



Whisper Good Council - Regulations

Common sense is not so common and neither is wisdom. This is true for humanity regardless of race, religion, or nationality. Mankind, therefore, must have laws and rules to govern themselves. Masons, too, need rules to govern behavior and illuminate the path as they navigate through life as a Freemason. This practical wisdom applied to conduct is aptly named regulation.



Without regulations - or practical laws loosely enforced - the highly motivated but foolish are encouraged to develop shrewd schemes that circumvent the system for selfish gain at the cost of others. They are reckless and disrupt an orderly, peaceful society. This can be evidenced by the latest economic and financial crisis where illegal money-making plots, like derivatives, ran amok unchecked for years on Wall Street. In the stock market it has been said that regulations alone guarantee mediocrity and force the highly motivated to become outlaws - rule-breakers who risk squeezing wisdom for personal gain.

In Freemasonry, however, Masonic ritual and personal conduct are governed by regulations for the fraternity's benefit, not to guarantee mediocrity, but to maintain quality ritual performance and respectable character, a goal unchanged for centuries. All Masonic regulations are in place to afford our members the substitute needed for wisdom and common sense, which are, as previously mentioned, not so common.

(*)Masons that kick against the pricks, or resist authority to their own harm, risk the result of spurning wisdom and common sense to their own detriment and

open themselves to un-Masonic behavior, all of which causes the fraternity to suffer as a whole.(*). One bad man (or one bad decision) can do more harm than a hundred good men (or a hundred good decisions) can overcome.

How are these breaches of regulation committed? One malicious lie carelessly uttered for self justification. One continuously misquoted passage of ritual uncorrected encouraging mediocrity. One condescending attitude or prejudiced comment directed toward another affects the entire fraternity. It may be that the multiplications of these "little" infractions of regulation added together become enough of a concern to cause a brother to second guess the fraternity or the regulations in place to create men of great character. Masonry is a work in progress on an individual basis, requiring all to work hard.

Brothers, Masonic regulations, no matter how seemingly trite, are in place to ensure the continuance of the fraternity as a viable vehicle to make good men better men, Brothers striving to become thus. If not, then why are we here? Practice what is preached.

When in doubt, perform ritual correctly to the best of your ability, act honorably with a propensity toward service to your brothers, and finally, follow all the laws, rules and regulations of Freemasonry, of which you are obligated to do by your own free will and accord.

(*)"Kick against the pricks" has these meanings: To resist authority to your own harm, to buck the system with the same result, or rebel, which comes from the Bible, by the way.

Fraternally,

Wayne De Vlieghe – Worshipful Master

The I's Have It



Among the many positive character traits we may see in others and hopefully ourselves, exhibited in our daily lives, there are four I find most admirable. They are: Integrity, industry, ingenuity and initiative.

Among the current Officers of Peoria Lodge there are four that have consistently demonstrated the above mentioned qualities. It is necessary that I pay wages to them for their contribution to our efforts. This is done primarily for the benefit of those Brothers who are unable to regularly attend our Lodge meetings to see them first hand.

Brother Fred Cheek is currently our Junior Deacon. He earned the status of Master Lecturer in his first 49 weeks (yes, weeks!) as a Master Mason, eagerly volunteered to rebuild and maintain the Lodge website and mentoring candidates. Fred is rapidly completing the requirements for Master Ritualist. When finished, he will join only five other Brothers in the State of Arizona, who are able to virtually perform all three Degrees by themselves.

Brother Dale Justus has been an inspiration to many in our Lodge. He is the Senior Deacon and has already surpassed the requirements for Senior Warden. He can also be called on to perform five of the parts in the Hiram Legend.

Brother Joe Terrell, even before being installed as Marshall, passed proficiency checks on the Marshall's work, the Apron presentation, Graveside prayer and the role of First Fellowcraft. Joe has also volunteered to head up the Lodge calling committee.

Brother Steve Wieters is our Senior Steward and has jumped in with both feet to assume the duties, outstandingly done for the past several years, by Brother Walt McMartin. Inclusive are the Alta Loma - Bikes for Books / Essay Contest / Children at Risk and the Angel Fair programs. Rather impressive for a Mason of less than six months.

To all these Brothers we should commend them for their efforts, most notably, that each of them has undertaken these responsibilities of their 'own free will and accord'. Now that's initiative!

May God bless us and forgive us all.

**Fraternally,
Ed Barron – Senior Warden**



Stewardship

As Masons we are encouraged to be better men as we grow in Masonry. I believe we all desire to do so, yet we may all need to have some assistance. I have personally struggled with the principals of stewardship and thought that financial stewardship would be a good start for a discussion.

We have as a country ridden one of the longest rides of prosperity and sometimes forget the need to re-evaluate our position and adjust our lifestyle choices. As an elected officer of Peoria, as well as a mentor to friends and family, I find that one of the top three topics of communication is finances. I have, over the years, learned solid principles of financial stewardship.

I have learned these principles three ways: Reading books, Mentorship and by personally making good as well as poor choices. Without a long restoration I would drop three items for thought;

- 1. SPEND LESS THAN YOU EARN! Sounds simple yet we all, at some time or another, have fallen woefully short on this. WE must learn to live on 80% MAX of our income; the remaining 20% is for charity and investments.**
- 2. INVEST IN THE FUTURE! Look, liabilities are not investments! Cars, Stereos, Furniture, Boats and Quads are not investments. They are known as depreciable assets and if your portfolio is full of only these you may find yourself in trouble without a net. Gold, securities, property (other than your primary home) are known as real assets.**
- 3. SMELL THE ROSES ON THE WAY! Savor the moments that the gracious and mighty God has blessed you with. They are the smile and wink of your spouse, laughter of your children or grand children, and that wonderful meal...**

I hope to expand in future articles.

Fraternally,

Walter R Young – Junior Warden



Serving

Steve Wieters, Senior Stewart

"I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again."

~William Penn, Master Mason

Serving is in my soul. I have enjoyed serving others my entire life. When I had the honor of becoming a Mason and joining this Lodge, I wanted to use my strength of serving to benefit our Lodge.

In July of 2010, I was asked to assist Walt McMartin, the Committee Chairman for the Arizona Masons Support Public Education, a program that is promoted and sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Arizona. Shortly after agreeing to assist Walt, I was asked to actually Chair the Committee. I was honored and accepted the challenge. Walt had already built a solid relationship and program with the administrators of the Alta Loma Elementary School in Peoria, Arizona, so the transition was seamless.

Our first project was to get the Bikes for Books program ready for the school year. In the Bikes for Books program, the students are required to read a required number of books and then their name is entered into a drawing. This drawing is done twice a year, once in December and once in April. We give away approximately 12 bikes to this program. Some bicycles are donated and some are purchased.

The second project we embarked on was the Angle Fair and Angel Dinner. Our Lodge assisted the school by providing hotdogs and donuts for the event. The event raised money to purchase gifts for the holiday season for disadvantaged children. The Angel Dinner was held in December to give away these gifts. The Lodge sponsored the dinner. A great "Thank You" goes out to WB Stan Reinhold for a fantastic dinner on short notice.

The third project completed this fall was the Essay Contest. The Grand Lodge set the essay expectations and we received 172 essays. We evaluated the essays and

awarded nine prizes ranging from \$10 to \$20. Congratulations to all of our winners! All of the winning essays were forwarded to the Grand Lodge Education Committee for consideration for the state level competition. Our eighth grade first place winner actually won first place at the state level! We will be presenting her with \$100 and a Certificate of Achievement from the Grand Lodge.

Our next project is the Bikes for Books program in spring 2011. We will be presenting the winners with their bikes.

The Committee is seeking ideas and input from our members on additional programs that we can use to help our school. Please forward any ideas to the Committee.

The pleasure of serving as the Chair on this Committee has been extremely rewarding. I am looking forward to continuing my service to our Lodge for many years to come.

Fraternally,

Arizona Masonic Education

Leadership Conference

1/22/2011



On Saturday the 22nd, the Grand Lodge held an all day Leadership seminar at Sun City Lodge #72. This was one of three seminars being held around the state. The day was open to ALL of the Masonic bodies and by my estimate; well over 150 people attended the event.

Registration began at 7:00 am and the table was soon busy with familiar faces and old friends from various

Lodges and appendant bodies. Gladly, for this writer, there were also new friends made during the day. People moved from the registration table to quickly converge on the refreshment table where coffee, donuts and conversations were enthusiastically devoured.

The day began in the main Lodge room as we all gathered collectively to take notice of how the classes would be offered and also to hear opening comments by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Jim Rowan. Each participant chose three of the 12 classes to be offered. At 8:30 the break-out sessions began and we were off for three solid hours of education.

The three sessions this writer chose were Communications, Mentoring and Planning & Goal Setting. Of the three, the latter two were by far, in my opinion, the most revealing and stimulating, to me. They were both highly effective classes that can effortlessly be brought into the Lodge and communicated to the membership.

Planning & Goal Setting: This model has been presented in other Goal Setting classes I have attended in other settings. What I enjoyed about this particular setting was the facilitator, Bro. Matt Smith. His understanding and presentation of the material gave me a new perception on recognized material. His Power Point presentation will be emailed to whoever asks him to do so. I have asked that it be sent to me so our Lodge can study and gain knowledge from the material.

Mentoring: I cannot begin to explain how much information and enthusiasm I walked away with, from this class. The facilitator was Most Worshipful Bro. Jim Sebastian. As I received his hand-outs my first thought was, "well, as usual, he has crammed way too much info on to three pages." How wrong I was.

I have not looked at mentoring the way Jim explained it in the short hour we had with him. I have always approached mentoring as one brother helping another brother to learn or memorize a particular aspect of ritual. Jim explained it in a way

that mentoring can lead to a more active Lodge with twice the sideliners we enjoy now and more. It can lead to a lifetime of true friendships and not just an acquaintance that you shake hands with and give them the informal "hello brother, how are you?"

Both of these classes can easily be presented, implemented and utilized to their fullest, if the interest and desire is there. I am hoping between Bro. Zenji and myself, and other Officers, both of these models can be presented to a full to capacity, enthusiastic and energized Lodge room.

Fraternally,

Fred Cheek - Junior Deacon

Masonic Education
By: Ed Barron, SW

WHY DO WE?

Someone will inevitably ask, "Why do we bother to do certain things at our meetings"? As a new Mason they may be puzzled by what we do or as a seasoned Mason they might see some of these things as a waste of their time. Unique to Freemasonry are the established ceremonies we call our Ritual, which is the process of teaching all Masons the lessons of the Craft. It is through the desire for precision and its reiteration that allows each of us to learn these lessons, rather than merely get the gist of it, as we plod week by week through some ever changing "reasonable facsimile."

WHY DO WE go through the eight to ten minute process of opening a tyled Lodge meeting? The answer may strike some as archaic or to others as silly. The practice stems from our primitive origins when those attending may have been unfamiliar to each other, especially true for traveling men. Simply put; close

attention to the process makes certain those who present themselves as the Officers of the Lodge are in fact who they claim to be, to the satisfaction of all.

Likewise, the Brethren on the sidelines must prove themselves by their correct responses as they rise, give the appropriate due regards and signs as well as verbal replies when called on. This whole Masonic dance is choreographed to assure all in attendance that their meeting has not been compromised by ¹cowans or ²eavesdroppers. Simply put, the practical application of our Modes of Recognition.

¹ Cowan is a person (clandestine) who has been taught to pass himself off as a Mason, though not one.

² Eavesdropper is a person who had learned the secrets by spying / listening from without.

WHY DO WE flank the Altar when a candidate is being obligated? If it were only for the benefit of the man or Brother, then only those necessary would be required to participate. The obligation is not a spectator sport, it is intended that each one of us take that solemn opportunity to silently renew our own vows. The sheer volume of Masonic teaching presented in our Lodges makes it impossible to absorb with only one exposure. Therefore, it is through countless repetitions we learn the truths offered by the Fraternity and discover the subtle hidden intricacies it contains. From there we are each charged to incorporate them into our daily lives.

From the "G" Lecture:

"thus through a succession of ages are transmitted, unimpaired, the most excellent tenets of our ancient institution."

If you have a question why we do what we do, please ask and I will try to provide an answer.