



Since 2013, the Grand Lodge officers have been working to develop and implement a long range program that promotes better planning, more effective operations, and sustainable business continuity.

One of the challenges for the Grand Lodge is the change of leadership each year. The natural tendency has been to fall into a pattern of annual change, of thinking about Rill's program, or Kaylor's program, or Schau's program. What we want to achieve is a Grand Lodge program that is consistent and effective over time.

Beginning in 2013, we met to begin seriously building a long range plan for the Grand Lodge. In that process, we came up with a four strategic priorities as well as the slogan, Freemasonry – A Brotherhood of Values. Here are those priorities.

Those priorities are:

- To Govern the Craft
- To Tell the Story of Freemasonry
- To ensure the prosperity of our lodges
- To promote the happiness and welfare of the Craft



We need to operate as an effective and efficient non-profit organization in the 21st Century

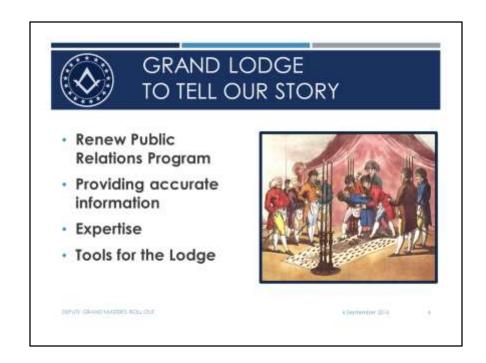
It's pretty much the same thing for our lodges. In the corporate world, we have to deal with 990s and IRS status like 501c10 and 501c3 and Ohio Revised Code and unrelated business income. We need to pay the bills and pay our staff, deal with health insurance expenses, qualified retirement plans, and all the corporate concerns.

We need to provide rules and regulations under which our system of subordinate lodges can operate successfully. That is what we hope to achieve by our Constitution, Bylaws, Resolutions, and Code for Government of Lodges.

We have to see that our own rules, our Code, is properly and fairly enacted or enforce by all our lodges and brethren. We operate according to our own rules so long as we follow those rules. If we ever begin to abuse our trust, we open ourselves up to outside interference by the courts.

We need to operate the Grand Lodge so that it can survive for another two hundred years. That requires us to be properly funded and financially solvent. Among things

you will be asked to consider at Grand Lodge is a motion to raise Grand Lodge per capita by about \$2 per member. I hope you will consider approving this motion. Right now, we have very little program money. In order to finance a Grand Master's Class, for example, I had to cut funding for the Masons Lead Better program.



To promote the general good of Masonry, the Grand Lodge will write and share the story of Freemasonry with the people of Ohio.

Today, most people don't have a clue who we are. If they have heard of us at all, they think of Dan Brown's DiVinci Code or Lost Symbol, or they saw the movie National Treasure and expect us to be rich. They think we have good and jewels buried in our basements. If only they new the truth...

So we are looking for effective ways to tell the story of who we are, what we believe in, and how we express those beliefs in our actions and activities. In our daily lives as husbands, fathers, workers, citizens.

And we are looking to create tools to help you tell the story too. The work of Freemasonry takes place in the lodge, and it is in the lodge that has to be the front line of telling our story.

To provide a high quality, professional public relations program, we are looking to partner with other grand lodges or with Scottish Rite or Shrine. We need a message that is consistent, realistic, and cost effective to produce. By

partnering, we share some costs. We also benefit from those grand lodges like Michigan who have been doing this for a while now.

We are beefing up the GL Public Relations Committee. WB Chad Simpson has effectively been that committee for a number of years now, and we need a wider perspective and more "boots on the ground" if you will.

We are a historic organization, 300 years old, legendary in many ways. But we have also dropped out of the mainstream. During the membership bubble of the 1950s and 60s, we metaphorically turned off the light on the front porch because we seemed to have everybody who was anybody.

We see it as a grand lodge responsibility to turn things around, to turn the light back on so people can find the front door. By doing so, we help our brethren, our lodges, and the general good of Masonry.



According to the Constitution, one of the reasons the Grand Lodge exists is to ensure the prosperity of our lodges. How many think the GLO does a good job of this? We could spend a day asking what should Grand Lodge do to achieve this goal, and most likely, the recommendations would fall around these four areas.

We are always trying to make it easier to run a symbolic lodge. Over the last few years, we eliminated some of the forms and paper-pushing that secretaries had to do. We are currently looking at permanent membership cards to reduce the workload that goes with collecting and then sending out dues cards each year. We have forms available to be filled out for secretaries and treasurers. We have put the Charitable Foundation form to ask for assistance online. All of these things are available 24x7.

We have provided a lot of training opportunities like Wardens and Deacons Training, the Online courses on Freemason.com, WB Mike Clevenger's Masons Lead Better workshops, which are built upon Maxwell leadership principles and WB Mike's experience as a Masonic and Shrine leader.

We have made a number of resources available for lodges to use. We have the Officer's Manual online, the Membership Guidebooks, a library of LEO programs. At

the Conference of Grand Masters, one of the other grand lodges told the assembly that Ohio had a really outstanding website, full of tools and information.

But as Grand Master Rill said, we can provide the tools, but the Craft must still put them to use. I see one of the key roles for the District Education Officer is to make sure our symbolic lodge officers know about the many resources available to them.



Grand Lodge is supposed to Promote the Happiness and Welfare of the Craft. Let's talk about Happiness first.

Happiness is one of the most misunderstood words in our Masonic vocabulary.

We are not talking about Bobby McFerrin's 1988 #1 song, "Don't Worry, Be Happy," or Pharrell Williams' 6 millon selling song "Happy."

We are talking about Thomas Jefferson's, "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." For those with a classical education like Jefferson and William Preston, author of so much of our ritual, happiness is not a state of mind but an activity. The Greek philosphers like Aristotle taught that Happiness is the highest good and the end at which all our activities ultimately aim. If we are good, if we seek fame or success or money or love, all of these are only a means to an end, and that end we call happiness.

For the Mason, we pay that rational homage to the Deity which constitutes our duty and our happiness. We enjoy the happy reflections consequent upon a well spent life. Prudence teaches us to regulate our lives and actions according to the dictates of

reason, and is that habit by which we wisely judge and prudentially determine upon all things relative to our present as well as our future happiness.

Preston also wrote about friendship that "where friendship is unknown, jealousy and suspicion prevail; but where that virtue is the cement, true happiness subsists." He adds "friendship is traced through the circle of private connections to the grand system of universal benevolence...actuated by this sentiment, each individual connects his happiness to the happiness of his neighbor, and a fixed and permanent union is established among men."

How do we put this into action? We must if the lodge is to fulfill the expectations our new members will bring when they join.

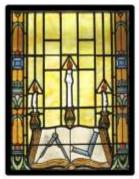


- To Promote the Happiness and Welfare of the Craft
 - The Grand Lodge will foster an environment in which each brother / member can enjoy opportunities to establish personal and fraternal connections, receive support when in need, and offer it when possible.
- We have several important and general or universal charities. Here are three.
- The GLO Charitable Foundation is now an umbrella organization with four major programs.



As a Brother Mason ...

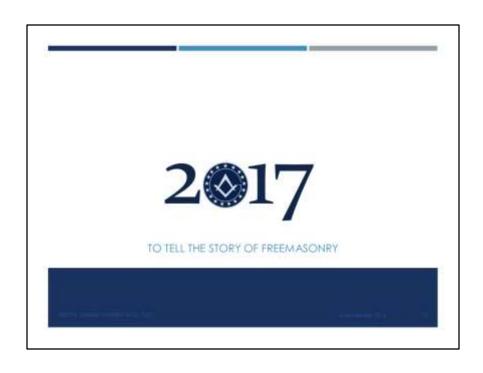
I promise to do all in my power to ensure the prosperity of our Lodges and promote the happiness and welfare of the Craft.

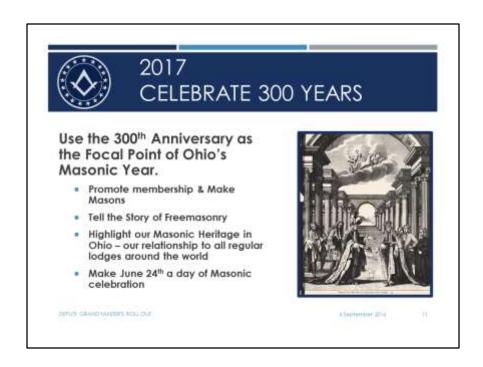


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- June 24, 1717
 - Four London lodges elect their first Grand Master at the Feast of St. John the Baptist.
 - Rapid expansion as Premier Grand Lodge
- 1723 Anderson publishes the Constitutions
- 1733 Provincial Grand Lodge of Massachusetts
- 1734 Franklin publishes Anderson in America
- 1738 Anderson publishes 2nd Edition with history
- 1774 Preston publishes 1st edition of Illustrations of Masonry
- 1808 Grand Lodge of Ohio formed using Preston as authority



According to the Ancient Charges, our work takes place in the lodge and all masons should belong to one.

If our job is to help lodges prosper but at the same time, not introduce innovation into the body of Masonry, how do we do that?

I like to think of challenges as one side of a coin. The other is opportunity. Every problem is an opportunity for a solution.

How many of you have heard of LEGOs? LEGO is a Danish Company that was founded during the Great Depression as a wooden toy company. LEGO is short for "Play Well" in Danish. They invented the world-famous brink sometime after World War II. And they did well, especially selling in the US, England, and Germany. With the rise of computers and computer games, LEGO thought they were falling out of sync with young people. So they hired new management and computer designers to run the company. These folks did all the right things according to modern management practices. And they just about bankrupted the company.

We need to meet the challenges of the Craft in 2017. We need to be a modern,

efficient organization. We need to attract men of good character to our organization – men who may not know of us or realize that we still exist.

I am convinced that we simply need to be who we are, who we have always been in terms of our core values. And I would point out that the only truly official teachings of the Grand Lodge of Ohio and therefore Ohio Freemasonry are our Ritual, our Constitution and Code, and our Proceedings.



Story of Freemasonry is the stuff of legends...

Kings and Emperors, Generals and Warriors, Artists and Musicians, Presidents, Judges, Senators, and men of power and distinction have been Masons.

The language of our Ritual reflects those legendary values.

We live out these values in our daily lives through friendship, cordial business relationship, networking, and the like.

We live out these values by being socially responsible citizens in our communities.

The reward is a well lived life.



The Membership Committee has asked us to make short videos and share them on the Grand Lodge Facebook page.



I began the rollouts planning to hold a contest on using the phrase "brotherhood of values" in a 17 word elevator speech. Weekly winners would receive a prize. After feedback in the rollouts, I have decided to table this idea.

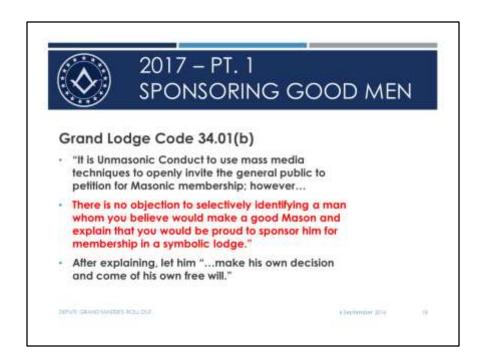


- We are not here to make members
- We are here to make Masons
 - This is the #1 thing we can do to make the world a better place
 - Men who are already Masons in their heart
 - Men who are prepared to make a life-long, life-changing promise before their Creator.
 - Men who will take up the tools of our Craft, work with their new brothers
 to care for each other, relieve those in distress, help the widow and
 orphan, improve themselves and by extension their communities, and
 climb the steps to a well spent life.
 - Good men and true.
- We know lodges need help
 - Grand Master's Class
 - Using the Anniversary as a tool to tell our story and attract those with an affinity



The focus of the year is making masons. This is what we are chartered to do. This is what I think we need to do to ensure the prosperity of our lodges.

I see the program as including five major points.



Our Code does not allow for big advertising campaigns, but it does allow us to identify a man we believe would be good and true and offer to sponsor him for membership.



This idea of offering to sponsor a man is so important, I made two slides.

Saying you would be willing to sponsor someone is a powerful statement. Use it wisely.

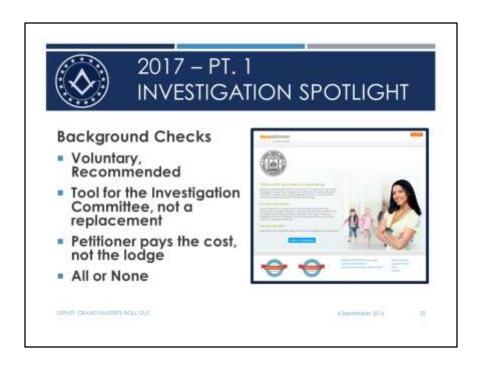


The 16th District took it on themselves to create their own program. They did not wait for Grand Lodge to provide one.

The created a website, membership package, and they are working it and seeing positive results.



But we need to tell those men who we offer to sponsor that historically there has always been an investigation into the moral qualifications of petitioners. It is our quality control mechanism if you will. They need to see this as a good thing.



As a tool to help the Investigation Committee, we have set up a background check process that lodges can choose to use at no cost to themselvers.

The petitioner pays for the check.

He goes to the Grand Lodge web site to find the link under Becoming a Member.

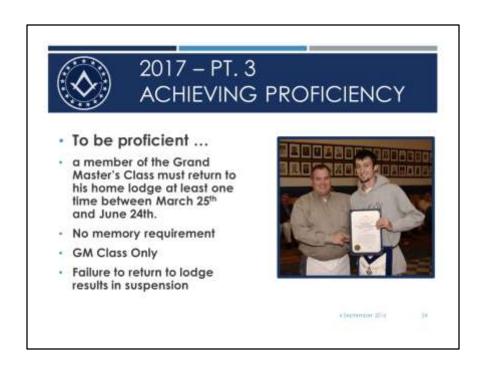
We are using an off-the-shelf volunteer background check. No magic codes. No special treatment.

If lodges choose to do this, they must do it on ALL petitioners. They cannot pick and choose. If we truly meet upon the level, then we need to treat everyone the same.

I recommend that lodges use this tool. They should make a motion to require background checks for the year. Try it out. If they like it, then pass a standing resolution to carry it forward into the future.

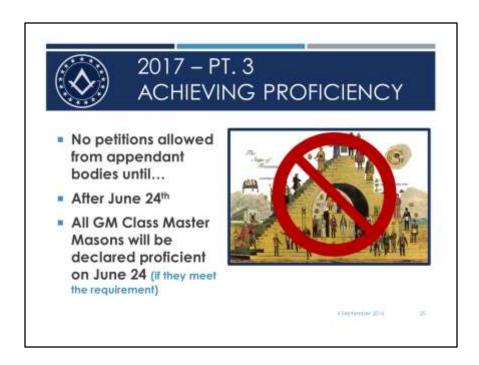


- District Event District Advisor and DDGMs lead. April 1st can be alternate date.
- Follow the existing script for Ritual New Instructional Presentations
- Lodges can pass through class costs to candidates in addition to usual fees.
 District sets fees.
- Each candidate needs a Master Craftsman Mentor
- Grand Lodge will supply miniature working tools
- Lodges are welcome to confer the EA Degree in lodge when possible, but candidates completing degrees in progress must attend all the entire 3 degree day.
- Lodges are encouraged to bring new Master Masons to the June 24th Anniversary Observance.
- New Master Masons are not done at the end of the day.



Note that the entire class is treated as a whole.

This only applies to the class. Those going through the traditional manner must still learn their work and pass their examinations in open lodge.



It does mean that members of the class are not allowed to petition the York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine, OES, Widows Sons or any organization whose membership is predicated upon being a Master Mason.

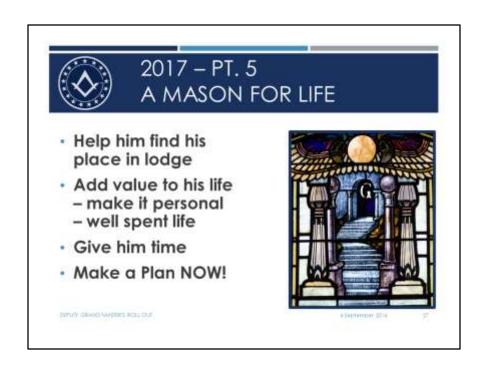
This has been discussed with the leaders of the these groups, and they have agreed to support this.

If someone ignores the rule and hands out petitions before June 24, they have committed unmasonic conduct and they will be charged and face a trial.

We don't want that, but we will enforce it.

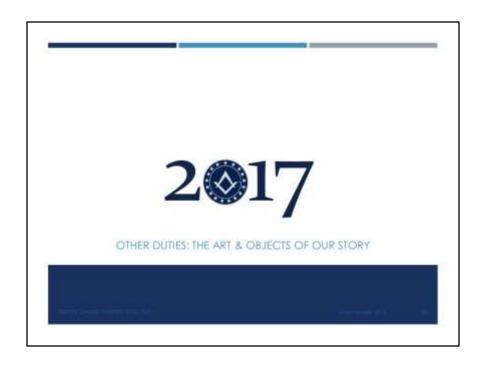


- Use the June 24th Anniversary Celebration as an opportunity to celebrate your new members and their families.
- Establish the Lodge as an anchor and ark in the new member's life a place to go to find help, friendship, respect, meaning, safety, trust, brotherhood.
- At the end of the banquet, the District Deputy will declare those MMs who have returned to lodge "proficient Master Masons."



This is the most important job for the lodge. Now that you have a new Master Mason, you need to keep him.

Make a plan to work with this new MM, and plan to work it for a year and a day.



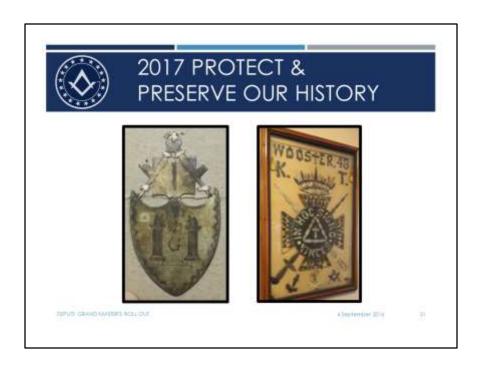


Here is a project I am asking lodges to do.

Note the importance of minutes as a historical and legal record of the lodge and its work. Note that it is a requirement of their charter.



Example of Masonic craftsmanship. Traveling Gavel from the $23^{\rm rd}$ District.



Badge on the left is the jewel of the first Worshipful Master of Ebeneezer Lodge #33, approx. date, 1816.

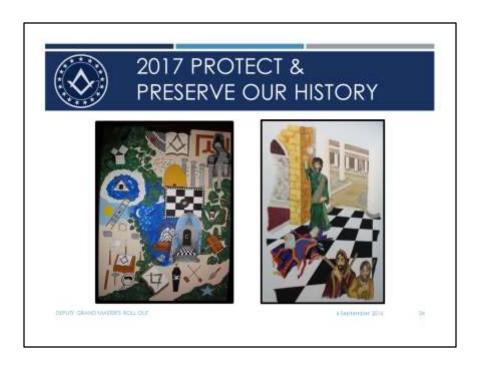
Emblem on the right is about three or four foot tall. It is made of indian arrowheads. Unique.



These three lesser lights were made recently by a blacksmith for Harmony Lodge #8 in Urbana Ohio.



Many lodge have old aprons that may be historically significant. The plan apron on the right is reported to have been worn by General George Washington when he attended American Union Lodge during the Revolutionary War.



We have artists out there who are inspired by our symbols and legends. The painting on the left is a complex trestleboard with emblems from the three degrees. The painting on the right shows Jubalum standing over Hiram.





I am asking all lodges to do a new assessment on their charitable activities and giving, to match their charity to today's needs. Lodges can choose to give to anyone charity of their choice. I hope they will remember our masonic charities as well as local giving. Also, charity includes a lodges time and talent as well as its treasure.



Diana and I plan to support the Grand Lodge Museum and Library as our charity of choice. If you want to do something for us, a gift to the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation for the Museum and Library will be appreciated.

I am also interested in restoring the hand painted stained glass windows at the Ohio Masonic Home.





We need to operate as an effective and efficient non-profit organization.

Understanding your charter rights and responsibilities is a start.

I am asking lodges to again use the Roadmap for Improvement.



- Have your lodge represented at the 300th Anniversary Observance
- · Read and Respect your Charter
- · If you're an Officer, do your duty
- As a Mason
 - Be the Best Mason You can Be
 - · Live your Obligations earn Master's Wages
 - · Treat each other by the Five Points of Fellowship
 - Own the Three Great Tenets, make them a part of who you are, everyday, 24x7,

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a September 2016

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- Community Builders Award
- Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award
- Major Jonathan Hart Service to Country Award
- Excellence in Youth Awards
- Grand Master's Education Award
- Grand Master's Award for the Lodge (New format)
- Grand Master's Community Service Award
- Rufus Putnam Distinguished Service Award

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Grand Master's Award Program - 2017

The Grand Master's Award Program for 2017 is based upon a lodge earning points for different activities. The maximum point totals can vary from lodge to lodge based on the number of members and widows it has. The period for consideration shall be August 1, 2015 through July 31, 2016. There is only one mandatory requirement.

Points earned	Max. Points	Action or Activity
Mandata		The Lodge attends the district's 300th Anniversary Banquet on June 24th, 2017.
	2	Inspection - Confer the inspection degree on a true rather than pro-tempore candidate
	6	Ritual - All three lectures are presented in degree work at least twice by the Master, Wardens, or Deacons (1 pt. per lecture. max of 3 per officer, 6 max possible)
	2	investigations – Follow Guidelines For investigations in the Grand Lodge Forms. Library. (Retain until the next lodge inspection.)
	3	Background Checks – Conduct a trial, requiring background checks on all petitioners from the lodge annual meeting until July 31, 2017.
	3	Roadmap for Improvement - Set one to three goals to improve a performance

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Florence 2016

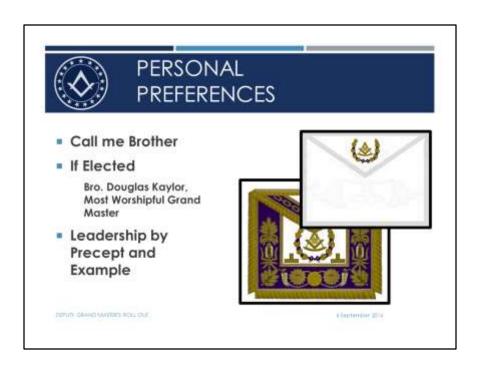
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This is about having fun.



This is serious.

I am asking lodges and districts to introduce me this year as "Brother Kaylor, Most Worshipful Grand Master." I want to emphasize that Brother is our honored title and always appropriate.



