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MENTOR PROGRAM

THE MINNESOTA COUNSELOR'S GUIDE

(Revised, 1995)

Prepared by the
Counselor Committee
of the

**GRAND LODGE, ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED
MASONS OF MINNESOTA**



SEVEN STEPS TO MASONIC LIGHT

MENTOR PROGRAM

The Minnesota Counselor's Guide

(Revised, 1995)

FORWARD

The Mentor Program has been prepared by the Counselor Committee of the Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota. This program has been developed from a variety of successful educational and instructional programs used in several Grand Jurisdictions, including Iowa, Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Nevada. We have borrowed freely from their publications and from those of the Masonic Service Association.

The Mentor Program has now been in use for several years. It is the adaptation of a program originally developed by Hennepin Area Masters' and Wardens' Association.

It is designed to hone the appetite of a candidate for "More Light In Masonry" and to prepare him for active membership in our fraternity. The Mentor Program has proven to be a highly effective method of practical education for candidates in the history and philosophy of Masonry, and in the real significance of its ritual. This Guide describes the Plan, its purpose, and includes suggestions for its successful operation. When properly implemented, it presents considerable interesting and educational information for candidates, as well as existing Masons.

The Mentor Program is built on the foundation of the six pamphlets published by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, under the general title, *Your Quest for Masonic Light*. The program incorporates the required written proficiencies of the Grand Lodge and is based on the personal contact between a mentor and a candidate.

The Mentor Program can be used by any Lodge, large or small, and all Lodges are urged to adopt it. The program is urgently necessary for advancing the Masonic knowledge of the candidate and, consequently, for the success of the Lodge.

The Mentor Program should be placed in the hands of the Master, Wardens, Secretary, and all line officers of a Lodge. This plan should be made available to any Mason for the asking.

MENTOR PROGRAM

The Minnesota Counselor's Guide

(Revised, 1995)

THE SYSTEM

The Mentor Program is a system for the Seven Steps to Masonic Light. The program is simple in design, practical and economical. It is operated by the Lodge for the candidate. Being in a receptive state of mind, the candidate will receive a better understanding and a greater appreciation of the purposes, ideals, privileges and obligations of Freemasonry.

The Mentor Program offers an outlined plan consisting of Seven Steps. It is based on the pamphlets entitled *Your Quest for Masonic Light*, the written proficiency requirements of Grand Lodge, and a close personal relationship between mentor and candidate.

THE PURPOSE

The purpose is to educate the candidate who will be our new Brother. Because an educated candidate is likely to become more active in a Lodge's functions, the Lodge can be invigorated with new members who are interested in taking an active part.

It is the duty of every Lodge to fulfill the desire which a candidate has expressed when he petitioned for initiation. It is our duty to educate, not just train.

It is not merely a Lodge that he is joining, but a global Fraternity. It is asking too much to expect a new member to make himself at home in a society without the proper education. A new candidate has the right to expect a Lodge to provide him with all the information and educational opportunities he needs. It is necessary that a new candidate become inspired with the spirit to believe in, as well as to understand, the purposes and ideals of Freemasonry.

THE PLAN

Step One

Immediately after election, Quest Book No. 1 should have the blanks filled out by the Master, providing the mentor's name, address, and phone number. This, along with a cover letter, should be sent or carried to the new candidate. The cover letter should inform the candidate that he has just been elected to receive the degrees in our fraternity by unanimous ballot. 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. Quest Book No. 2 should have the blanks filled out by the leader of the Mentor Program. This should be sent or carried to the new candidate with another cover letter. This letter should introduce the candidate to his mentor and indicate that his mentor will meet him at the Lodge one hour before his Entered Apprentice Degree.

The mentor should call the candidate prior to the date of his Entered Apprentice Degree. He should introduce himself; explain his relationship as a mentor or teacher; encourage him to invite any Mason he may know to his degrees; remind the candidate of the time, date, and place of his degrees; inquire as to the candidate's progress in reading Quest Books No. 1 and No. 2.

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 as 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 No. 1 and No. 2 with the candidate.

Quest Book No. 3 should be presented to the candidate at the end of the degree by the Master or the mentor.

The written proficiency should be given to the candidate at the conclusion of the degree.

Step Three

A meeting with the candidate should be held in the Lodge room before the scheduled Fellow Craft 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.
4. The method of conferring the degree.

Discuss Quest Book No. 3

	<u>Page</u>
A. Entered Apprentice.	5-6
B. The Masonic World.	8
C. Tenets of Free Masonry.	9-13
D. Three Great Lights.	14-15
E. Masonic Light.	15
F. Cable Tow.	15
G. Circumambulation.	16
H. Working Tools of an E.A.	16
I. The Apron.	16-17
J. Privileges and Duties.	17-19
K. Cardinal Virtues.	21-22

Answer all questions from the candidate. Have the candidate return the written proficiency for the first degree prior to the Fellow Craft Degree.

Quest Book No. 4 should be presented to the candidate at the end of the degree by the Master or mentor.

The written proficiency should be given to the candidate at the conclusion of the degree.

Step Four

A meeting with the candidate should be held in the Lodge room before his scheduled Master Mason Degree. The Lodge room should be set up for a 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 Fellow Craft Degrees should be discussed:

- I. Cable Tow
- II. Circumambulation
- III. Masonic Light
- IV. Apron
- V. Working Tools

Discuss Quest Book No. 4

	<u>Page</u>
A. Fellow Craft	3
B. Operative Masonry	4
C. Speculative Masonry	5-6
D. The Pillars	12
E. The Winding Stairs	13-15
F. Jewels of a Fellow Craft	13
G. The Letter G	15

Answer all questions from the candidate. Have the candidate return the written proficiency for the second degree prior to the Master Mason Degree.

Quest Book No. 5 should be presented to the Brother at the end of the degree by the Master or mentor. (Some Lodges will also present Quest Book No. 6 at this time.)

The written proficiency for the third degree should be given to the candidate at the conclusion of the degree.

Step Five

A meeting with the Brother should be held in the Lodge room to discuss the first section of the third degree. The Lodge should be set up for the third degree with all related objects and working tools.

The following differences between the three degrees should be discussed:

- I. Cable Tow
- II. Circumambulation
- III. Masonic Light
- IV. Apron
- V. Working Tools

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

Discuss Quest Book No. 5

	<u>Page</u>
A. Sublime Degree.	2-4
B. Legend of Hiram	5-6
C. The Lost Word	7-8
D. Obligations and Duties.	9-10
E. Rights and Privileges.	10-11
F. Masonic Responsibilities.	11-15
G. Masonic Books.	18-19

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 Education Lodge and signing up for the Short Talk Bulletins should be given to the Brother at this time.

Answer all questions from the newly-raised Brother. Have the written proficiency for the third degree returned by our Brother as soon as possible.

Step Six

The mentor attends four Lodge functions with the new Brother. This should include two stated meetings, one degree (an Entered Apprentice Degree, if possible) and one open function (i.e., Family Night, Guest Night, Installation).

At the stated meetings, the mentor instructs the new Brother on the tradition and history of his Lodge, Masonic etiquette, the means and different ways of public recognition, Lodge charities, voting, membership privileges, the exclusion of political and religious discussions, and the Grand Lodge. At this time, Quest Book No. 6 should be presented (if it was not done during Step Four).

Step Seven

The mentor arranges and accompanies the new Brother on a visitation to another Lodge. This should be to a stated meeting, degree, open function or installation. The mentor instructs the new Brother on:

- A. How to Prove Yourself to be a Mason.
- B. How This Lodge is Different.
- C. How This Lodge is the Same.

Completion

At the end of Step Seven, the mentor informs the Master that the new Brother has completed the Mentor Program, Seven Steps to Masonic Light. The mentor, in association with the Lodge secretary, completes the Compliance Sheet and returns it to Grand Lodge. Upon its receipt, a Certificate of Masonic Achievement will be mailed to your Lodge and should be presented to the new Brother. With proper notification, a Grand Lodge Officer will assist in presenting the Certificate of Masonic Achievement.

THE ORGANIZATION

The Counselor Committee is appointed by the Grand Master. Acting always with the approval of the Grand Master, it is the Committee's duty to exercise general supervision of the Mentor Program with such assistance as they may require.

The Master appoints the leader of the Mentor Program in the Lodge and such other mentors as they consider advisable. Through frequent conferences with the leader of the mentors, he keeps in close contact with the program. He assigns petitioners to their respective mentors upon their election, notifying both of his action. He makes a place in the Degree Work for the formal presentation of Quest Books Nos. 3, 4, and 5 in open Lodge. Recognizing the vital importance of the proper education of the candidate and the meaning of the ritual, the Master is in a position to do much to promote it. Any suggestion he may have for its improvement should be given to the leader of the mentors.

The Leader of the Mentors is appointed by the Master and is under his direction. He is in direct charge of the mentoring program, supervises the mentors, is responsible for their training, and assists them.

The Mentors are appointed by the Master and are responsible to him through the leader of the mentors. They are assigned to their respective candidates by the Master and carry out their duties in general accord with the suggestions set forth in this program. This includes assuring that the written proficiencies are completed, seeing that the candidate completes the educational program for each degree before he proceeds to the next degree.

CANDIDATE REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION

At the time of election, it is necessary for someone in the Lodge to notify Grand Lodge by completing the Candidate Registration Form. This provides Grand Lodge with information such as the candidate's name, address, spouse, telephone number, etc. There also is a question on the form which asks when the Lodge expects to confer the first degree upon this candidate.

Immediately after conferring the first degree, it is necessary that the Lodge provide Candidate Notification to Grand Lodge, either by mail or by phone. At this point in time, the new Brother's name is put on the membership roles, the mailing list of *The Minnesota Mason*, etc.

WRITTEN PROFICIENCY

The written proficiency for a candidate is mandated by the General Regulations of Grand Lodge. **This is not an optional proficiency.** No candidate may take his second degree without having completed the written proficiency for the first degree. No candidate may take his third degree without having completed the written proficiency for the second degree. All newly-raised Master Masons are required to take the third degree written proficiency as soon as possible. The Master, by Minnesota Masonic Code, is under obligation to implement these requirements

The education comes from the discussion of the written proficiency as the candidate strives to answer the questions.

THE COMPLIANCE SHEET

The compliance sheet is a means to track the candidate through the Mentor Program. It should be maintained and completed with input from the Lodge secretary and mentor. The compliance sheet must be submitted to Grand Lodge in order to receive the Certificate of Masonic Achievement.

THE CERTIFICATE OF MASONIC ACHIEVEMENT

The Certificate of Masonic Achievement is signed by the Grand Master and Chairman of the Counselor Committee. It should be presented to our new Brother at the next available Communication. The Certificate of Masonic Achievement is a means of instilling pride and accomplishment in our new Brother.

THE RESOURCES

The resources of Grand Lodge are made available to all users of the Mentor Program. Grand Lodge can be contacted at 612-222-6051 or 1-800-245-6050. Grand Lodge has a vast array of pamphlets, books, slides, videotapes and educational items which are available to any Mason or Lodge. District Representatives or any member of the Grand Lodge Counselor Committee can be contacted to answer questions. Also available is the Grand Lodge electronic bulletin board.

At the time Grand Lodge receives the Candidate Registration Form, a Letter of Introduction will be mailed to the candidate. Included will be an outline of the Mentor Program and a Blank Certificate of Masonic Achievement. At this time, the spouse of the candidate will be mailed a letter "Welcome to Masonry."

At the time Grand Lodge is notified that the candidate has taken his first degree, the packet for "A Gift for You" program will be mailed to the new Brother. This will include a letter of welcome from the Grand Master and the book, *"The Craft and Its Symbols"* by Allen Roberts. Also, the new Brother's name is placed on the mailing list of *The Minnesota Mason*.

QUEST BOOKS

Your Quest for Masonic Light books seek to convey the basic information upon which the candidate may build his Masonic knowledge, to inspire him to further study and to encourage him to participate in the activities of his Lodge, thus becoming a true Mason in fact, as well as in name. The mentor, the central figure of the Plan, makes the books come alive through his explanations and his own example and so plays a vital part in the candidate's development.

Book No. 1, **A Message from the Master**. This book informs the petitioner of his election to receive the degrees, warmly welcomes him, and concludes with a passage on an inspirational plane of thought which carries on through the remaining books.

Book No. 2, **Some Background For An Aspirant**. It is devoted to a brief history of Masonry and a description of its organization.

Book No. 3, **You Are Now A Masonic Apprentice**. This book has something to say about the apprentice of operative Masonry, relates him to the Entered Apprentice of speculative Masonry, and interprets the main features of the ritual of the first degree.

Book No. 4, **More Light For A Fellow Craft**. This, in like manner, discusses the second degree, its symbols and allegories.

Book No. 5, **Upon Becoming a Master Mason**. Here the attempt is to give the newly-raised Mason a broad perspective on the purpose of Masonry, as well as an interpretation of the ritual of the third degree, emphasizing the high ideals of Masonry and his duty to carry them faithfully into his daily living.

Book No. 6, **Your Masonic Roots: The Grand Lodge of Minnesota (1853-1878)**. This book explains the dispensations obtained from other jurisdictions and the formation of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. It provides a historical background of Masonry and Lodges in the State of Minnesota.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PLAN'S SUCCESSFUL OPERATION

What Are the Qualifications for a Good Mentor?

It is of the utmost importance that the mentor be of the highest character, for he is the one man with whom the candidate will come in close contact and, therefore, the one by whom the candidate is most likely to judge Masonry, for the relationship between the two will be close. He should be well versed in the teachings of Masonry, capable of communicating them, and of a warm, friendly disposition.

The mentor should not be the Lodge Education Officer or the candidate's memorization coach. It is important that the Lodge involves as many people as possible to both associate themselves with the candidate and to keep the Lodge active and vital. The mentor does not need to have the answers to all the questions. The mentor should be able to answer all questions associated with this plan, the general operation of the Lodge, the traditions of Masonry, etc. However, the mentor needs only to be able to point a candidate in the right direction toward obtaining their answer. He should be able to introduce a candidate to other people or resources which would enable him to answer his questions.

When Should First Contact Be Made?

First contact should be made as soon as possible. A suggestion would be to contact the candidate on the night he is elected. This is a time when he is highly motivated and anxious, the perfect time to send him on his educational journey through Masonry. Immediately call the newly-elected member and advise him that he has been elected by unanimous ballot, and that the Lodge awaits his initiation. At that time, the mentor can also explain the Program, Letter of Introduction, Quest Books, etc.

Can a Mentor Contact a Candidate Before His Election?

Yes. It would not be improper to explain to the potential candidate the investigation process, balloting, Mentor Program, Lodge activities, etc. A recommendation would be to share the videotape entitled *I Have Heard the Name -- What Does It Mean?* This videotape is an excellent introduction of Masonry and is designed to be shown to nonmembers, spouses, and all interested in the craft.

More Than One Candidate?

There should be a one-to-one relationship between mentor and candidate. This provides the strongest bond and greatest response from both parties. However, there may be circumstances when the Master may assign more than one candidate to a mentor. Mentoring more than two candidates is not recommended.

All Three Degrees?

The mentor's assignment to the candidate should carry on through all three degrees and all seven steps of the program. This will promote a closer relationship and a more open interchange between mentor and candidate.

More Than One Mentor?

The idea of having more than one mentor for one candidate has the merits of making a wonderful job for another Lodge member. It is an excellent way to train a new mentor, it contributes to the Masonic education of another Mason, it demonstrates the dedication of able men to Masonry, and it accordingly benefits the Lodge.

Also a Coach?

The mentor should not act as a memorization coach for the lectures. The mentor should be thoroughly familiar with the lectures and be able to answer any questions a candidate may have on them. However, the candidate should have a separate coach, whose duty it is to teach him the proficiency lectures.

Which Mentor Should be Assigned to a Given Candidate?

It is almost too much to expect that all the mentors are equally qualified and that all are equally as available at a given time. If we can conceive of such a situation, the sponsor of his petition or some other friend may be the wisest choice. This does not bar the selection of any other Brother as a mentor, for the important point is that the mentor assigned be the one best qualified to inspire that particular candidate with the spirit of idealism which is Masonry in practice; all other considerations should be secondary. Choosing a mentor who is not a friend may well mean the beginning of a new, beautiful, and enduring friendship.

Can This Be Done in a Small Lodge?

Yes! Even the busiest man in your Lodge will feel honored that he has been selected for this high responsibility. This guide can be used as a tool for a series of talks on the Mentor Program and a means to instill a desire to become a mentor. Another idea would be to have each of your line officers take a section of The Plan and conduct a program on it. At first, it may be necessary for the Master of the Lodge to act as the mentor, himself. He will assuredly find it a thrilling experience! And when he has discovered this, it will be easy to find someone else to take it over.

How Should the Quest Books Be Handled?

Since the Quest Books are probably the only text books of which the candidate has knowledge, the mentor must be thoroughly familiar with them. Quest Book No. 1 should be filled in by the Master and given or mailed to the petitioner promptly after his election to receive the degrees. Books No. 2-5 all have sections which should be signed. These books should be signed by either the Master, mentor, or leader of the mentor group. Books No. 3-5 can be formally presented in open Lodge. It is suggested that the Master take appropriate measures to call the attention of all members to this Guide, as a method of stimulating their interest in Masonry. Making it available to all on request cannot fail to benefit the Lodge.

Should There Be a Mentor Committee?

It may be helpful to establish a Mentor Committee with a chairman or lead mentor overseeing all other mentors. A committee of this type would be helpful in implementing the Mentor Program, as well as training new mentors.

What is the Best Way to Handle the Written Proficiencies?

The written proficiency should be handed to the candidate immediately after he takes his degree. Answering the written proficiency is like an open book exam, with the entire Lodge at the candidate's disposal. It must be completed and returned to the Lodge before the candidate is allowed to take his next degree. The education comes from the discussion of the written proficiency as the candidate strives to answer the questions.

The completed written proficiency should be mailed to Grand Lodge. There is no passing or failing grade. The results of the written proficiency are returned directly to the candidate by mail (the candidate's name, address and Lodge number should appear on the response sheet). Responses are explained to the candidate as part of the results. In this way, the candidate has another opportunity to learn about Masonry as he reviews the results of his written proficiency.

It is suggested that all mentors take the written proficiencies and have them scored by Grand Lodge. This enables the mentor to be completely familiar with all aspects of them.

How Should Mentors be Instructed?

The most effective method of instructing mentors is to hold timely group meetings. They should be encouraged to share their mentoring experiences. Having two-man teams conduct demonstrations of candidate meetings for each degree might prove to be a good learning experience.

The candidates should be invited to attend and take an active part in the discussion. The Master and the line officers should be invited. These meetings may be held in Lodge opened on the appropriate degree, for some of the members may not have had the meaning of the ritual explained to them.

The proper education of the candidates for the degrees is generally recognized throughout the Grand Lodges of the United States as a vital necessity to Masonry's future. The primary responsibility for its achievement is on the Master. The Master is responsible for mentor training.

What Type of Standards Should the Mentors Keep?

The highest! The mentor should always remember that, to the candidate, he is Mr. Mason! He should dress as becomes the representative of a great Fraternity. This does not mean formal attire; however, ordinarily a business suit, a collar and tie is suitable. It is, of course, permissible to meet in more informal attire, especially during hot weather. The mentor's good taste will govern this decision. Conversations with a candidate should be kept on a high level. Nothing should take place at meetings which may tend to lower the high opinion of Masonry which led a candidate to petition for membership.

Should the Mentor Read to a Candidate?

Except in unusual circumstances, such as poor vision or illness, mentors should not read to a candidate. It is the candidate's responsibility to discover what is between the covers of the Quest Books. It is the mentor's responsibility to see that he does it and that he has a reasonable comprehension of its significance. Instead of reading to him, the mentor could ask a candidate to join in reading a particular passage, audibly or silently.

Is a Mentor a Good Host?

Yes! The mentor is cast in the role of the candidate's close friend, attentive host, and kindly instructor - not only during his progress through the degrees, but long after. This latter period is probably as important as the former, for it is at this time that the candidate should form the habit of regular attendance at Lodge. The mentor should make a practice of phoning the candidate on the date of a meeting, "Tonight is Lodge night - may I pick you up?" Certainly the mentor should meet the candidate at Lodge to introduce him all around; help him to remember names; find out about his special interests and, if possible, get him together with someone with similar interests; sit with him when possible and answer any questions that may occur to him. In short, the mentor should do everything possible to make the candidate feel at home. This would include explaining and demonstrating the proper attitude when at prayer, the due guard, the signs, salutes, grips, passwords, the Grand Hailing Sign of Distress, and the Grand Masonic Word. The candidate should be encouraged to take an active part in the work of the Lodge after he reaches the Sublime Degree, for, thus only, can he experience true brotherhood.

Does the Mentor Need to be Identified as Such?

No. The title of mentor is used in the sense of a trusted teacher. If a candidate feels that the use of this title is objectionable then a good mentor will not use it. The main idea is for the mentor to openly relate to a candidate.

Can a New Master Mason Be a Good Mentor?

Possibly. A newly-raised member who has just completed all the steps involved in the program should have a clear understanding of the program's goals and benefits. He may not know all the answers to all the questions; however, it is only his duty to be able to assist a new candidate in finding the answers. This is one way to immediately involve a new member and give him a sense of purpose and responsibility.



(Complete and Mail to Grand Lodge at time of Candidate's Election)

ADDENDUM A

**Grand Lodge Letter of Introduction
To Candidate at Time of Election**

Dear _____
Candidate's First Name

Congratulations on your unanimous acceptance into our brotherhood. We welcome you with open arms to the world's oldest and most honorable Fraternity. In a short time, you will take the first of your three degrees in Masonry. With your curiosity at a peak, we want to assure you that it is our intention to provide you with a proper Masonic education.

To assist you in your pursuit of Masonic Light, a member of your new Lodge will be contacting you. He has volunteered to guide you through the educational process of Masonry and to help answer any questions you may have.

Enclosed are several items that will be of interest to you. There is a "Pocket Reference," an outline of our educational program, and a copy of a Certificate of Masonic Achievement. The certificate will be filled out and presented to you upon the completion of the program.

Again, we welcome you to our Fraternity. If you have questions or comments, the office staff of Grand Lodge is available at 612-222-6051 or 1-800-245-6050.

Fraternally,

Chairman-Counselor Committee

Enclosures

**Grand Lodge Letter of Introduction
To Candidate's Wife at Time of Election**

To a Very Special Lady,

Congratulations and welcome to the exciting world of Freemasonry.

You may be feeling a little confused and apprehensive about this time. If you are willing, there will be a lot of fun times ahead, and lots of new friends to meet. I know that my husband and son are better men because they are Masons. Their association in the fraternity has given them a chance to meet people from all walks of life, on a common ground. Their status in life, financially or socially, is never questioned and has no bearing on the brotherhood they share.

I encourage you to read the materials he brings home. The materials and books that I have read have helped me to better understand the reasons they enjoy their Masonic gatherings. You may have questions of concern, and you need to seek out someone who knows the answers. The Grand Lodge of Minnesota has a book store and this is an excellent source of information.

Putting it into very basic terms, the Masonic degrees tell stories using symbols and allegories that have been handed down for centuries. The Entered Apprentice Degree teaches him to build a stronger foundation on which to live his life. In the Fellowcraft degree, he will learn how to apply his new knowledge to become better, wiser and consequently happier. The Master Mason degree shows him how to become the master of himself. You will become the beneficiary of this new enlightenment.

You are so fortunate that the man in your life cares so much about you, his family, his community and himself, to take this very important step.

Once again, I personally would like to congratulate you and welcome you to the EXCITING WORLD OF FREEMASONRY.

A New Masonic Friend,

Sherrie Anderson

Sherrie Anderson

CANDIDATE NOTIFICATION FORM
(Supply This Information After The Candidate Takes First Degree)

Contact Grand Lodge by Phone
612-222-6051 or 800-245-6050

(Message Can Be Left On Voice Mail)

OR

Mail to The Grand Lodge of Minnesota

Lodge Name _____ **No.** _____

Candidate's Name _____

Date Elected _____

Date of First Degree _____

This Form Has Been Submitted By: _____

If leaving message on voice mail, please provide all the information requested above.

COMPLIANCE SHEET

(Must be submitted to obtain *Certificate of Masonic Achievement*)

MAIL TO: **The Grand Lodge of Minnesota**
 St. Paul Masonic Center
 200 Plato Blvd. East
 St. Paul, MN 55107-1618

Lodge Name

No.

Candidate's Name

Mentor's Name

Candidate's Address

Mentor's Address

City, State, Zip

City, State, Zip

Candidate's Phone Number

Mentor's Phone Number

Spouse Name

Date of Election

- ☐ Quest Book #1 sent or carried to the candidate
☐ Quest Book #2 sent or carried to the candidate

Date of first degree

- ☐ Mentor meets with the candidate before first degree
☐ Quest Book #3 presented to the candidate
☐ Written proficiency for the first degree given to the candidate

Date of second degree

- ☐ Mentor meets with the candidate before second degree
☐ Written proficiency for the first degree mailed to Grand Lodge
☐ Quest Book #4 presented to the candidate
☐ Written proficiency for the second degree given to the candidate

Date of third degree

- ☐ Mentor meets with the candidate before third degree
☐ Written proficiency for the second degree mailed to Grand Lodge
☐ Quest Book #5 presented to the candidate
☐ Written proficiency for the third degree given to the candidate
☐ Mentor meets with the candidate to discuss the third degree
☐ Written proficiency for the third degree mailed to Grand Lodge
☐ Quest Book #6 presented to the candidate
☐ Candidate attends four Lodge functions

Candidate visited

Lodge Number

The Form has been submitted by:

CERTIFICATE OF MASONIC ACHIEVEMENT

Presented by

THE GRAND LODGE

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF MINNESOTA

This is to certify that _____, as a member of _____ Lodge No. _____

has successfully completed

THE MENTOR PROGRAM
Seven Steps to Masonic Light

Grand Master

Master

Chairman-Counselor Committee

Mentor

SAMPLE COVER LETTER - 1

This is designed to act as a sample or guide only. Your lodge should feel free to change, reword, or create their own document.

This is a sample of the cover letter that should be sent or carried to the new candidate, along with Quest Book No. 1.

Dear (Candidate's Name)

Welcome to _____ Lodge No. _____. Your Petition for Degrees into our Lodge has been voted on, and you have been elected into our fraternity by unanimous ballot.

There are three degrees that you will be taking at our Lodge. The first degree is known as the Entered Apprentice Degree, the second as the Fellow Craft Degree, the third as the Master Mason Degree.

Your Entered Apprentice Degree has been scheduled for (date). The degree itself will start at (time). We request that you arrive at the Lodge one hour prior to the starting time.

As Master of _____ Lodge No. _____, I look forward with great anticipation to developing a close fraternal relationship. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Fraternally,

Master

SAMPLE COVER LETTER - 2

This is designed to act as a sample or guide only. Your lodge should feel free to change, reword, or create their own document.

This is a sample of the cover letter that should be sent or carried to the new candidate along with Quest Book No. 2.

Dear (Candidate's Name)

Every candidate is a stranger to Freemasonry, and Freemasonry is a stranger to you. This is not merely a Lodge that you are joining, but a great fraternity with a history stretching back over many centuries.

It is too much to expect you to be able to make yourself at home in such a society without some guidance. To assist you in learning while taking your degrees, Brother _____ has volunteered his services.

Brother _____ will be following The Minnesota Counselor's Guide. This is a multiple step process which is meant to ensure that every Candidate is properly instructed in the fundamentals of our Craft. It will also assist you in understanding the purposes and ideals of our fraternity.

Your first step in this process is to meet with your Mentor prior to your Entered Apprentice Degree. Please meet at the Lodge at (time) on (date).

Fraternally,

Master

Minnesota Masonic Education Programs—1996

Masonic Education in Minnesota is under the care of seven different committees. They are:

Board of Custodians - Ritual

Counselor Committee - Candidate and new Mason education

Historical and Archival Committee - Heritage preservation and historical displays

Leadership Committee - Leadership training

Membership Committee - Assisting lodge growth

Research and Education Committee - General education and lodge programs

Education Coordinating Committee - Coordination and special projects:

Electronic Masonry

Lodge Education Officer programs

Masonic Light Program

Minnesota Masonic Book club

Grand Lodge Bookstore

Minnesota Masonic College

Counselor Committee The purpose of this committee is to encourage and enhance the Masonic education of new Masons. Each Entered Apprentice receives a free copy of Allen Roberts' The Craft and its Symbols plus a package of 17 handout items. Entered Apprentices are also placed on the mailing list for the Minnesota Mason newspaper.

This year we started a new Mentor Program. It is a seven-step program using many educational resources. It comes with detailed instructions that the Lodge follows, step-by-step, starting when the petition is received and continuing through his first visit to another Lodge as a Master Mason. Upon completion of the program the new Mason receives a certificate and gift from the Grand Master.

Historical and Archival This is the second year for the Minnesota Masonic Historical Society and Museum, a 501(C)3 non-profit corporation. Its purpose is to preserve the material and cultural heritage of Masonry and its parallel, appendant, collateral and derivative organizations. In addition to programs for lodges and a display room at the Minnesota Masonic Home, we now have a permanent museum and library location. A video tape of the biblical and Masonic murals in Quarry lodge at Pipestone is being edited for distribution. This is part of a project to record the architectural heritage of Minnesota Masonry.

Leadership Committee Our Leadership Committee is continuing to present the two 6-hour introductory leadership courses. One is a Leadership Skills course built upon Covey's Principle

Centered Leadership. The other focuses on Lodge Management Issues and Tools. These professionally-taught courses are offered in any area of the state that will provide the space and an audience.

Membership Committee It has been amply demonstrated that any lodge which sets growth goals and follows a plan to contact prospective members will grow. The problem is that no single plan will fit the culture and personalities in all lodges. Those Lodges which have found an approach that works for them have continued to thrive, but there are still many Lodges that are looking for their "best way." Our Membership Committee and our Executive Director continue to work with any Lodge that is willing to seek assistance.

Two new "tools" were introduced this year to encourage the individual Mason to remember that Lodges need new members. One is the "Pocket Petition," a miniature petition form that can be carried in a shirt or jacket pocket and which includes a sign-up card for the Mentor Program. The other is a new version of our standard lapel pin, but with a green background to symbolize growth. This pin is given to each "top line signer."

Research and Education Committee Ceremonial Explanation of the Entered Apprentice Degree: This program shows family members what lodge work is like and explains many parts of our philosophies that are confusing when taken out of context. The program contains the non-secret portions of the work of the Entered Apprentice degree assembled into the form of a ceremony that is "conferred" upon ladies. A number of Lodges have used the program; Fellowcraft and Master Mason ceremonies are in preparation.

Minnesota Masonic Manual: Our monitorial work is being re-written and re-printed in 8-1/2" by 11" format. A number of significant changes and additions have been made. Among these are: Optional versions of all bible passages, replacing the King James wording with the wording of the New Revised Standard Version. Prayers are written using "You," "Your," etc. in place of "Thee," "Thine," etc., which is much more familiar to our younger Masons. The manual is also available on our Electronic Bulletin Board and on computer disk.

Education Coordinating Committee The ECC has representatives from all of the education-related committees and is co-chaired by the Senior Grand Warden and the Grand Lodge Education Officer. In addition to coordinating the resources and activities of all of the education-related committees, this committee has a number of special programs that they conduct:

Electronic Masonry—We have a Masonic Bulletin Board service that is open to the public and another one that is open only to Minnesota Masons. These Bulletin Boards can be accessed either through two local telephone numbers or by telnet from the Internet. Over 200 Masons are currently registered. We have established an Internet node and have

a World Wide Web home page at <http://www.mn-mason.org>. We invite you to visit our site.

Lodge Education Officer programs— Fall LEO Conference: Each October we have a Friday evening to Sunday noon conference for all LEOs, their wives and anyone else who is interested. In October 1996 we will be hosting the Philalethes Society Mid-year Meeting in conjunction with the opening at the Weismann Museum of Lance Brockman's national traveling exhibit The Theater of the Fraternity. The announcement for this event is reproduced below:

National Masonic Exposition presents the "Theatre of the Fraternity", October 5-6, 1996, at the Radisson Hotel Metrodome, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Featuring the World Premier of the "Theatre of the Fraternity" developed by Dr. C. Lance Brockman, Professor and Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance Arts at the University of Minnesota.

Featured Banquet Speaker: Dr. Forrest D. Haggard

Scheduled Speakers at Informational and Educational Breakout Sessions: Wallace

McLeod

McLeod, Robert G. Davis, Nelson King, Dr. James Tresner, Dr. S. Brent Morris,

Dr. William L. Fox, Dr. Duane E. Anderson, Rev. Terry Tilton

Opening Keynote Address by: Grand Master of Masons in Minnesota, Eric J. Neetenbeek

Welcome Address and Farewell by: Royal C. Scofield

Registration Fee Includes: Saturday Evening Banquet with Souvenir Toasting Cannon; Breakout Sessions with Speakers; Saturday and Sunday Breakfast, Saturday and Sunday Lunch; Transportation to Weisman Art Museum. Ladies may select an optional tour of the Cities with a visit to the Swedish Institute, or visit to the "Mall of America."

Registration Fee is \$120.00 per person. Hotel accommodations are separate. Ladies are welcome to attend all breakout sessions and activities. For information and registration call or write: The Grand Lodge A.F. and A.M. of Minnesota, 200 East Plato Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55107, or send email to: Grand.Lodge.of.Minnesota@mn-mason.org. This event is sponsored by: The Grand Lodge A.F. and A.M. of Minnesota; Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota; Philalethes Masonic Research Society; and the Scottish Rite Research Society.

Masonic Light Program—This self-study program is in its fourth year. 192 Masons have enrolled and two men have completed the requirements (which takes from 1500 to 2500 hours of individual study plus using their new knowledge in service to their lodge and the Craft). A new proficiency area has been added this year, dealing with using the Internet to further Masonic education.

Minnesota Masonic Book club—As new books of general Masonic interest are located, the members of this book club get the book for about 30% off the retail price. Recent titles have been S. Brent Morris' A Radical In The East, Allen E. Roberts' Masonic Trivia, and John Robinson's A Pilgrim's Path. There are about 120 members at present.

Grand Lodge Bookstore—We stock about 100 current Masonic titles which we sell at 10-20% under retail price. Sales last year were about \$18,000. All Grand Lodge officers, District Representatives, etc. are encouraged to carry a suitcase with \$200-\$300 worth of books and tapes with them on their lodge visits.

Minnesota Masonic College—Again this year, the entire afternoon of the first day of our Grand Lodge Annual Communication was devoted to education. Feedback from last year let us know that people wanted fewer programs so they would have a better chance to attend the ones they wanted. So, this year we had only 16 different educational programs in five rooms during a 3-hour period. All of the programs were open to men, women and guests. This year's topics included Discussions of New Legislation, District Representative Training, the Mentor Program, Membership Growth, Alternatives to Boring Business Meetings, Masonic Leadership, Mozart, Computers in Masonry, and one session where Masons could go and talk with visiting dignitaries.

LEO NEWS AND VIEWS ARTICLE....July/August 1994

NEW LIBRARY PRESENTATION GIFT PROGRAM

My Brothers;

A new program of philanthropy and public relations comes to Minnesota as your Lodge Education Officer program announces the LIBRARY PRESENTATION GIFT PROGRAM. This program is designed to put good Masonic reading into your public library through a donation which can be made by your lodge.

Often interested persons who seek out information on Freemasonry only find anti-Masonic or out-of-date books on the shelves in their public library. You can change that by making a gift presentation of some outstanding Masonic books to your public library. The cost is minimal, the help to make a potential friend of Masonry great, plus your library will enjoy having more books to put on it's shelves, and your lodge will get the credit. This program is that simple, but first you need to contact your public library to see if they will receive your book donation and if the books can be restricted to staying on the shelves of your local library.

Your Grand Lodge Bookstore is suggesting two book packages that your Lodge can buy at substantially reduced prices. Both lists noted as options I and II are printed below. .

OPTION I

Cost: \$60.00

Workman Unashamed
The Pilgrim's Path
The Craft and Its Symbols
Born in Blood
Is It True What They Say
About Free Masons?

Haffner
Robinson
Roberts
Robinson
deHoyos-Morris

OPTION 2 (includes Option 1 books plus...)

Cost \$160.00

House Undivided	Roberts
Freemasonry in American History	Roberts
George Washington: Master Mason	Roberts
Brother Truman	Roberts
The Story of Scottish Rite Freemasonry	Voorhis
The York Rite of Freemasonry (Video-cassette tape):	Speidel
Unseen Journey: The Mystery, Myth, and Truth of Freemasonry	

Send a check made out to THE GRAND LODGE OF MINNESOTA with your order and your books will be forthcoming in about two weeks. Each book will have a name plate for you to inscribe indicating the book is a gift from your local Lodge.

Spread the word about this new LIBRARY PRESENTATION GIFT PROGRAM and share our Masonic Light through good reading.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Terry L. Tilton, GLEO