**Where to Learn More about Masonry**

**Slide 1 - Introduction**

Receiving the degrees of Masonry is your first introduction to the symbols, lessons and allegories of the Craft. Each degree has its own unique symbols, lectures and a charge which pertain to it. The amount of information that you receive during your degrees, is more than anyone can absorbed in one sitting. Each time that you witness a degree and hear the lectures and charge, you will discover something new.

Further study and research are necessary to fully appreciate the intricacies, details and deeper meaning contained in each. A question you might ask is, where do I go find this information?

This presentation will introduce you to some of the resources that are available to you to continue your education. **Click**

**Slide 2 – A Lifelong Pursuit**

There are many learned expositors of Masonry, some have dedicated their lives to studying the craft, perfecting the ritual and deciphering it’s deeper meanings. There are volumes of books, literally millions of pages, that have been written about Masonry going back as far as the 1700’s all the way to the present which seek to ponder and articulate it’s hidden mysteries. **Click**

There is a wealth of educational and informational resources available to you at the Lodge, District and Grand Lodge levels.

There is also a considerable amount of information available on the internet. But since the sources cannot always be verified, it is recommended that you first seek out information from learned Brothers and build the foundation of your knowledge from trusted sources. You will then be able to easily decipher the truth from fiction.

Lets explore some of the offerings at each level. **Click**

**Slide 3 – Lodge Level Resources**

Your first, best, and closest resource for information about Masonry is your Lodge. Talk to your Mentor, Counselor, and your new Brothers. Ask them questions about Masonry in general, the lessons that you received, the symbols we use, the ritual, and what goes on during your Lodge communications. **Click**

The Masonic Light Series is provided to all new Masons. It is your introductory study materials about the degrees that you have received. All new Masons are required to study and demonstration a basic of proficiency in all three degrees by passing a suitable in examination in Lodge. Your mentor, Counselor and other Brothers will be available to work with you and go through each study guide, answer any questions you may have and prepare you for the examination.

Every Lodge should conduct masonic education as part of its stated communications. If you don’t see it on the agenda, ask your WM or Counselor about it. **Click**

Enough has been written about Masonry to literally fill a library. In fact your Lodge probably has a library of books about Masonry. If your particular Lodge doesn’t have a library, other Lodges in your District will. Speak to your Lodge Officers about what might be available and how to check them out . **Click**

All Master Masons are permitted to receive a copy of the multiple letter cipher. This book is the primary source by which to learn all of our Masonic ritual. Talk to your Mentor or Counselor about obtaining a copy. Seek out a Ritualist, or learned Brother in your Lodge to begin your studies. **Click**

Some Lodges have outside activities like book clubs, or social events where they meet and discuss Masonry. Ask if your Lodge has any of these events. If not, talk about starting one! **Click**

**Slide 4 – District Level Resources**

Your District Team provides a Newsletter that advertises numerous events that they arrange or coordinate for sharing information about the craft. Some examples are: **Click**

Upcoming Degrees and meetings, Spring and Fall District meetings. **Click**

Special social events. Specific educational events for Secretaries and Treasurers to learn about Lodge administration and how to use our administration application called MORI. There are also events for incoming Lodge Officers to learn the roles and responsibilities of each office and sessions for new WM’s on Lodge management, how to set up a Lodge calendar, budget management, and more. **Click**

Your District Lecturer will conduct one or more schools of instruction during the year where participants will go through the various rituals and degree work, practice rodwork and floorwork and share information on how and why we do what we do. They can also provide tips on memorization techniques, how to schedule and conduct degrees, effective presentation of lectures and charges. **Click**

Your District newsletter might also provide listings of educational resources. **Click**

**Slide 5 – Grand Lodge of Wisconsin Resources**

The Grand Lodge of Wisconsin has a website **Click** which provides numerous educational and informational resources that can be accessed by Lodges and individuals. **Click**

The Wisconsin Masonic Journal is a monthly publication that is a wonderful source of interesting articles and facts about Freemasonry. Every Mason gets a copy of the Masonic Journal and it is available online via the Grand Lodge website. **Click**

A new learning management system is being developed as a one-stop-shop for masonic education offerings. A link to it will be available on the Grand Lodge website. It will contain a wide variety of courses and topics of interest and offer a range of media options from transcripts to presentations, audio files and reading selections. The intent is to provide something that meets your needs and in a format that is suits individual preferences. The site will organize content in a style similar to a college curriculum with offerings that progress in complexity from a basic 101 level to a 400 expert level. Lodges or individuals can pick and choose the subjects they would like to cover either a la carte or as a part of a learning track. New content will be added on a regular basis to keep it fresh, interesting, and challenging. **Click**

**Slide 6 – Suggested Readings**

In order to learn, a Mason must read. Here are some classic works to put on your reading list. **Click**

One of the most prolific and authoritative authors of books about Masonry is Dr Albert G Mackey. He has written several comprehensive volumes about Freemasonry, including The Symbolism of Freemasonry, The History of Freemasonry, and The Principals of Masonic Law. Your Lodge probably has multiple copies of Mackey’s work in its library. **Click**

A couple other classics which are highly recommended are, The Meaning of Freemasonry by Walter Leslie Wilmshurst and The Spirit of Masonry by William Hutchinson.

Hutchinson’s book was originally published in 1775, the Mackey and Wilmshurst offerings in the 1850’s. Even though they were written centuries ago, the lessons they impart are deep and thought provoking and are just as meaningful today as they were then. **Click**

**Slide 7 – Suggested Readings**

Short Talk Bulletins are pamphlet style readings that are published monthly by the Masonic Service Association of North America. They are compilations that cover a wide variety of topics written by Masons from all over the world. They take 10 minutes or less to read and offer interesting insights and stories on the practical application of Masonry and how it intersects with our daily lives. The Short Talk Bulletins come out monthly and every Lodge receives a copy. Individuals can purchase a subscription through the Masonic Service Association for $12 per year, or they can be downloaded as audio files from www.msana.com **Click**

Take a look on your Lodges bookshelf or the bookshelves of other Lodges in your District and see what hidden treasures they hold. Here are a few interesting books and booklets that I found while perusing my Lodge Library. These were popular publications and your Lodge probably has copies of them. The Meaning of Masonry and the Introduction to Freemasonry are multi-volume series on a variety of topics. At 50-60 pages, they short and easy reads that make for interesting conversation or as a topic for your Lodge education. **Click**

Ask some of your Brothers about books they have read, or a quick search on Amazon will yield a number of books to choose from.

Whatever your preference or specific interest are, there is something for everyone out there. **Click**

**Slide 8 – Source Summary**

Here is a short summary of some of the informational and educational resources that were introduced in this presentation. These and many more resources are available to you at the Lodge, District and Grand Lodge levels. All you need to do is seek them out. Best of luck to you with your quest for knowledge and a deeper understanding of our Craft. **Click**