

Vision Statement

To be an organization that attracts & retains Past Masters throughout the Hamilton Districts by providing the opportunity to enhance personal development through knowledge and fraternal friendships by providing opportunities for informational exchange and social interaction.

Mission Statement

Our Association will communicate more effectively to the Past Masters of the Hamilton Districts what we can do to support their development through education and friendship.

Core Values

- Fraternal Friendship Knowledge Support Harmony

P M eh!

Contributions / comments? Editor, Harley Auty 289-239-9129 or harleyauty1944@gmail.com Website: www.pma-abc.ca



P M eh!

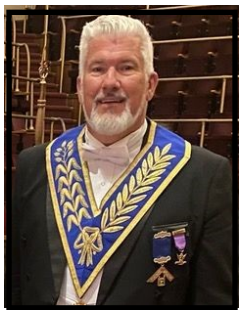
Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts

March 2024

THE PAST MASTERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE HAMILTON DISTRICTS



A Message From The President...



R.W. Bro. Michael R. Martin President

Greetings, Brethren: By the time you receive this newsletter, the Holy Week or Great Week, will have passed. For those who celebrate this special period of the year, I hope you were in the good company of family and friends.

Over the past couple of months, several Directors of your Past Masters Association worked on creating new Policy and Procedures. I personally thank V.W. Bro. Allan Hale for chairing the committee comprised of W. Bro. Joseph Barker, W. Bro. Alex Mouriopoulos, V.W. Brian Kiernan, V.W. Bro. Dale Chapman, and R.W. Bro. Thomas Peddle. Thank you, gentlemen, for your time and skills sets in creating a document that will benefit and guide the Officers and Board of Directors in the day-to-day operation of the association – correlating the Vision, Values and Bylaws of our organization.

Depending on when Easter occurs, it usually marks the start of Spring. We all look forward to getting outside, getting reacquainted with our hibernating neighbours and tinkering around our homes. It also creates many opportunities to become more physically active. For many of us that includes walking, jogging, cycling, or preparing the gardens for planting. There are those who will be dusting off their clubs and preparing to hit the links. If you are a golfer, you may wish to consider participating in the Scottish Rite Charitable Golf Tournament on Friday, June 14th. The funds raised through the tournament will be shared with worthy local charities.

Recognizing there was a conflict in the dates of the forementioned golf tournament and the Annual General Meeting and Meet the Grand Lodge Candidates evening, your

Board determined it was important to determine a different, and suitable, date. In doing so, we have secured the services of the Hamilton Scottish Rite Club on **Friday, May 31st, 2024** for the Past Masters' Association "AGM and Meet the Grand Lodge Candidates Evening". Please take a few minutes to mark this date down in your calendar(s) and make plans to attend. Additional details will be shared in early to mid April.

I look forward to greeting you at the PMA April 6th Regular meeting, and out and about the three Hamilton Districts. To our shut ins and their caretakers, may the G.A.O.T.U. watch over you and provide you with solace.

Yours fraternally,
R.W. Bro. Michael R. Martin

Our Next Regular Meeting Saturday April 6, 2024

Guest Speaker —

V.W. Bro. Garry Perkins, F.C.F.

Canforce 1 —

Flying the Prime Minister's Campaign Airplane

Participate either in person at the Hamilton Shrine Club, 82 Melvin Avenue

Meet & Greet: 8:30 am

Breakfast: 9:00 am

Meeting/Zoom: 10:00 am

Cost for breakfast is \$25.00.

Please register in advance for the Breakfast / Meeting using this link:

Breakfast Registration

Or join us by Zoom video conference for the meeting portion at 10:00 am

Please register in advance for this Zoom meeting at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApdeChqD4rHdze201t6tycYaRE7yFI2ajIN>

Once registered for the Zoom video conference, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The information contained in this educational paper was taken from the MASONIC BULLETIN - British Columbia & Yukon—May 1946. Many thanks to **W. Bro. Joe Barker** for this article.

THE THREE LESSER LIGHTS

In Operative times the mediæval lodge was usually a lean-to frame structure placed against the south wall of the building project. This spot offered the best light and warmth of a southern exposure. It had three main windows, one in the East, the West and the South. There was no window in the North. These windows were termed the “Three Great Lights” and were represented on the early Tracing Boards. They were also alluded to in the old rituals of 1725 to 1730, where they are termed the “fixed lights” their uses being “to light the men to, at, and from their work”. In the catechism, it is expressly stated that these three windows are the fixed lights and are supposed to be in every room where a lodge is held.

At these three windows were seated the Master and his Wardens; the F.C.s had their special place, and the Apprentices were placed in the North as they required less light than the more skilled Fellowcrafts. The 1730 ritual places the junior E.A. in the North, his business being “to keep off all intruders and eaves-droppers”. Work was performed during the daylight hours, and when the Brethren met for social or business purposes at night, candles became necessary. The Principal Officers retained their usual positions and before each was placed a lighted candle. These three candles were termed “the lights”.

The ritual of 1736 states the three lesser lights are three large candles placed on high candlesticks; they represent “the sun, moon and the Master”. When Lodges were held in taverns the three windows disappeared, but the candles were retained. The Bible is not mentioned as one of the Great Lights in Masonry prior to 1760. While the Holy Bible was used to obligate candidates prior to this, only since the Altar was added has it been part

of what we term the “Furniture” of a Lodge. It was around 1760 that American Lodges introduced an Altar into the lodge. From there it found its way into Canadian and Scottish lodge rooms.

Thomas Edison invented the lightbulb, in 1879. Prior to this, the lighted candles, named the three Lesser Lights were the only source of illumination in a great many Lodge rooms. Traditionally the V.O.S.L. was never opened or closed in “darkness” and therefore the lesser lights were lighted before the V.O.S.L. was opened and extinguished only after the V.O.S.L. was closed. Today this is still the correct order.

Where the candles are still used, there is an old custom to be observed in the ceremonial lighting and extinguishing of the candles. Beginning with the Master’s candle, the word, “Wisdom” is spoken. Then a taper was lit from it and carried to the S. W. in the West and lighted with the word “Strength”, and finally to the J.W. in the South with the word “Beauty” spoken. After the Bible is closed the candles are extinguished in reverse order.

While some lodges in Nova Scotia, and the United States still use candles, it is more common to switch the “Lesser Lights” on and off electrically. The symbolism of the candles being lit from the Master’s candle and carried to the Warden’s is of necessity lost.

In most Canadian Lodges, as well as the U.S., the three Lesser Lights are grouped around, the altar “to light up the V.S.L.”. One is symbolically representing the Master who sits in the East and from whom is to come Masonic light. It is also a symbol of the Eternal Light of the G.A.O.T.U. and is never extinguished while the Lodge is in session.

In the M.M.’s Degree, conducted under Emulation Cdn. Working, the Master’s light becomes the Glimmering Light. in the E. while the Junior and Senior Warden’s lights are temporarily extinguished. So in the evolution of the Lesser Lights, we now see two sets

of lights. The Lesser Lights around the Altar and the lights of the Principal Officers on their pedestals.

In Emulation, UGL of England, a true English lodge has no Altar. The VOSL rests on the Master’s pedestal. Therefore the Lesser Lights remain at the stations of the Principal Officers.

In Emulation, Cdn. Working, you may find two sets of lights, as mentioned above but not in all lodges.

In American lodges the Altar is in the center of the lodge room. Since this was an American innovation they also brought forth an oxymoron. You can walk between the Master and the Holy Bible during a degree but not during lodge business. So to get from the NE to the SE you must go counter clockwise or widdershins, which is considered “unlucky/evil”.

In Scottish Masonry you can find the Altar, close to the Master’s station, so that nobody can walk between it and the Master. You may find it a bit farther away or also in the center of the lodge room. Some Scottish lodges follow the American of widdershins way but in Scotland their GL walks between during business as well as during degree work.

In Scottish Standard Ritual, there is no mention of the Lesser Lights. That tradition, held by our ancient Brothers both Operative and Speculative have been lost.

In some lodges you may see the J.W.’s light turned off when lodge is opened and turned on when lodge is closed. Like many things in Masonry, the reason has been lost, and the stock answer becomes “because we have always done it that way.”

Scottish Ritual does say that the J.W.’s light is turned off when opening in the F.C. degree. The reason stated is that the Candidate does not need as much light to continue his Masonic journey. Since they do not recognize the Lesser Lights, it really doesn’t matter.



Keep The Pace

The following article appeared in **The Alberta Freemason** in April 2008 — Vol. 73, No. 4. This is an Alberta Masonic newsletter, which our Brother, **R.W. Bro. Tom Young**, discovered in his reading. Your Editor presumed it is unlikely that many of our brethren in Ontario may have seen this article. Tom suggested to your Editor that since there are so many negative issues currently, and regularly, in the news, an article which is upbeat and carries a positive message would be of interest to the members of our Past Masters' Association.

It is taken from the Address to the New Year's Day Levee, 2008 by R.W. Bro. Chris E. Batty, PDDGM, Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92

Most Worshipful Brother Bob Drury's theme for his year has an interesting background. For some of his life he was in the transportation business and his theme comes directly from the transportation industry. Setting maximum speed limits on roads is an extremely difficult task. One has to logically set the maximum speed on a road for 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

The environmental variations over this period range from broad daylight to pitch black, temperatures from plus 40 degrees to minus 40 degrees Celsius, from bright sunlight to rain, hail and snowstorms. Traffic conditions vary from the low traffic volumes of Sunday morning to peak rush hour traffic of Wednesday at 5:00 PM. And if these variables do not make it difficult, consider the varying driver profiles of the 18-year old male, the working mother with her two children, the 45-year-old father, and 69-year old grandmother. Not only does each one of these drivers drive with a different frame of mind, their physical and mental capabilities vary significantly.

Many factors go into establishing road speeds, such as the type of road, the road geometry, the adjacent land use, legislation, social-political considerations, etc. A starting point for setting road speed limits is based on the philosophy of establishing the maximum speed that 85 per cent of all drivers will accept as the maximum speed under all environmental and traffic conditions — the speed

that drivers actually drive at, not the speed that they tell you they drive at.

The reason for this philosophy is that if all vehicles are travelling at the same speed, in a single stream of traffic, then it is impossible for one vehicle to hit another. For a collision to occur in a single stream of traffic, a vehicle either has to speed up or slow down. Consequently, if a driver keeps the pace of the traffic stream, the probability of being involved in a traffic collision is reduced.

Most Worshipful Brother Drury charged us all to "Keep the Pace." He included in his theme the acronym PACE with the words Positive Action Creates Enthusiasm. Keeping the Pace is a positive and active way to drive safely. To Bob Drury, I am sure, being positive meant showing optimism, confidence and improvement, or being constructive in attitude and intention. And "action", doing something that will make us successful, developing ideas, following through and implementing them.

Bob suggested that we make ourselves known in our communities, assisting in making our communities better places in which to live, work and play. As I wrote these words I became aware that in Keeping the Pace you only have to do the first two — Positive Action — and the other two — Creates Enthusiasm — in the words of Bob Drury, just naturally follow! By being positive and being active, success just naturally follows; it is created by the positive action. Successful sports teams have a positive attitude, are active in practicing their game, active at being physically and mentally fit. It just naturally follows that they develop enthusiasm within the local population. I am sure that Bob's vision for his Lodges was similar to this: that the members should have a positive attitude, be active in their Lodges, be active in their communities, and enthusiasm would naturally follow within the local population. As a tribute to Bob Drury, let us act positively and work together, in our homes, our Lodges, and our communities, so that we all may have a healthy, happy and prosperous future, in short, "Keep the Pace" and recall "Positive Action Creates Enthusiasm."

**P M Annual General Meeting &
“Meet the Grand Lodge Candidates”**

Friday, May 31st, 2024

6:00 pm Meet & Greet
6:30 pm Dinner
(menu/cost to be determined)
7:30 pm Meeting

The change in date of our meeting was requested due to a significant conflict on Friday, June 14th - The Scottish Rite Annual Charitable Golf Tournament. Now our membership can support both events!

A Little Masonic Humour.....



For Fans of Jeopardy.....

Assorted Stuff

1. Fiona Bruce hosts the current iteration of this British TV show.
2. The Antique Automobile Club of America stipulates that a car must be at least this many years of age for it to be called “antique”.
3. What does FM of FM radio stand for?
4. This company is the world’s largest manufacturer of race cars.
5. Despite common usage, this word for a large waste container was once a trademark.
6. Most hockey fans know that this vehicle is a trademarked name.
7. BF Goodrich first trademarked this word for their device originally meant to easily close rubber boots.
8. Most experts agree that this breed of working dog is the most intelligent.
9. As head of CBS’s children’s programming, Fred Silverman invented this cartoon dog after listening to Frank Sinatra’s version of “Strangers in the Night”.
10. Popular for destroying artwork, this tribe in fact helped maintain and spread Roman artwork into the Middle Ages.

The above questions are taken from **The Ultimate Book of Pub Trivia By The Smartest Guy In The Bar — Austin Rogers** (one of the champions on the tv show “Jeopardy”.)

25, Frequency Modulation, Dumpster, Fiona Bruce Border Collie, Zamboni, Scooby-Doo, Vandals, Porsche, Zipper,

From the Editor.....

Many thanks to **Mike Martin, Tom Peddle, Joe Barker** and **Tom Young** for their very

valuable contributions to this edition.

If you would like to submit an article, which you feel would be of interest to your fellow members, I would be delighted! - Harley

