

## A “Walkabout” the Lodge

The following LEO Program is reprinted from “The Short Talk Bulletin,” and modified to more closely fit with our own Masonic traditions. A Walkabout the Lodge is a very useful way of introducing new members to the various places and stations of a Lodge and the duties of the officers who fill them.

*As an LEO, please use this copy of Walkabout as a basis for creating a similar educational program for the benefit of your new members. Some of the items discussed in the Short Talk may not fit your Lodge, so be sure not to simply read from it. This LEO program is also a good opportunity to discuss some of your Lodge traditions with your new members. Remember, just because your Lodge has always had “Strawberry Night” on the last meeting before you go Dark, does not mean your new members or even new officers-especially the Stewards-will know that has been the tradition since time immemorial.*

*The original Short Talk was printed with permission from “The Grand Masters Eye Opener” a publication of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. It is actually a talk given to the Candidates at the conclusion of the Entered Apprentice Degree. This LEO program was modified from a talk prepared by R.W. Bro. Edward Peters a Past District Deputy Grand Master in Ontario. It is not ritual, but merely an informal presentation of some very valuable and useful information to the candidates.  
Editor*

When I first became a Mason, it was a good number of months before I understood the function of each officer and the various furnishings about the Lodge. So, tonight, we are going to show you around, so to speak, in the hope that when you come to the Lodge next month, you will feel comfortable and more at home amongst your brethren.

This area of the Lodge is known as the “East” and it will come as no surprise to you that our Worshipful Master sits in the East, since all learning emanated from the East. Our Master is elected by the brethren of the Lodge for a period of one year. He is the “boss”, and the governing of the Lodge is in his hands. You will notice that the Master’s jewel is the square, which is an emblem of morality.

To his right is the Chaplain. The Chaplain is often the immediate Past Master or another Past Master appointed by the Worshipful Master. His main duty is to look after the spiritual side of our meetings, and his jewel is the Volume of the Sacred Law. He has another very important function in that, since he made all the usual mistakes that a Master can make during *his* year in office, he is now in the position of being able to aid the Worshipful Master, whisper wise council in his ear and prompt him as necessary.

To the Master’s left is a chair, which is reserved for any dignitary who might visit, or anyone else within the Lodge, whom the Master might invite to sit beside him.

The area to the left of the Master on the Lodge floor is sometimes called the Grand East and is reserved for Grand Lodge Officers and other visiting dignitaries on special occasions like inspections. Masonry, like any business, has a Head Office and a President. Our Head Office, the Grand Lodge Office, is in Worthington, and our President is the Grand Master. This year Most Worshipful Brother Thomas E. Reynolds is serving our Fraternity as Grand Master. The brethren who are responsible for Freemasonry, in each Jurisdiction across the country, are what we refer to as Grand Lodge Officers and they are either elected or appointed to Grand Lodge. In the Apron Lecture of the Entered Apprentice degree you heard mention of “the purple of the Fraternity resting upon your honored shoulders.” You will notice that the aprons of the Grand Lodge officers are purple as is the cloth that supports the chains that hold their respective jewels and rests upon their shoulders.

Here we have the Secretary and no business or organization could get along without a secretary, and it is certainly no different in Masonry. The Lodge secretary performs a myriad of duties and is critical to the success and the well running of the Lodge. His jewel is the crossed goose quills, which, in early times, were used to transcribe the proceedings. It is one of his duties to keep a written record of all meetings. As a matter of fact, the first meeting ever held in my Lodge in (insert date) was duly recorded by the secretary of that day and is available in the archives. In like manner, the events of this evening are being recorded, together with your name, and will go down in the minutes as part of our Lodge history.

On the opposite side of the Lodge from the Secretary is the Treasurer. It is his responsibility to look after the accounts of the Lodge and to record all receipts and expenditures. For example, he will record the dollars of which you were relieved this evening. His jewel is the crossed keys, which have reference to the coffers, or strongbox in which the resources of the Lodge were kept in years gone by.

Here in the south we have the Junior Warden. The Junior Warden and the Senior Warden (point to him), along with the Master, are the principal officers of the Lodge and they will normally progress from one chair to the next. In this way then, the Junior Warden, if he behaves himself and keeps his nose clean, will probably be elected Senior Warden next year and the Senior Warden will likewise be elected to the Master's chair. The Junior Warden's jewel is the plumb, which is the emblem of uprightness.

On each side of the Junior Warden sit the Stewards. Their Jewel is the cornucopia or "Horn of Plenty". It is the emblem assigned to the Stewards because of their function in administering to the brethren at the hours of refreshment. The Junior Steward's chair is the first chair in the Lodge as one proceeds upward to the Master's Chair.

Here in the west we have the Senior Warden, whom I have already referred to. He has a similar function to the Junior Warden in assisting the Master in governing of the Lodge. His jewel is the Level, the emblem of equality.

On the right of the Senior Warden is the Junior Deacon. In addition to carrying messages from the Senior Warden to the Junior Warden and elsewhere as he may be directed, he also acts as an Inner Guard at the door of the Lodge room.

We also have a Senior Deacon and he is seated at the right in front of the Worshipful Master. You are already well acquainted with the Senior Deacon, as he was the Mason who guided you around the Lodge room tonight during your degree. Like the Junior Deacon he too is a messenger carrying orders for the Worshipful Master. The jewels of the Deacons depict the Square and Compasses and either the Sun for the Senior Deacon or the Moon for the Junior Deacon. This may allude to the belief of the ancients that the Sun and Moon acted as celestial messengers. Which fits well the role of the Deacons.

You also know something about the Tyler, who acts as an outer guard; since he was probably the first people you met when you were about to enter the Lodge. The Tyler is responsible to see that

none but Masons get into the Lodge room. The Tyler's jewel sports a single sword. It recalls the "flaming sword" placed, after Adam's fall, at the entrance to the Garden of Eden to keep all intruders away from the "tree of life".

Some Lodges have a Marshal, who is responsible to see that the ceremonies and degrees are well rehearsed and that the brethren know their work to the credit of the Lodge. You will often see him with a furrowed brow and sweaty palm as he watches the degree work and probably sees things, which you wouldn't notice, but which, in his desire to achieve perfection, keeps his worry-level high. His emblem or jewel is the crossed rods, depicting the marshal's baton, originally the officer in charge of the king's horses, but which has come to have certain ceremonial duties in respect to the marshalling of processions.

This is the altar, which you will find in every Masonic Lodge. It is the center of the building. On the altar lies the V.O.S.L. This book can be different depending upon where the Lodge is situated in the world, and will always allude to the beliefs of the brethren in that particular area. It is not uncommon for more than one book to be on the altar, depending on where we are. For example, if you were to go to Lodge in Jerusalem you would find four books upon the altar, alluding to the various beliefs in that city. It is important to know that everything, which we do in Masonry, emanates from the V.O.S.L. lying here on the altar, and it is the focal point of Masonry.

Here we have what we refer to as the rough and the perfect ashlar. (point to them) Now, as you begin your Masonic journey, you have been likened to the rough ashlar, which, you will notice, has some form, but is still very rough. This alludes to the fact that you have been investigated and your brethren have determined that you are-a fit and proper person to become a Mason. Now begins the work using our Masonic tools, of chipping away all that you do not need to be a Mason among men. Eventually, this rough ashlar will become more like the one we see across the Lodge room, and which we refer to as the perfect ashlar. Masonry does not add anything to you as a man, but rather takes away anything that you do not need. Masonry then, is a journey, which you have begun tonight. A journey, if you like, that takes you from the "rough ashlar" to the "perfect ashlar". Masonry is not something that you arrive at, but rather, Masonry is something that is ongoing and in which you will spend the rest of your life aspiring to perfection. However, if you look closely at the "perfect ashlar", you will see that it is not "perfect", because nothing in this mortal world is perfect. We spend our lifetime as Masons, as I have said, aspiring to perfection until, eventually, we leave this world and go to the Grand Lodge Above.

You will get out of your Masonic journey in relationship to what you are prepared to give of yourself and your talent. It is my hope, and the hope of the brethren here assembled tonight, that you will continue your Masonic journey, that you will take your obligations seriously and that you, with the help of your brethren, will make a place for yourself in Masonic circles.

Congratulations and best wishes to you, brother.