

# **Candidate Education and the Mentor Program**

## **The Plan**

### **Step One**

Immediately after election the introduction section of the Masonic Enrichment Book, and the binder, which contains quest books Number 1 & 2 should be given to the candidate by his newly assigned Mentor, and the material in it should be discussed.

This along with a cover letter should be hand delivered to the new candidate. The cover letter should inform the candidate that he has been elected to receive the degrees in our fraternity by unanimous ballot, and introduce his Mentor. It should indicate the date of his first degree and ask the candidate to arrive one hour prior to the starting time of his Entered Apprentice Degree.

A suggestion is: A notice of the Candidate's name, the Mentor's name, and the date set for the degree should be sent to the Area Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Lodge Representative, so that the Grand Lodge Representative can be aware of the degree and lend any help needed in the candidate education process.

### **Step Two**

The Mentor meets with the candidate one hour prior to the Entered Apprentice Degree. The mentor stays with the candidate at all times prior to the degree. It is the job of the mentor to make the candidate feel comfortable and relaxed. He should answer the best he can the questions and concerns of the candidate. When members arrive, he should introduce them to the candidate. The mentor should give a tour of the facility, have refreshments available and casually discuss Quest Books nos. 1 and 2 with the candidate.

At the end of the First Degree the Mentor gives the new Brother the section about the first degree to put in his Masonic Enrichment book, and sets a time to discuss it with him.

This section contains Quest Book #3, some discussion questions along with the answers, an explanation of the Signs, Word, Grip, how to enter and retire from a Lodge of Entered Apprentices, and the symbolism of the Apron. A discussion of the Obligation should be started by the Mentor to make certain that any questions or problem or understanding is brought out so that they can be addressed. In addition plans should be made to get the new Brother involved in any Lodge activities that might be coming up, as well as to visit a neighboring Lodge. And to witness a First Degree either at his Lodge or a neighboring Lodge.

## **Step Three**

A meeting with the candidate should be held in the Lodge Room prior to the scheduled Fellowcraft Degree. The Lodge room should be set up for the first degree with all the related objects and working tools.

The following should be discussed:

1. The opening and closing of the Lodge.
2. The form and contents of the Lodge.
3. The officers and their stations, and places.

Answer all the questions from the candidate. At this time, if not done previously, the prepared Questions and Answers of the First Degree should be reviewed with the candidate. The Q& A should be used as a tool to help the candidate learn more about the Entered Apprentice Degree.

The section on the Second Degree for the new Brother's Masonic Enrichment Book should be presented to the candidate at the end of the Second Degree by the Mentor.

The discussion questions, and an explanation of the Signs, Words, Grips, how to enter and retire from a Lodge of Fellowcrafts, symbolism of the Apron, and the Obligation should be given to the new brother at the end of the Second Degree. Plans to keep the new Brother involved in Lodge activities should continue, a visit to a neighboring Lodge, for one of their activities, communication, or Second Degree, should be pursued.

## **Step Four**

A meeting with the candidate should be held in the Lodge Room prior to the scheduled Master Mason Degree. The Lodge room should be set up for the Second Degree with all the related objects and working tools, including the pillars, winding stairs, and letter G.

The following differences between the Entered Apprentice Degree and the Fellowcraft Degree should be discussed:

1. Cable Tow.
2. Circumambulation.
3. Masonic Light.
4. Apron,
5. Working Tools.

Answer all the questions from the candidate. At this time, if not done previously, the prepared Questions and Answers of the Second Degree should be reviewed with the

candidate. The Q& A should be used as a tool to help the candidate learn more about the Fellowcraft Degree, including the Signs, words, Grips, and Obligation.

## **Step Five**

Plans to keep the new Brother involved in Lodge activities should be ongoing, and a visit to a neighboring Lodge should be planned for if not done previously. He should be taught how to prove himself to be a Mason when he visits another Lodge, he should be aware of the similarities and differences in Masonic Lodges in his jurisdiction.

A meeting with the candidate should be held in the Lodge Room to discuss the first section of the Master Mason Degree. The Lodge Room should be set up for the Third Degree with all the related objects and working tools.

The following differences between the three Degrees should be discussed:

1. Cable Tow.
2. Circumambulation.
3. Masonic Light.
4. Apron.
5. Working Tools.

Discuss the events of the second section of the Master Mason Degree:

The new Brother should be introduced to the Lodge's Masonic Library, and made aware of other resources available from the Lodge and the Grand Lodge. Information about joining Masonic Education Lodges, Research Lodges, the Minnesota Masonic Book club, and subscribing to the Short Talk Bulletin should be given to the Brother at this time, which is all included in the final sections for his Masonic Enrichment Book.

Answer all the questions from the candidate. At this time, if not done previously, the prepared Questions and Answers of the Third Degree should be reviewed with the candidate. The Q& A should be used as a tool to help the candidate learn more about the Master Mason Degree. The Signs, Words, Grips, and Obligation should also be discussed and learned.

## **Completion**

At the end of all off the steps the mentor informs the Master that the new Brother has completed the Mentor Program. The Mentor, in association with the Lodge Secretary, completes the compliance sheet and returns it to the Grand Lodge office. A Suggestion is: Upon its receipt, a certificate of Masonic Achievement can be mailed to the Grand Lodge Representative, and which he, another Grand Lodge Officer, or his designee, should present to the new Brother in open Lodge.