

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio
Education and Information Committee
Revised 2011

Bulletin 11

To All Lodge Education Officers—

The following Bulletin has been prepared to give you—the Lodge Education Officer specific guidance on the use of only *authorized* Candidate Counseling material. As the bulletin states, there is a great deal of difference in Candidate Counseling and Lodge information.

The Committee is in no way endeavoring to tell any Lodge what may be presented in the way of Masonic information to the Lodge membership as a whole. The Committee does, however, insist that only *authorized* material be used in Candidate Counseling. Please keep this bulletin in your permanent file for ready reference when necessary.

BULLETIN NO. 11—CANDIDATE COUNSELING MATERIAL

The preparation of this material was an arduous task. A large and enthusiastic group of Masons spent untold hours assimilating material, researching to assure authenticity, condensing for brevity, and molding a concise volume. The work was approved by the Grand Lodge of Ohio Education and Information Committee as being authentic and in compliance with its traditions and concepts, and is considered to be sufficient for presentation to candidates.

However, many Lodge Education Officers seem to be of the opinion that new material should be forthcoming and in some cases, in an overzealous attempt to present an elaborate program, have recently used material from other Grand Lodges, or have written additional material. Some of the unsanctioned material proved to be much too voluminous for the Candidate to absorb, and some contained many inaccuracies.

Many books on Masonry published in the mid 1800s and early 1900s contain theories long since disproved. Our approved material is basic and elementary, as it should be for Candidates. It is, therefore, the decision of the Committee that only the approved Candidate Counselor's Handbook; the "On the Threshold", "The Entered Apprentice Degree", "The Fellow Craft Degree" and "The Master Mason Degree" pamphlets and flip charts of the Grand Lodge of Ohio be used for the instruction of Candidates, and no other material employed without the Committee's sanction. Contemporary books that are acceptable and available in local book stores and on the Web at Amazon.com are "Freemasons for Dummies" by Christopher Hodapp and "The Complete Idiot's Guide To Freemasonry" by S. Brent Morris. Another recent book that is well written is "American Freemasons" by Mark A. Tabbert. Two older classics are Carl H. Claudy's "Introduction to Freemasonry" and Allen Roberts' "The Craft and Its Symbols.

Let it be clearly understood: the Committee has no objection to the use of other materials in talks to *Members*. Such material could, however, more often than not, confuse a *Candidate*.

The "On The Threshold" pamphlet should be sent to the Candidate with the Secretary's Notice of Election (Grand Lodge Form 24) along with a letter from the Candidate Counselor or Mentor assigned to him asking to meet with him and his wife, if married, to begin his journey in Freemasonry.