

DISCOURSE

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“Masonic or Selfish Behavior you call it”

Dear Brothers:

In my short twenty-five plus years as a Mason, I have seen and heard of this situation played out over and over again. It has been a cause of contention, it has started quarrels that have damage Lodges and Districts for years. It certainly cannot be characterized as Masonic and yet individuals of narrow vision complaint, cause dissension, destroy harmony all the while they try to embarrass a Brother or Brothers that try to do the best they could and most of the time by themselves without the help, aid or assistance of their critics.

Some of us fail to realize the reasons our Creator gave us two ears, two eyes, two hands, two feet and only one mouth which sometimes can over run our feet, tie our hands, makes us blind to the truth and deafen our ability listening.

We all too often fail to walk in the other man's shoes prior to casting our judgment on or of them, and overload our mouth before our brains have an opportunity to cast an unbiased opinion of the situation. Although we often criticize, we almost never provide a solution. However, we truly enjoy our spot in the highlight of critics. Yet you are probably best known by your peers as the individual that has almost never made a mistake cause you have almost never done anything yourself.

Every year whether from the North, East, South or West, we invariably hear how one District or another has problems with reimbursement to a Lodge or District Deputy Grand Master expenses of the Grand Master's Official Visit to their District, this generally comes from individuals or Lodges that are disengaged, have an axe to grind or simply out of jealousy.

Normally they end up paying their fair share, after a fuss, which creates tension and solves absolutely nothing while making themselves the object of ridicule for their childish and selfish behavior. Although some never contribute leaving others to share their burden while they remain part of the Fraternity we call a Brotherhood, I say they are very heavy and perhaps not our Brothers. In a Great Brotherhood such as ours, the members do not create greater burdens for the fellow Brothers, they are always part of the solution, they get involved, participate and provide constructive criticism with positive solution all the while they are engaged in the process.

The best way to know, reduce and provide constructive criticism in the case of the District Deputy's expenses of the Grand Master's Official Visit to your particular District is to be engage in the process. You are certainly entitled to a clear accounting of the expenses and once those are determined, and approve by whatever agreement may have been the custom in your District, you have an obligation to pay your per rata share of the expenses, without fuss, distasteful remarks, or unmasonic conduct. My Brothers this is the proper conduct of a Brother Mason.

Normally the expenses of the Dinner include the following:

1. Printing invitations (400 this coming year Grand Lodge will send a flyer to members in the directory)
2. Mailing all invitations (this coming year the Grand Lodge will send them electronically to reduce cost)
3. Rental of meeting location for an average of one to two hundred or two to three hundred people, depending on the size of District and popularity of Deputy and that of the Grand Master.
4. Paper goods such as place mats, napkins, paper plates, knives, forks, spoons, and cups, etc.
5. The cost of the raw foods
6. Kitchen use donation or rental.
7. Signs for parking, place cards on the tables
8. Accommodations for the Grand Master and Grand Marshal

If a District can accomplish all of these with a hand full of people, donations, etc. and keep the charges under a couple dollars, I think it will be an accomplishment worthy of mention.

The Masonic Home in the month of September 2010, prepared 10,015 meals with the raw food cost per meal at \$2.13. This my Brothers is not counting any of the other items above except item number 5 & 6, which is a credit to the Brothers in the District that sacrifice, to keep the cost down. Only to have a few malcontent hold the reimbursement of the Deputies or the Lodge funds back, just for grins and giggles.

My Brothers once again, to error is human to forgive is divine, if you are the Brothers or Lodge that complaint about the expenses, just because you feel they are too much, without asking for an explanation first, without looking at what all was done. Maybe because you did not have a good attendance at the meeting and feel is not right to carry your fair share of the burden, there by increasing the others share of the load I, say shame on you, these are not the actions of a Brother or a Mason.

However, I do have a solution to that problem, bring up a solution on how to do it cheaper, more streamline. Even better how about you demonstrating how it can be done. My Brothers it is your duty to teach those less informed than yourself how to do things proper. Volunteer, pitch in and demonstrate how it can be done, I personally like to learn from the best and would be glad to see your results. Until then let, us not cause confusion among the Craft and do the right thing.

The right thing to me would be to question, receive explanation, not that you could have gotten the bread five cent less cause you knew the CEO back in some other state, because if you did not volunteer prior to the expense you really shouldn't question the cost. Pay the bill and volunteer for the following year so you can provide the leadership and expertise to streamline the process there by benefiting all the Brothers of your District. Even better, write the process down and share it with your Brothers from around this jurisdiction that they can benefit as well.

Remember that as Masons we need to teach the ignorant, discourage the greedy and unmask the hypocrite, be that Brother that builds, be that Brother that unites, be the Brother of solutions plainly said just be a Brother an act as a MASON. Now you call it, is it Masonic or Selfish behavior.

Respectfully and Fraternally Submitted, I remain your most humble servant

Jorge L. Aladro
Senior Grand Warden

If you would like to receive, these newsletters make request at email below if you would like to forward to your list of friends you have my permission and thank you in advance.

“My Brothers, the newsletters are intended to be thought provoking, to get you to think creatively, to get you thinking what if?, to dare you to improve yourself and your Lodge.”

Note: If you would, like to have any of these presentations made at your Lodge or District Associations feel free to call.

“Masons always rise to the occasion”