

Freemasonry in the Future

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One day great men will travel across the land - doing great deeds for their King and country!

Their quest will not be alone and others will follow! So the Freemasonry of the thirteenth century continues to this day!

Today is the start of our FUTURE - Today we continue into the unknown, but just as those men of so long ago - we have the means to direct and shape the future.

Freemasonry- today is alive and kicking - despite the doom and gloom that some will have us believe.

Freemasonry will not just go away, as some want us to believe. I'm not making an emotional or wild Statement on our future, because Freemasonry will continue long after the Brethren sitting in this room tonight have moved on to the Great Lodge above.

Before you do, each of you has an important part to play in that future, you have a responsibility to assist and support that link to the future.

Just as our forefathers provided the pathway to our enjoyment and privilege to be able to belong to such a wonderful fraternity, we have to provide the building blocks for our future members.

Planning, direction and the ability to succeed does not happen over night, nor does it happen without proper process.

Too many of our members sit back and extrapolate the obvious solutions. My thoughts and experience is that too often, all we produce is a lot of hot air.

Sure some of the ideas are great and may even work but like everything else in this world, we know that change does not come from word alone. Change does not come from just someone's idea on how we can do business better.

Change comes from ORGANIZATIONS wanting to change. CHANGE MANAGERS managing the change and in our case the Brethren as a whole and as enablers of the change, overcoming the BLOCKERS and VERBAL generators from their destructive behaviour.

Who has not sat in a lodge and heard the "but we always do it this way!" or "We can't change the business format!"

I am of the firm opinion that everything, other than the basic format of the ritual is open for change - provided it's within the law.

How do we achieve that with so many BLACKENS and KNOCKERS. Well for one moment in time, let's take out the so-called experts - you know them - every lodge has them.

They are the ones that have an opinion on everything that has can or will be done in Freemasonry. They create so much hot air in some Lodges - I'm sure that the Secretaries some times have trouble seeing the Master for all the hot air floating around some Lodge rooms.

I am not saying to stifle opinion or close down free expression, but have you noticed that the ones that have the most to say are generally the very same ones that are missing from the planning meetings or are too busy to take on a task and research something in an open and full manner (their own opinion often gets in the way).

If change is going to be accepted, then it must come with the support of the majority - not just a few. The need for our Brethren to own the change should not be underestimated.

Just as many Organization have already done before us Lions, Rotary, Abel, Red Cross or the CVv'A, we need to manage one step at a time after full and proper planning.

Early this year the district had a planning day, as in past years and a lot of good ideas were raised and discussed. But when it comes to researching and facilitating these changes - not a lot of Brethren have come forward - the small number who did, need your help.

It reminds me of the story of the dead horse - which in part goes something like this,
"A jockey was riding track work and the horse fell down dead with him still on it.

The union told the jockey to stay where he was as it was up to management to fix the problems.

The race course committee decided that while they had a lot of things they could do, it was up to the owner to do something.

The owner decided that he was not going to get any help so why should he be bothered with the problem.

The Governing body decided to rename the dead horse as now life extinct and that should solve the problem and the Union told the jockey to stay where he was etc etc etc."

How close is that to the way we seem to do business -lots of (minions and rhetoric, but very little action.

So what of the future - If there is still one lodge functioning, we still will have freemasonry. The UGLO web site says that we are Charitable, Benevolent, Communal, Educational, Religious and Social. Therefore will society as whole allow us to just disappear from the books -I doubt that individuals will not continue to want to join an organization such as ours, but maybe not in the great numbers we have enjoyed in the past!

Just as those other organizations have learned to survive - we too will succeed and prosper into the future with less numbers.

Provided that Freemasonry continues to provide High Moral Standards, Kindness in the Home, Courtesy in society, Honesty in Business and Fairness in all Dealings will not allow us to disappear.

I know that some of you are sitting there thinking that I have an unrealistic view of the World - But nearly three hundred years of modern Freemasonry can't be wrong!

With the advent of new technology Freemasonry will change, just as Globalization has had a hand in how the world does business without boundaries so will the Freemasonry of the future need less boundaries and borders to worry about? With these changes in technology comes the ownership to enable that change.

The future of Lodge members logging on the Internet may be a little further in the future, but it serves to remind us that arguing over whether we need to streamline the business parts of our meeting to make them more interesting - a moot point.

How we get to the future is about the basics -Brotherly love, Relief and Truth - if we are unable to live by those principles - how can we expect to be given the responsibility of making it happen.

So next time you feel like criticizing or suggesting ways of improvement - do something more!

In conclusion I would like to leave you with something from Robert Fulghuni

"All I really need to know - I learned in Kindergarten"

"Share everything, Play fair, Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them,

Clean up after yourself, say you're sorry when you hit somebody, wash your hands before you eat, Flush, Warm cookies and milk are good for you, Live a balanced life.

Learn some, Think some, Draw some, Paint some, Sing some, Dance some. Play some, Work some and Take a nap every afternoon, When you go out into the world watch out for the traffic, hold hands and stick together, Be aware of winter"

We can only meet the future together, as individuals we will fail!!!

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