? _____
9. WHEN did he become interested in Masonry? _____
10. WHEN did he come to this District? _____
11. WHERE does he spend his leisure time? _____
12. WHERE did he previously reside? _____
13. WHY is he seeking membership? _____
14. WHY is he petitioning your lodge? _____
15. HOW does he intend to serve Freemasonry? _____
16. HOW does he intend to conduct himself? _____
17. HOW has he lived in the past? _____

A LITTLE REMINDER!

DON’T...

- Look at a man and think he is all right - think that he will necessarily reform
- Be guided by his own reports - be afraid to ask questions
- Report until you are satisfied - leave investigation until the last minute



*Extending A Helping Hand
Brother 2 Brother*

FORM B: NEW APPLICANT INTERVIEW FORM FOR THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

B.1 Personal Information

Age: _____

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced Widowed

Companion Name: _____

Present Employment: Retired Employed Self-Employed

Profession _____

Number of Years _____

Residence: Number of years at present address _____

Address:

Physical Disabilities: No Yes: _____

(The purpose of this question is to ascertain if any special requirements are necessary in order to make the candidate feel more comfortable. Are there any injuries or conditions that would prevent the candidate from participating in the degree or making the ceremony less enjoyable, i.e. injured back or knee, etc. Also required per Section 311 of the Constitution.)

Hobbies: _____

B.2 Masonic Application

Any previous applications into Masonry? No

Yes Explain _____

What are your reasons for applying? _____

Why have you waited until now to apply? _____

Why do you wish to join "our" Lodge _____

Do you believe in the existence of a Supreme Being? _____

Does your family and Church support you in becoming a mason? _____

(The purpose of this question is not to question the candidate about his religious or family belief, but to determine that Masonry will not cause any tension between a brother and his family and/or church in case a conflict may occur.)

Have you and your family viewed the "Friend to Friend" video? Yes No

Are you aware of the Initiation Fees? _____

The yearly dues? _____

How long have you known your Sponsors? _____

The nature of their acquaintance _____

FORM B: NEW APPLICANT INTERVIEW FORM FOR THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

B.3 Associates

Are any members of your family, Masons? No Yes _____

Are any of your fellow workers, Masons? No Yes _____

Are any of your friends, Masons? No Yes _____

B.4 Duties

Do you have the necessary time to attend lodge regularly? _____

Do you belong to any service clubs? _____

Will you make a daily advancement by studying or contributing to Masonry? _____

B.5 Explain the Objectives of Masonry: (explain to the applicant)

- Provides an opportunity to assist in benevolent work
- Provides for a meeting of kindred spirits
- Develops friendship and sociability
- Provides an opportunity to practice Masonic Charity

B.6 Masonry is NOT: (make him aware)

- A charitable institution
- A social security or a benefit society
- A religious society
- A political party
- An entrance to the business or professional world

B2B Jurisdiction News

B2B PARTICIPANT SUGGESTIONS

Toronto West & Toronto Humber Valley

- Being a sponsor involves great responsibility
- Sponsorship is a lifelong commitment to the candidate
- Proper preparation/planning are essential to ensure the business meeting runs smoothly
- Perfect time for Masonic education is during the time the candidate resumes his normal comforts
- After a degree is completed, ask the candidate to prepare a short talk about his experience and have him present it at the next meeting
- With ages from 21 – 90 years, finding common ground in lodge programs is essential.
- Younger members have a different attitude today, than their fathers. Time is precious. They don't want to waste it on dull, never-ending and unstructured business meetings about trivial matters.

Ottawa 1, Ottawa 2 & Eastern

- Sponsorship is not a quick process
- Reflect on why someone selected you to sign his application
- Ensure that we mention to candidates the important role memorization has in his advancement
- Consider inviting a prospective member to a Masonic social function like; a BBQ or Ladies Night
- Meeting planning should not overlook the importance of fellowship time
- Consider planning special meeting programs like a "Lewis Night", where fathers invite their sons to hear an explanation about Masonry
- Beware of "dead air" in lodge. Long periods of time to escort guests/visitors into the lodge, to prepare the lodge or the candidate.
- Every summons informs us when a lodge will START. It's also important that a meeting ENDS in reasonable time. Set a closing time goal and stick to it.
- Think about lodge meetings that you have attended; ones that were talked about for days afterward. What made them unique and why did they appeal to so many? Share your thoughts with your WM.

*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

- **Ottawa 1, Ottawa 2 & Eastern - Ottawa**
- **Toronto East, Toronto Don Valley – Scarborough**

Lodge Presentations

- **Manito Lodge No. 90 - Collingwood**

For More Informtion

Contact the Grand Lodge B2B Committee

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For Your Personal Copy of the B2B FaciliFacts

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