

CORNERSTONE PROJECT

Ensuring the Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry in Ontario



Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada

In the Province of Ontario



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Cornerstone Project

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Cornerstone Project

Introduction

The concept of the cornerstone is derived from the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation. It is important because all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position and strength of the entire edifice.

The cornerstone is also symbolic to Freemasons because it provides the basic tools for understanding and growing the larger intellectual edifice. So we may endeavour to “*raise a superstructure perfect in its parts and honourable to the builder.*”

As the proper placement of the cornerstone ensures a solid foundation upon which to build any structure, so too it teaches our lodges the important lesson of having innovative and vibrant programs to ensure that our lodges are strong, “*until time shall be no more.*”

Just as the newly Initiated EA symbolically represents the cornerstone of the lodge and thereby its future; so too does the lodge symbolically represent the cornerstone of The Grand Lodge and its long-term sustainability. Each of the constituent lodges have their own unique challenges, but we all stand together with one common goal, that of ensuring the sustainability of the Craft.

Excerpts from a paper published in the Reflections Newsletter of the Committee on Masonic Education, Volume 23, Number 4, written by L.L. Walker Jr., P.M. Anson Jones Lodge, Fellow in Masonic Research of the Texas Lodge of Research, entitled “*The Little Lodge That Couldn't*”, remind us of some of the challenges our lodges must overcome.

“Once there was a Lodge that started out little, years ago; it grew larger like many other lodges did at that time and then it got little again.

The members were all good fellows. There wasn't a bad thing to be said about any of them. They attended lodge regularly because it was a pleasant way to spend an evening. The coffee was good, you sat in the same seat, and you always knew how things were going to come out. You never had to worry about surprises, or strange ideas.

In time, a lot of the members moved away and there were names on the roll that only those with the longest memories could remember. But these Brethren paid their dues and that helped keep the Lodge going.

There wasn't much Work because petitions were few and far between. But when the Work was there, there wasn't always a full slate of experienced men to fill the chairs. The Worshipful Master seldom had to worry too much about actually running the Lodge because the Secretary and some of the Past Masters saw to that.

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The years went by and nothing changed and nothing happened. The coffee was still good, but there were more vacant seats at every meeting. Then one day the members began to talk about selling the old property and re-locating. But to many, a move would somehow violate tradition. So no decision was made and the Lodge didn't move because it couldn't.

Finally, with dwindling membership, a lack of petitioners and much-reduced funds, the Lodge was forced to make a painful decision. When the Brethren gathered to decide the Lodge's fate they suddenly realized the financial truth as many said, "We can't make it." And sure enough, they couldn't."

The CORNERSTONE Project has been developed to assist lodges with these many challenges. Its primary purpose is to encourage and recognize lodges that plan, implement and manage a well rounded yearly lodge program that promotes lodge activities, brotherhood, charitable work and involvement in the community.

Although good planning and strong management is a vitally important component to the overall success of any lodge, it must never be forgotten that in order to maintain the momentum in the lodge the members must have a compelling idea of where the lodge needs to go, what type of members it will attract, what benefits it can provide, and how the organization needs to be perceived in the community if it is to thrive.

Value Added Benefits

When a lodge makes the decision to participate in this program they acknowledge their desire to increase the value of the experience that they provide to their membership. Participation will bring many *value added benefits*:

- o increased lodge vitality,
- o enhanced teamwork,
- o increased sense of pride in the lodge,
- o greater sense of accomplishment, and
- o the use of the designation of "Cornerstone Lodge" (with applicable years) on the Lodge Summons, Newsletter, Letterhead or other such lodge material.

Program

The CORNERSTONE Project is **not** a stand-alone initiative, but rather a program that should be used in conjunction with other Lodge Resources Programs of Grand Lodge as each is designed to build upon one another to achieve the overall success and a sustainable future for the lodge.

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The Grand Lodge, through the Cornerstone Team, administers and evaluates the project, which is not a one-time event. It is an award that is valid for two years and is presented on a biennial basis. Should a lodge wish to participate, a Letter of Intent must be submitted each and every time a lodge chooses to participate.

To qualify for the **CORNERSTONE** designation the individual lodge must:

Complete **1** of **3** Mandatory Standards

Complete **5** of **12** Major Standards

Complete **6** of **13** Basic Standards

Lodges that meet the qualification requirements to become a “Cornerstone Lodge” will be announced at the Annual Grand Lodge Communication in July and will be presented with a Certificate by their District Deputy Grand Master in September or October.

All lodges should ensure that they are familiar with the most recent version of the **Lodge Resources Program Materials** as available on the Grand Lodge website. These materials **contain valuable resource information that can help a lodge in qualifying** for the designation of Cornerstone Lodge. In order to access this material, individuals will have to go to the Members’ Section of the website, click on Craft Stewardship, then Lodge Resources and then click on the specific program, e.g., Mentor, Friend-to-Friend, etc.

Qualification Period

With the Cornerstone Project qualifying window opening on June 1st of each year and closing on May 31st of the second year, you are reminded that only those events and activities that occur within this two-year time frame will be considered when reviewing the qualifying documentation.

Suggested Steps in the Process

To initiate the qualification process, the Worshipful Master of each lodge must first appoint a **CORNERSTONE Project Coordinator**. This person will serve as the liaison between the Lodge and the Grand Lodge, Cornerstone Team Leader. It is important to keep in mind that although a coordinator is appointed, it is not his sole responsibility to see this completed. This requires a **Team effort**.

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Next, the **Lodge Letter of Intent**, (see Appendix A on page 34) must be completed and submitted to the Cornerstone Team Leader, or the Grand Lodge office, no later than December 30th of each year.

It is recommended that the Lodge Coordinator read through the Manual and identify those standards that can be readily met. He should then, in consultation with his Worshipful Master, the lodge secretary and lodge's Committee of General Purposes, select those other standards they plan to work towards, bearing in mind that each event only counts towards one standard. Or, phrased differently, a lodge may not claim credit on more than one standard for any one event. It is especially important to read each standard carefully, particularly the requirements. For example, some individuals have thought that the six or seven senior officers in a lodge must participate in an event in order to qualify when in fact, it is only two of those six or seven officers. Others seem to think the only way to qualify for the Blood Donor standard is by giving blood when volunteering at the clinic is equally eligible.

As necessary, it will be important to assign responsibility to individual lodge members for some of those various standards. The coordinator should start collecting all the necessary back-up documentation, e.g., names of participants, summonses, meeting minutes, promotional flyers, etc. as each standard is completed and identify which standard each of those items relate to. If he waits until year end, he will likely have a considerable amount of scrambling to gather everything together by the submission deadline.

The Manual is distributed as a writable PDF file. This should allow information to be typed in as appropriate, the file saved and then sent as an email attachment to the Cornerstone Team Leader. The position of Team Leader may change from time to time so it is important to identify who the current Team Leader is and send the completed document to him.

District Cornerstone Advisor/Chairman

The Cornerstone Team Leader will assign a team member to act as the District Cornerstone Advisor in those Districts where the DDGM has not appointed a Cornerstone Chairman for his District Team. The role of the advisor/district chairman is to be the link between the lodge, specifically through the Lodge Cornerstone Coordinator, and the committee and provide assistance or guidance, when called on, throughout the qualification period.

Once the Lodge Letter of Intent has been received, the Master of the Lodge and the Lodge Coordinator will be provided with the contact information for their District Cornerstone Advisor.

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Program Application

In order to be considered for the CORNERSTONE designation a lodge must submit the **Project Application**, (see page 9) to the Cornerstone Team Leader detailing their activities. This application, along with the relevant documentation to support the activity claim must be received no later than **June 15th** of each year. Packages received after this date may or may not be assessed in time for the Grand Lodge announcement.

While a three-ring binder does an excellent job of keeping all the paperwork together and in order, it does become cumbersome and awkward for mailing. A flat presentation folder or Acco folder works much better. Ensure the lodge's name and number are clearly identified on the front page of the submission.

One Final Thought

Many lodges are under the impression that, because they are small, struggling lodges, they do not have the resources, specifically the “manpower”, to implement Cornerstone. Those lodges are encouraged to consider the alternative perspective that by implementing this Project, they may energize their lodge and see absent members return or see new members join, thereby addressing their issue of insufficient resources. Consider the following statement by a Lodge Coordinator that was part of the covering letter with his lodge's package:

“The Cornerstone Project has been a real positive experience for our lodge. Last November at a “committee of general purposes” meeting a vote was held to proceed with amalgamation talks. The vote was all members in favour with one against. I was the one against and I convinced the brethren to try this project in conjunction with other Grand Lodge programs for two years and if we were not in a stronger position I would relent. Six months later and talk of amalgamation has vanished and been replaced by the prospect of attaining “Cornerstone Lodge” designation for a second time [again the next year]. The change in attitude has been amazing and it has been accompanied by a mini revival in lodge. I must thank you for your efforts and let you know that in at least one lodge they have been successful.”

Acknowledgement

The Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Utah for providing permission to our Grand Lodge for the use of their lodge recognition program, known as the “Master Builder Program”. This Grand Lodge of Utah program has been used as the foundation and blueprint in the development of our Lodge initiative – the Cornerstone Project.

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REMEMBER

Qualification window **opens June 1st** of each year.

Qualification window **closes May 31st** of the second year.

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Cornerstone Project Application Form

Date of Application: _____

I hereby certify that _____ Lodge No. _____ in _____
_____ District of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the
Province of Ontario, has completed the required standards of the Cornerstone Project during the time
period from 01 June 20___ to 31 May 20___. Attached is our Lodge Activity Package including the
necessary supporting documentation.

Worshipful Master's Name please print clearly

Worshipful Master's Signature

Lodge Secretary's Name please print clearly

Lodge Secretary's Signature

This application form must be completed and returned with the Lodge Activity Package included by **June 15** to the Cornerstone Team Leader; R.W. Bro. Art Di Cecco, at 23 Railside Road, Unit 6, Don Mills, ON, M3A 1B2 or emailed to him at art@baycrestgc.com.

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LODGE ACTIVITY PACKAGE

Pages 10 to 32

(must be submitted with the Lodge Application)

Mandatory Standard:

A Lodge must implement one of either the Friend to Friend Program, the Mentor Program, or the Officer Mentorship Program and have it ingrained as an integral part of their lodge operating plan.

REMINDER:

1 of 3 MANDATORY STANDARDS MUST BE ACHIEVED

1) *Friend to Friend Program:*

The lodge holds a Friend-to-Friend event using the Lodge Resources Committee Friend-to-Friend Program or another similar format selected by the lodge that approximates the Friend-to-Friend Program.

Date of Event: _____

Number of members involved: _____ Number of guests attending: _____

Did you use the Lodge Resources Program _____ or Another Program _____

Describe your lodge's friend-to-friend event and the program, if another program was used, for the event:

Is this an annual event? _____

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If “No” when was the last event held? _____

Number of applications received: _____

Note: Documentation must include, but not necessarily be limited to, the Summons listing the upcoming event as well as an Event Program/Agenda outlining the material covered and who did the presentation of each section.

Should a Friend to Friend event be held jointly with 2 or more lodges the preparation and presentation workload must be **equally shared** and that must be reflected in the agenda in order to meet the requirements of this standard.

Please note that a Friend to Friend event is much different than an Open House. The first is by invitation only and follows a format similar to that laid out in the Friend-to-Friend Manual. An Open House is a Basic Requirement (see page 31). A lodge cannot use one event to qualify as both a Friend-to-Friend event and an Open House.

TIP: An excellent source of reference material is the Lodge Resources Friend-to-Friend Program found on the Grand Lodge website; its content can be of great assistance in qualifying for this standard.

“The existing [Cornerstone] program is quite comprehensive as is, requirements are attainable, and structured to encourage their focus and planning.”

Submitted by a Lodge Cornerstone Coordinator

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2) *Mentor Program:*

The lodge uses the Mentor Program to enhance the education and journey through the degrees of its new candidates by conducting the Candidate through at least 3 of the 4 Elements of the program as contained in the Lodge Resources Mentor Program material. If something other than this program is used within the Lodge, a detailed description of the program as presented to the candidates must be included. Remember, mentoring is much more than helping a candidate learn the ritual.

Mentor Chairman's Name: _____

Number of Candidates mentored: _____ Number of mentors in the lodge: _____

Element Conducted	Candidate Name	Dates
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Provide a detailed description of how the Lodge mentors its candidates:

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TIP: An excellent source of reference material is Mentor Program

information on the Grand Lodge website; its content can be of great assistance in qualifying for this standard.

Suggestion ... if the lodge doesn't already provide the candidate with his own copy of each element we would encourage the lodge to do so by providing the candidate with a 3 ring folder to store this valuable resource material. This could be the beginning of the candidate's personal library of Masonic reading material.

3) Officer Mentorship:

The Lodge practices a program that involves Past Masters regularly providing mentorship to its line officers (i.e., stewards, deacons, inner guard, wardens and master).

How many Past Masters are routinely involved with mentoring the line officers? _____

How many of the line officer positions listed above are currently filled by Past Masters? _____

Clearly describe your lodge's officer mentorship program.

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Describe in detail, the benefits to your lodge since implementing this program for the officers.

TIP: An excellent source of reference material is available on the Grand Lodge website by typing Officer Mentoring into the search bar. The information that displays will be of great assistance in qualifying for this Standard.

“This [Cornerstone] will definitely not go to waste since it does enhance Brother-to-Brother programs, Mentor programs, etc. as well as good management. I hope every lodge sees the value and seeks the recognition.”

Submitted by a Lodge Cornerstone Coordinator

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Major Standards:

Please ensure all supporting documents clearly identify the standard to which they apply.

TIP: *Please remember that the evaluation of each standard will proceed much more smoothly if adequate backup documentation is provided.*

REMINDER:

5 OF 12 MAJOR STANDARDS MUST BE ACHIEVED

- 1) A minimum of four (4) lodge delegates must participate in each of the two years at the GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION. At least one of the four must be either the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden or proxy carrier.

Print the names of those officers in attendance at each year.

	Year 1	Year 2
Worshipful Master:	_____	_____
Senior Warden:	_____	_____
Junior Warden:	_____	_____
Proxy:	_____	_____
Total Lodge Members Attending:	_____	_____

- 2) Establish a yearly operating budget and have it presented to the membership, prior to or shortly following the beginning of each of the lodge fiscal years.

Date of meeting when first year's budget was presented: _____

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Date of meeting when first year's budget was approved: _____

Date of meeting when second year's budget was presented: _____

Date of meeting when second year's budget was approved: _____

What is the Lodge's fiscal year? _____

Describe the benefits achieved by having a budget?

Note: Although there is no requirement to submit a copy of the operating budget, the lodge must provide a copy of the summons that indicated the presentation of the budget to the membership and a vote to approve it and/or a copy of that portion of the meeting's minutes where the motion to approve the operating budget was voted on by the members and carried.

- 3.) Conduct at least four (4) Masonic Education presentations over the course of the two-year cycle. At the Worshipful Master's discretion, these presentations may be part of either a stated or special meeting. Presentations need to be at least five (5) minutes in duration. A Lodge of Discussion does not qualify as Masonic Education.

Date: _____ Number of members present: _____

Summary of Educational Topic 1:

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Date: _____ Number of members present: _____

Summary of Educational Topic 2:

Date: _____ Number of members present: _____

Summary of Educational Topic 3:

Date: _____ Number of members present: _____

Summary of Educational Topic 4:

Note: Include a copy of the summons indicating each piece of Masonic education that is to take place and/or a copy of the meeting's minutes reporting on the Masonic education.

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- 4) Over the course of the two year cycle, all three (3) degrees, as well as proving the Master Mason degree, are conducted by the officers and members of the lodge. The intent of this standard is for the line officers of the lodge to do their respective parts of the degree work. The other portions of the ritual may be assigned to brethren of other lodges, as needed. In the absence of actual candidates it is permissible to exemplify the degrees with a representative candidate.

Date	Degree Conducted	Actual or Exemplified
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

List all positions where substitutions were needed for the lodge's line officers in all of these degrees.

Note: Include a copy of each summons that announces the degree work for the evening and/or a copy of the meeting's minutes reporting on the degree.

- 5) The Lodge must distribute at least three (3) written communications in addition to the usual lodge summons (such as newsletters and flyers) to its entire membership and/or provide at least three (3) written communications on the lodge website, reporting on Lodge activities and upcoming Lodge events. If the website or email distribution is used, explain how the information is made available to those members who do not have internet capabilities.

Date: _____ Communication: _____

Date: _____ Communication: _____

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Date: _____ Communication: _____

Lodge website link: _____

How are these communications shared with those members who do not have internet capability?

Note: Copies of the communications must be included with the submitted package. If the lodge utilizes a lodge website for this purpose, printed copies of the website notice must be included.

- 6) At least **four (4)** lodge members, including **at least two (2)** of the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon and Tyler must participate in a Masonic Workshop that may, or may not, be within their own district.

Workshop Date: _____

Workshop Location: _____

Workshop Title and Presenter(s): _____

Total members who attended: _____

Which senior line officers (by position) attended?:

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Describe Workshop Content:

Note: Include a copy of the workshop flyer or notice received from the District.

- 7) At least five (5) lodge members, including at least two (2) of the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon and Tyler, must visit a tiled meeting of another lodge. This is a Lodge initiated visit, that is, when the lodge decides to visit, as opposed to a District initiative. The Official Visit of the DDGM does not qualify.

Date of visit: _____ Number of members attending: _____

Lodge visited: _____ District: _____

Which of the six (6) officers (by position) attended?

TIP: An excellent source of reference material is Brother 2 Brother material on the Grand Lodge website

- 8) Conduct a Lodge Survey for the purpose of determining the views of the membership on the operation and activities of the lodge while specifically identifying the strengths of the lodge and the challenges faced by the lodge.

Date circulated: _____ Number of surveys sent out: _____

Number of responses: _____ Participation rate: _____%

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Summarize feedback:

Summarize the action plan developed:

Note: Include a copy of the survey that was distributed to the membership.

TIP: An excellent source of reference material is Brother 2 Brother Program material on the Grand Lodge website, particularly the section that pertains to the value of a lodge survey, and which includes a sample letter to be sent to the lodge members and sample questions for the survey itself.

- 9) At least **seven (7)** lodge members, including **at least two (2)** of the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon and Tyler must participate in a District Traveling Gavel or other such similar type of district-initiated visitation program.

Total number of members attending: _____ Lodge visited: _____

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Which senior officers (by position) attended?

Give a brief description of the district visitation program:

Note: Include a copy of the summons indicating the date and time of the visitation and/or the minutes of the meeting at which the visit was reported.

- 10) The Lodge actively participates in the running of a MasoniChip event within their community.

Date of Event: _____ Location of Event: _____

Number of Members Participating: _____ Number of Children Registered: _____

Give a brief summary of the event including such things as comments and feedback from the public, any applications for membership received as a result of the event, other apparent benefits, etc.

Note: Include a copy of the flyer or other promotional material advertising the event and/or the minutes of the lodge meeting at which time the event was reported and/or the summons indicating the date and time of the event.

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- 11) At least four (4) members of the lodge participate in three (3) different blood donor clinics over the course of the two-year cycle. It need not be the same four members at each clinic. Participation is not limited to donating blood only but may include, for example, coordinating the event, volunteering at the clinic, driving donors to and from the clinic, etc.

Date of clinic 1: _____ Number of brethren participating: _____

Date of clinic 2: _____ Number of brethren participating: _____

Date of clinic 3: _____ Number of brethren participating: _____

- 12) Through its various efforts, the lodge has increased its average attendance at regularly scheduled meetings of the lodge. For this standard, the lodge needs to calculate the average attendance at its regularly scheduled meetings in the year immediately preceding its Cornerstone 2-year cycle and then compare it to the average attendance of members during year 2 of the cycle. For example, if the lodge's Cornerstone cycle is 1 June 2014 to 31 May 2016, calculate the average attendance of members at regular lodge meetings from 1 June 2013 to 31 May 2014 and compare it against the average attendance from 1 June 2015 to 31 May 2016.

Initial year (1 June 20__ to 31 May 20__) Average attendance _____

Comparison year (1 June 20__ to 31 May 20__) Average attendance _____

"I would make it mandatory for all Lodges in the jurisdiction to have and implement the Cornerstone Project. Our lodges would be busy, active and fun places to be."

Submitted by a Lodge Cornerstone Coordinator

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Basic Standards:

If sufficient space is not available for the lodge's response to each standard, please provide additional sheets noting the appropriate standard chosen.

TIP: Please remember that the evaluation of each standard will proceed much more smoothly if adequate backup documentation is provided.

REMINDER:

6 OF 13 BASIC STANDARDS MUST BE ACHIEVED

- 1) Invite and host a meeting with another lodge (or lodges) that is not part of a regular visitation program or friend-to-friend event. In addition to a regular lodge meeting, this could also include workshops, seminars, Masonic discussion groups, etc. that are not a district-sponsored event and that are more than a social time.

Date of event: _____ Name of Invited Lodge(s): _____

Number of guests: _____ Number of host members: _____

Description of event:

Note: Include a copy of the invitation sent to the other lodge and a copy of the evening's agenda, if one is prepared and/or a copy of the minutes from the lodge meeting at which the event was reported.

- 2) Hold a social event to which the member's ladies and deceased member's widows are invited with or without families. Such event could include Ladies Night, Wives and Widows Night, dinners, picnics, ice cream socials, dances, etc.

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Date of Event: _____ Type of Event: _____

Number of guests invited: _____ Number of members present: _____

Description of event:

Note: Include a copy of the summons indicating the date and time of the event and/or the minutes of the meeting at which the event was reported. Also include a copy of the event program outlining the event's activities.

- 3) Recognize Masons, such as Past Masters, Fifty (50) Year members, etc. at a Lodge meeting or other special event such as a dinner. The event must be much more than simply handing out pins within the lodge meeting or the Worshipful Master, on his own, going to the recipient's home.

Date(s) of event(s): _____

Description of recognition:

Name and status of Masons recognized:

Did you use the Grand Lodge "Presentation of a 50 Years a Mason Pin" and/or the Veteran Jubilee Medal Presentation Program? Yes ____ No ____

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Note: Include a copy of the summons indicating the date and time of the event and/or include the minutes of the meeting at which the event was reported.

TIP: An excellent source of reference material is the Brother-to-Brother Program material that pertains to the presentation of the 50 years a Mason pin and/or the Veteran Jubilee Medal.

- 4) The lodge invites members of a local Youth Group, such as De Molay, Rainbow Girls, or Job's Daughters to a meeting where the youth are entertained by the lodge. Alternatively, **at least six (6)** lodge members, including **two (2)** of the worshipful master, senior warden, junior warden, senior deacon, junior deacon and tyler, attend a meeting, that may include an installation ceremony, of a local youth group. In the absence of the Masonically-oriented youth groups listed above within the community, other local youth groups, such as Scouts Canada, Girl Guides, 4H, cadets, etc. may be substituted. Sponsorship of a youth group or minor sports team would qualify for this standard. Scholarships to graduating students, either elementary, secondary or post-secondary, would also qualify provided that the presentation is made by a member of the lodge who is accompanied by at least one other member of the lodge seeking credit for this standard.

Date of event: _____ Youth Group: _____

Description of event or nature of sponsorship details: _____

Number of guests present: _____ Number of Masons present: _____

Which senior officers (by position) attended?

Note: Include a copy of the summons indicating the date and time of the event and/or include the minutes of the meeting at which the event was reported.

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- 5) Assist five (5) shut-ins or widows/widowers during the two-year cycle with such things as lawn mowing, house painting, shopping, medical needs, driving to appointments, etc. The recipients need not be Masonically-connected.

Mason's name: _____ Nature of service provided:

"Without this catalyst [Cornerstone] we drift from month to month and deal reactively to events.... By planning and executing our activities, the lodge has become more vibrant and more interesting.... it also required us to get more people involved including the older, more knowledgeable Masons that appreciate being asked to participate in high quality functions."

Submitted by a Lodge Cornerstone Coordinator

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- 6) Conduct a “Rusty Masons Event” or other similar event that encourages non-attending members to join their brethren in a relaxed atmosphere to reacquaint them with our Ritual.

Date of event: _____ Number of active members present: _____

Number of non-active members present: _____

Description of the event:

Describe the reaction and comments of the non-active members:

Note: Include a copy of the summons indicating the date and time of the event and/or include the minutes of the meeting at which the event was reported. Also include a copy of the event agenda or program outlining the activities of the event.

If two or more lodges are involved in the event, the preparation and presentation must be equally shared between the lodges and this must be reflected in the agenda for the event.

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- 7) Conduct a dinner to honour new lodge members and/or those who have been raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason within the past year and who were not previously recognized.

Date of dinner: _____

Number of new Masons or new Master Masons present: _____

Number of other lodge members present: _____

Describe the response to this event:

Note: Include a copy of the summons indicating the date and time of the event and/or include the minutes of the meeting at which the event was reported. Also include a copy of the event agenda or program outlining the activities of the event.

- 8) At least five (5) lodge members and their spouses and children, if available, attend as a group at the same religious service of their choice. A Masonic Memorial Service does not qualify as a religious service.

Date of religious service: _____ Place of worship: _____

Number of members present: _____ Number of family members present: _____

- 9) Implement a program in the Festive Board or during refreshments that is held on regular meeting nights where proper Protocol and Etiquette are observed. This must include at least one “formal” sit-down dinner prior to or following a lodge meeting with head table and toasts as well as at least five (5) meetings where “informal” fellowship and refreshment concludes with all the toasts (Queen and the Craft, Grand Lodge, Visitors, Junior Warden’s toast).

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Date of banquet: _____ Number of members present: _____

Dates of “informal” meetings with toasts:

Describe the benefits achieved:

TIP: An excellent source of reference material is the Protocol & Etiquette information pages specifically pertaining to banquets.

This banquet program does not need to consist of a full sit-down meal at every meeting. It may consist of whatever refreshments are normally served but include all toasts as outlined in Protocol & Etiquette.

- 10) Hold a “Lodge of Discussion” at a regular meeting of the lodge. It will be important to choose a topic that will assure good interaction and discussion between the lodge members. This must be a stand-alone event and cannot be combined with any other event used to qualify for another standard in the Cornerstone Project. Discussions of matters pertaining to lodge business, such as raising members’ dues or replacing the carpet, do not qualify for this standard. Lodges of instruction are not lodges of discussion and, similarly, do not qualify for this standard.

Date of lodge of discussion: _____

Topic of discussion: _____

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Results of, and reaction to, lodge of discussion:

Note: Include a copy of the summons indicating the date of the lodge of discussion and/or include the minutes of the meeting at which the lodge of discussion was reported.

- 11) The lodge actively participates in a community event such as parking control, manning gates at the local fair, having a display booth at sidewalk days, having a float in the local parade, laying a wreath at the cenotaph, manning the Salvation Army Christmas Kettles, highway clean-up, etc. At least five (5) members must be involved.

Date of event: _____ Number of members involved: _____

Description of event:

Describe the outcome and the benefits of participating in this event including feedback or comments from the public, any applications received, etc.

Note: Include a copy of the summons indicating the date of the event and/or include the minutes of the meeting at which the event was reported.

- 12) The lodge holds an Open House and welcomes members of the community to their lodge facilities.

Date of Open House: _____ Number of members participating: _____

Number of non-Mason visitors: _____

Cornerstone Project

Describe the event:

Describe the outcome and the benefits of participating in this event including feedback or comments from the public, any applications received, etc.

Note: Include a copy of the summons indicating the date of the Open House and/or include the minutes of the meeting at which the lodge of discussion was reported. Also include a copy of any promotional flyers used to advertise the Open House.

- 13) At least two (2) Past Masters and one of the worshipful master, senior warden or junior warden attend at least one (1) meeting each year of the two-year qualifying cycle, of the district's Masters, Past Masters and Wardens Association, or its equivalent.

Date of first meeting _____ Number of Past Masters _____
Worshipful Master _____ Senior Warden _____ Junior Warden _____
(Check off any or all of these three that attended)

Date of second meeting _____ Number of Past Masters _____
Worshipful Master _____ Senior Warden _____ Junior Warden _____
(Check off any or all of these three that attended)

Cornerstone Project

“The standards of the Cornerstone Project also help raise the bar on normal Lodge activities like the Mentor Programme.”

Submitted by a Lodge Cornerstone Coordinator

Remember, you MUST complete:

1 of 3 Mandatory Standards

5 of 12 Major Standards

6 of 13 Basic Standards

IMPORTANT REMINDER

We would encourage you to keep in mind when providing the back-up documentation that the more information provided to be evaluated the easier the process of determining qualification will be.

**ENSURE WHEN THE APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED IT IS DONE
SO ON THE “STANDARDS” SECTION (pages 10 to 33)
PROVIDED IN PACKAGE.**

Cornerstone Project

To: R.W. Bro. Art Di Cecco,

Date: _____

Cornerstone Team Leader,
23 Railside Road, Unit 6,
Don Mills, ON, M3A 1B2

RE: CORNERSTONE Project Letter of Intent

(Please print clearly)

Dear Cornerstone Team Leader Chairman,

The purpose of this letter is to notify the Grand Lodge, Cornerstone Project Team, of our Lodge's intention to participate in the CORNERSTONE Project for the two year period commencing 1 June 20____ and ending 31 May 20____.

The members are firmly committed to the continued success of our Lodge and its programs by dedicating themselves to long range planning, cooperative implementation and supportive action to perpetuate our Masonic ideals and the Mission of Freemasonry within our community.

As Worshipful Master of _____ Lodge No. _____
in _____ District, the Grand Lodge of A.F.& A.M. of Canada in
the Province of Ontario, I have appointed _____ Brother _____
(*maybe the Worshipful Master*) to serve our Lodge as our CORNERSTONE Project
Coordinator (CPC), and have asked him to be your contact for this Cornerstone time frame.

CPC NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Fraternally,

Worshipful Master (print name)

Worshipful Master (signature)

Worshipful Master's E-MAIL: _____

(E-mail addresses are essential for communication purposes)