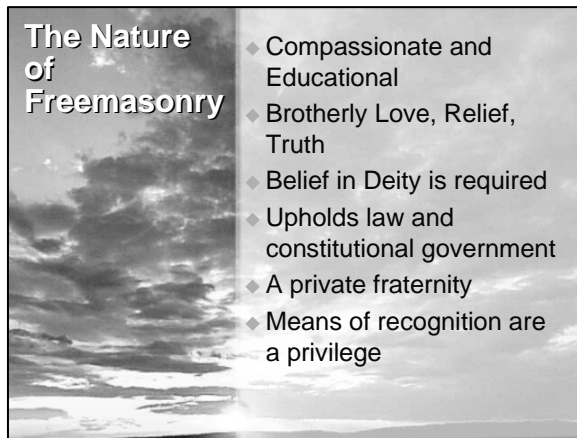


Slide One

Congratulations!

Your petition for membership has been accepted by _____ Lodge No. ____ Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio. Election to Freemasonry is an admirable accomplishment. It is only achieved after a thorough investigation of your character and unanimous vote of the Brethren of the Lodge. You have distinguished yourself as an exceptional man worthy of our Brotherhood.



Slide Two

Freemasonry is a compassionate and educational Fraternity in the best sense of the word.

It promotes the practice of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Its members share a belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. The fraternity uses symbolism in its ritual to illustrate a system of morality upon which all good men can agree.

Although our Constitution specifies that a belief in God is an essential requirement for membership, a member is never questioned about the particulars of his personal religious beliefs. Accordingly, within the Fraternity are found Christians, Jews, Moslems, Buddhists, and members of other faiths.

A Candidate for membership must also be a man of good moral and social character. To be selected for membership is an honor and a testimony of the Lodge's esteem for you, because all Candidates must be elected to membership by a unanimous ballot.

Freemasonry supports constitutional and lawful government. It reinforces in its members the highest moral and religious principles. It fosters patriotism and teaches tolerance.

Freemasonry is a private Fraternity. Our passwords, grips and other means of recognition have been passed down for centuries and their knowledge and understanding is a significant privilege of a Freemason. They are maintained, in part, as a tribute to our operative ancestors and are meant to distinguish us from non-members. They are a privilege only to Freemasons, because those who have not received the Degrees of Freemasonry would not understand their importance.



Slide Three

A brief history will explain how this world-wide organization came into being. Many have attempted to trace its origin and indeed we can find records of organizations of masons existing as far back as the early days of ancient Rome. The Legends and traditions of the Fraternity, upon which the several Degrees are based, relate to the building of King Solomon’s Temple some three thousand years ago.

Modern Freemasonry has evolved over the centuries from the masons who, in the Middle Ages, built the glorious cathedrals of Europe, many of which still stand today. The cathedral builders or “Operative” Masons formed themselves into guilds, upon which present Lodges are patterned. In the 17th century, some of these Lodges began opening their doors to men of culture and social standing who were not working masons at all. These men were referred to as “Speculative” Masons.

On June 24, 1717, representatives of four old Lodges in the London area met and organized a Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge evolved from a mere association of Lodges to the governing body of the Fraternity. In a relatively short time Freemasonry spread into Ireland, Scotland, and onto the continent of Europe. Freemasons moving from Europe to America brought with them their love for the Fraternity.

Gradually the Craft assumed its present character of a Fraternity, whose system of morality teaches its lessons by symbols and veils them in allegory.

On July 30, 1733, the first official Lodge in North America was formed in Boston, and still functions there. After the Revolutionary War, Freemasons of this country desired Masonic independence as well from Great Britain, and this came about in due course. Based on the early traditions of our country, Grand Lodges in the United States are organized on a state-by-state level. Today in the United States, there are fifty-one separate state Grand Lodges, with each operating as the supreme governing body for the Lodges it has chartered.

Freemasonry was brought to Ohio by Capt. Jonathan Heart. Heart was the last Worshipful Master of American Union Lodge during its existence as a traveling military Lodge, attached to the Continental Army. American Union Lodge was originally warranted as a military Lodge in 1776, and in 1790, it was reactivated as a local Lodge in Marietta, Ohio. It later became the first Lodge on the list of Lodges under the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, organized in 1808.

Presently in Ohio there are over 120,000 Master Masons in 540 Lodges. Our Lodge, _____ No. ____ was Chartered in _____ and has _____ members. We meet for our stated or business meetings on the _____ of the month.



Slide Four

A local Lodge is an organization of Master Masons empowered by the Grand Lodge to confer the Degrees of Freemasonry and to do such work and to carry on such activities as are pertinent to the operation of the Lodge.

The Lodge is governed in its actions by laws laid down in the Grand Lodge Code, by its own By-Laws, and by its Worshipful Master, the Presiding Officer of the Lodge.

Each Lodge in this jurisdiction has at least twelve Officers, nine of whom are elected by ballot. The remaining three are appointed by the Worshipful Master.

The word “Worshipful” in the Master’s title comes from the Old English word “Worschpyful,” meaning worthy of great respect.

Its use reminds the members that the Master of a Lodge, as its leader, is worthy of respect.



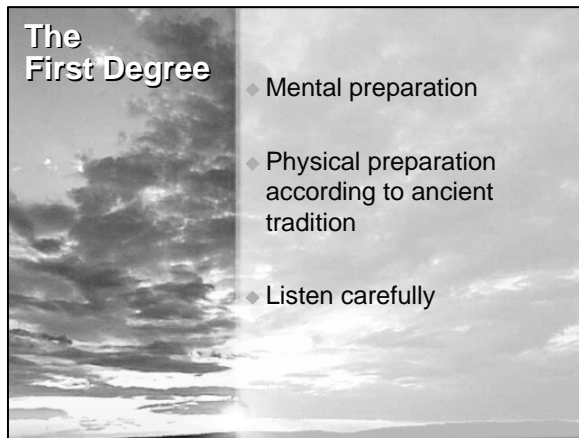
Slide Five

There are three Degrees of Freemasonry—Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason. These three steps are based on the Journeyman System of Education used by the medieval Lodges of stonemasons, which was divided into three levels:

1. Apprentice
2. Journeyman
3. Master Craftsman

These Degrees are conferred in a serious and professional manner and contain many symbolic meanings.

Candidates are always treated with dignity and respect, reflecting our Masonic values.



Slide Six

Before your introduction into the first Degree of Freemasonry, you should prepare yourself mentally to receive it.

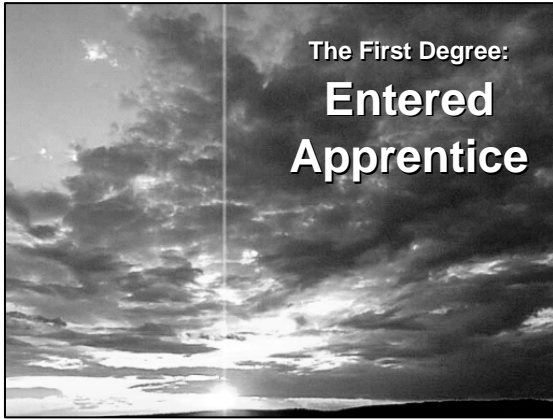
As a Candidate, you will be prepared for initiation according to the ancient traditions of the Fraternity, being divested of all metallic substances, clothed symbolically, and at first blindfolded. You should prepare yourself to receive the Degrees of Freemasonry with an open mind as well as with a clean body and spirit.

Listen carefully to the words spoken and try to absorb the lessons presented by each of the Degrees.



Slide Seven

Congratulations on your decision to join Freemasonry. We welcome you to membership in our Fraternity. It is a lifetime commitment that can give you a lifetime of rewards. Once you have become a member, you will find that wherever your destiny carries you, the hand of Masonic Brotherhood will be extended to greet you.



Slide Eight

Shortly, you will receive the First Degree in Freemasonry, that of Entered Apprentice. I will be in the Lodge Room with you during the Degree. We will sit together after the completion of the Ceremony and I can answer any questions you may have.



Slide Nine

No text