Masonic Organization

Slide 1: Title Slide

Slide 2: Grand Lodge Seal

You have petitioned and have been initiated through the three degrees by your home Lodge, which received its charter from the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin.

 This make you a member of this Grand Lodge and is your entry into the Fraternity.

Slide 3: Freemasonry Worldwide

Freemasonry has been in existence for centuries and is a worldwide organization, with Grand Lodges in almost every country of the world.

Like countries, Grand Lodges have sovereign jurisdiction over its Lodges, and like countries will have diplomatic relations between Grand Lodges.

In the US each state has a Grand Lodge.

Slide 4: Reporting Structure

The reporting structure of the Grand Lodge is similar to a big corporation.

The Grand Lodge offices are like corporate headquarters.

Districts are like regional offices. Areas are like divisions, with Lodges reporting up the chain.

The Grand Lodge, like any organization, is organized as a pyramid.

Each level assists the level below and serves the level above.

The Grand Line and Grand Master are not exactly on the same level, but for simplicity I have put them together at the top.

They operate under the rules set out in the Masonic Code.

Slide 5: Grand Lodge Officers

The Grand Lodge officers are either elected or appointed.

To be a Grand Lodge officer you must be a Past Master of your Lodge and a Master Mason in good standing.

Slide 6: Grand Lodge Line Organization

These are the Grand Lodge Officers, we are all members of the Grand Lodge like the Officers and members of your local Lodge

Officers are creating a slightly larger version of your Blue Lodge with a couple of exceptions.

 There is a Deputy Grand Master who assists the Grand Master

The Counselor is replaced by the Grand Orator who focuses on education, and the Grand Lecturer who focuses on Ritual

The Grand Marshall leads ceremonies and processions, and I will discuss the District deputies later

Slide 7: Districts and Areas

Wisconsin is divided into twelve districts.

Each District will have subsets of Lodges combined into areas.

This provides a two-way flow of communications between Grand Lodge and the Lodges.

Messages from Grand Lodge are easily broadcast to the Lodges and Lodge status and requirements for assistance are efficiently communicated up to the Grand Lodge.

Slide 8: District Team

The District Team has two components; administration and ritual.

 The administration is headed by the District Deputy Grand Master.

He speaks for the Grand Master when he attends meetings and events in his District.

He also reports to the Grand Master the status of the Lodges and whether they require assistance from the Grand Lodge.

To help him with this “boot on the ground” position, the District Deputy Grand Master has Area Administers, each with a subset of Lodge within the District.

They are the liaisons between the Lodges and the Grand Lodge.

The ritual is overseen by the District Lecturer.

He keeps the “Pure Work” for the District, and will conduct Schools of Instruction to teach officers and brethren the ritual.

He will also certify brothers as Ritualists (who have memorized all parts of a degree) and Proficiency men(who have memorized all parts of all three degrees).

He reports to the Grand Lecturer who oversees the Ritual to ensure it is conducted with proficiency and consistency throughout the Lodges.

Slide 9: The Lodge

Each Lodge has a charter and by-laws.

When you become a Master Mason you sign the book that confirms that you have received your copy of the By-Laws.

Each Lodge operates under both its by-laws and the Masonic Code.

Slide 10: Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master is responsible for running the Lodge, not only during the meetings but also represents the Lodge in the community.

The Senior Warden will be the presiding officer in the absence of the Worshipful Master. He is responsible for the Work.

The Work of a Mason is the ritual work done within the Lodge and charity, both Masonic and to the community.

The Junior Warden will be the presiding officer in the absence of the Worshipful Master and the Senior Warden.

A Lodge cannot be opened for a stated communication or degree work unless one of the principle officers are present.

He acts as the youth Group liaison to DeMolay and the Bethel if present.

The Junior Warden is responsible for refreshments. He will oversee dinners or refreshments at meetings, and will be responsible for planning and overseeing events.

The Secretary is the administrative backbone of the Lodge.

 Record the proceeding of the Lodge.

Receive all monies paid into the Lodge, keep a detailed accounting of monies received or paid out, and transfer all funds to the Treasurer.

Receive and answer all correspondence.

The Treasurer will receive all monies from the Secretary and give receipt thereof and keep a just and true account of all monies.

He will immediately deposit all monies received into their proper accounts.

He will give a financial report at stated meetings when requested by the Master.

The Senior and Junior Deacons report to the Senior Warden.

They will help set up the Lodge for meetings and degrees, they will introduce and acommodate visiting brethren, and conduct the candidates during the degrees.

The Senior and Junior Stewards report to the Junior Warden and are his principle helpers on the Refreshment and Entertainment Committee.

They will arrive early to help the Junior Warden prepare the refreshments and set tables for the hospitality period before or following Lodge.

They will help the Junior Warden serve the brethren during that period as well as help in cleaning afterwards.

A demonstrated reverence for the tenets of Masonry is the towering characteristic of the Chaplain.

Specifically, he is charged with offering devotions at appropriate occasions and when requested by the Master.

The Chaplain will also assist the Worshipful Master in conducting Funeral Services.

The Tiler will guard the outer door, vouch for all visitors and ensure that all are properly clothed.

The Counselor has as his principle goal to teach the fundamentals of Freemasonry to each candidate.

He will also provide continuing Masonic education to all members at Lodge meetings.

Further he provides oversight to the mentors, he should not be the mentor to all candidates.

Conclusion

No matter your office, or your attainment you must remember that as Masons we all meet on the level.

It does not matter if you are the newest EA or the Grand Master, we all meet as equals, and this single principle stands above any jewel or apron your Brothers may bestow upon you.