

Masonic Minutes—May One

Mastering a Masonic Minute

The Masonic Minutes are yours to read, but they are also yours to write. Through them you can share your ideas in a forum that is unique in the Fraternity, and we would very much like to encourage you to write and submit a Masonic Minute.

In the Master Mason Lecture regarding the Beehive we are admonished as to the importance of making contributions for the good of all, “Thus was man formed for social and active life, the noblest part of the work of God; and he that will so demean himself as not to be endeavoring to add to the common stock of knowledge and understanding, may be deemed a drone in the hive of nature...” The Entered Apprentice charge also provides us with a challenge; “At your leisure hours that you may improve in Masonic knowledge, you are to converse with well-informed Brethren who will always be ready to give, as you will be to receive, instruction.”

These and other admonitions motivate us to imagine, ask, research and collect information that increases the body of Masonic knowledge. The simple fact that Masonic literature continues to increase provides an implication that there are discoveries to be made as to Masonic historical connections—a manner of reconstructing our past in the effort to determine the true origins of our Fraternity. Just one area of research can yield a trove of ideas for things to be discovered and written. Take for example the Knights Templar. What is the Masonic connection to the Knight's Templar? Did Masonry transform from the Templars or were the Templars an organization developed out of a much older form of Freemasonry? Did the Templars originate in the Old World or the New World? What was the Templar connection to the Pre-Columbian New World, if any? By virtue of the cross displayed on his sails, was Columbus another in a long line of Templars who came to the New World? Why is the Western Hemisphere called the New World? Is the New World where we will find a New Jerusalem? Are you the least bit curious about these things? Masonry has developed an entire craft of listeners, but we are challenged to develop researchers. Let's answer the challenge and “add to the common stock of knowledge and understanding.” This is something that we are poised to do in ways that previous generations never could because access to volumes of material both ancient and contemporary is incredibly simple thanks to our electronic media.

Not only are we in a position to research and rediscover, but we are also in a position to more effectively educate the membership that is being introduced to Freemasonry for the first time. Information on the obvious lessons of the degrees as well as the subtle lessons and implications are now more easily shared among brethren if we will but make the effort. Certainly there have been times when you experienced a moment of profound revelation when a portion of the ritual touched your mind and stimulated your heart into action—what was that moment? Can that understanding be shared with the brethren and allowed to enrich the body by you sharing it? Can you place it into words and cause us to ponder, discuss and enlarge upon it?

This is where you play an important part in making the Masonic Minutes effectual in how it stimulates discussion, stirs imagination and elevates the appreciation for the gifts we have received through Masonry, because the Masonic Minutes are comprised of the thoughts of Brother Masons just like you.

Perhaps you have followed your curiosity into the volumes of Masonic literature and discovered nuances of the Craft that planted within you a deeper understanding and appreciation of Masonry and its lessons. Or, perhaps by your experience in the various offices of the Craft you have discovered ways of fulfilling the duties that are beneficial to others who will soon be standing in those offices. We are certain that you can fashion this insight into a five-minute presentation for all Missouri to discover as well.

Here is how you participate; prayerfully fashion your thoughts and place them on your tablet—either paper or electronic, then send those to us as a submission for consideration. You can send the material to: moed4u@momason.org. One of the most popular Masonic Minutes we have provided was a submission from a brother who sent us a 5-page paper that we were able to successfully pare down to a one-page presentation. We are confident that your submission can be refined into a something that benefits the Craft and contributes “to the common stock of knowledge and understanding.” Being productive in our Masonic careers is so much more than holding offices, it is constantly seeking for new levels of understanding that elevate us individually and as a guild of Master builders who are fashioning eternal structures.

“Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.” Mathew 7:7