

Masonic Minutes—January One

Advancing Your Lodge with a *Chance to Advance*

A Chance to Advance Class (C2A) affords a Lodge the opportunity to provide the 2nd and 3rd Degrees for a group of candidates with structured education. The setting allows the candidates to enjoy the camaraderie of experiencing the degrees together as they receive insights from Brethren of multiple Lodges; it becomes a memorable day for all in attendance. While the C2A program schedule keeps everyone very busy, arranging for a C2A at your Lodge is very straightforward. Here are some highlights to consider:

- 1) You should begin with your District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM). He has all the information you need to initiate the process including the proper form to request the class. When contacting the DDGM establish what dates might be available or recommended.
- 2) Because there is some work involved and you need to make sure your lodge brothers are willing to commit, the Lodge must vote to sponsor the C2A class. If the proposition of soloing as host of a class seems too overwhelming, you call always co-host with another lodge or make it a district-wide effort.
- 3) You must obtain the services of a Moderator for the Masonic Education piece of the program. These men have been approved by the Grand Lodge to ensure the candidates get the proper instruction during the class. Your Regional Grand Lecturer or DDGL can help you find people who are approved, or get good men approved, to handle these duties. By the way, if you have not been to a C2A you should attend one and see the excellent Masonic education being provided to our new brothers by the Moderators all across this state.
- 4) Once a date has been selected and voting of the Lodge completed, send the request form to the Grand Lodge Secretary for approval. Please make sure to give the Grand Lodge time to review your request and approve it **before** the scheduled class date as the dispensation to hold the C2A must be read at the very beginning of the class.
- 5) Order the necessary supplies. The Grand Lodge will be more than happy to assist you in seeing that you have the necessary material for the class.
- 6) Make sure you have made arrangements to feed the brethren who will be participating. This event will last most of the day and you need to ensure that you have breakfast (can be as simple as coffee and donuts) and a good lunch for the candidates and other guests.

What else do you need? There are several small logistical items which your DDGM will be glad to guide you with in regard to registration, name tags, and all the little details to make sure your day goes well and your candidates leave fulfilled.

Carpe Diem.