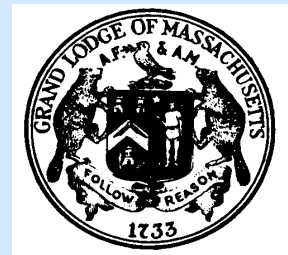


Grand Lodge of Massachusetts Membership Committee

Annual Report 2008

R.W. George J. Bibilos, Chairman



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The Membership Team: A solid core of veteran members

- R.W. Mason W. Russell
- R.W. Jeffrey L. Gardiner (Past Chairman)
- R.W. Lawrence J. Smith, Jr.
- Wor. James J. Bennette
- R.W. David A. Blake
- R.W. Paul M. Carroll
- Wor. Graeme H. Marsden
- R.W. George J. Bibilos
- Bro. H. Robert Huke

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Reinvigorating the committee with new members

- Wor. Philip A. Nowlan,
 - Friendship Lodge, Wilmington
- R.W. Ernest A. Bean
 - Simon W. Robinson Lodge, Lexington
- Wor. Jack T. Sutton
 - Corner Stone Lodge, Duxbury
- Bro. Scott T. Jareo
 - Golden Rule Lodge, Wakefield
- V.W. James R. Manuel
 - Friendship Lodge, Wilmington
- Wor. Kenneth W. Sprague
 - Converse Lodge, Malden

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Membership: An Active Committee

- The Grand Lodge Membership Committee meets the 4th Thursday of the month.
- The committee has met every month in calendar year 2008 with the exception of August.
- In recent months committee member lodge buildings have been hosting us including Friendship Lodge in Wilmington, Simon W. Robinson in Lexington and Converse Lodge in Malden.



Master's Path

- The Membership Committee presented a module on membership at all 3 of the Master's Path sessions in Wakefield, Westfield and in Charlton in 2008, stressing the new emphasis on membership engagement.
- The Committee has already been asked to participate in training scheduled for 2009.

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275th Anniversary Open House

- Our first spring open house was held on March 8, 2008 in conjunction with the 275th Anniversary of Grand Lodge.
- Despite the rainy day, based on projections from the lodge feedback forms, it appeared the fraternity would likely realize 300 new members as a result of the open house.
- In an executive summary prepared for the Grand Master, it was unanimously recommended that the spring open house become a regular event to support membership development.
- Recommendation accepted. March 28, 2009 will be next year's spring open house.



The Ambassador Program

- Was successfully transitioned to the new statewide Chairman, Wor. Philip A. Nowlan.
- Emphasis on the program was made more nuts and bolts oriented. Ambassadors are the fraternity's point persons for membership development.
- New successful website was developed:
www.masonicambassadors.net



Ambassador Training

- Ambassador Training was offered at 3 venues, Fall River, Wakefield, and East Longmeadow over the summer.
 - Approximately 250 ambassadors were trained.
- Modules covered included:
 - Foot Soldiers for Membership
 - Mentoring & Engaging New Members
 - Membership Development & Spokesmen
 - Generations & the future of Freemasonry

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Square & Compasses Day 2008

- Has become established as part of our membership development strategy.
- Lodge feedback (mostly positive) is trending back upwards after falling dramatically in 2006.
- 104 lodges submitted feedback forms reporting over 1100 visitors, 664 prospects and 211 signed applications.
- Projecting off of these numbers the fraternity should realize 350-400 new members as a result of this event.

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District Deputy Grand Master Training

- In November training was given to the current and incoming District Deputies.
- Membership programs, resources, and initiatives were outlined at this meeting in Westborough.

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Membership presence in The Trowel

- Membership had articles in all 4 issues of the Trowel in 2008. Subjects covered:
 - 4,000 New Members: Rule or Exception?
 - Membership Engagement: Taking Membership Development to the Next Level
 - Ambassadors: Foot Soldiers for Membership
 - The Master Mason Rookie Award

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www.masonicambassadors.net

- Successful new webpage of the Membership Committee which contains:
 - Ambassador training materials
 - All news and documents pertaining to membership
 - Names and email contacts for District Ambassadors
 - Feedback forms for open house
 - An on-line forum for ambassadors to exchange ideas
 - Scrolling current news items

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Master Mason Rookie Award

- Modeled after a successful program being used in another jurisdiction.
- The award requires a newly raised Master Mason to complete ten tasks within a year of raising.
- Once signed off by the lodge and approved by Grand Lodge, the rookie member is presented the award at the next visit by the District Deputy Grand Master.

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The Working Tools

- The committee developed a consolidated membership development manual which takes a more comprehensive look at membership development in the areas of recruitment, retention & engagement.

(Currently with the Grand Master for final approval before release.)



Themes for 2009: Reaching for new heights

- The need to stress “quality along with quantity” of new members.
- Asking lodges to develop SMART (Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Realistic & Timely) goals for membership.
- Continued emphasis on membership engagement particularly the “on-boarding” process of new members and the roles of the lodge ambassadors.

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In conclusion

Thank you for your interest and with that your support of the Grand Lodge Membership Committee.

Our success working with our lodges will determine the success of our fraternity as a whole as we continue to rebuild our fraternity for the 21st century.