

THE MASONIC RESTORATION FOUNDATION

-helping American Masonic Lodges create an atmosphere where their members can learn, study, and impart the traditional lessons of Freemasonry through meaningful human fellowship, stimulating discourse, and enriching programs that enhance their daily lives -

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

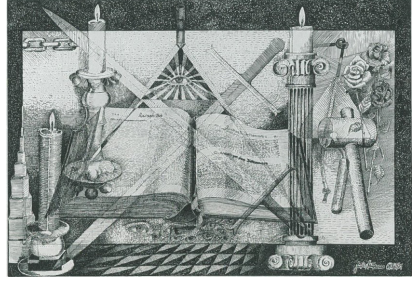
THE MASONIC RESTORATION FOUNDATION IS A NON-PROFIT, TAX EXEMPT 501C(3) EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES NEWS, RESEARCH, AND ANALYSIS RELATING TO THE RICH HERITAGE IN FREEMASONRY AND CURRENT TRENDS IN THE AMERICAN FRATERNAL EXPERIENCE.



MASONIC RESTORATION
FOUNDATION

THE MASONIC RESTORATION FOUNDATION (MRF)

Since 2001, the MRF has been conducting research on the problems affecting American Masonry, identifying successful practices and offering realistic solutions aimed at reversing negative trends. We have interviewed hundreds of young men about their perceptions of Masonry, and what they seek in the lodge experience. We are aware that many men who are joining the fraternity today have generally already done a lot of reading and website surfing and have formulated an opinion about the fraternity.



Many come into Masonry knowing more than those who have been members for some time. Young men perceive Freemasonry as a venue for truth-seeking, a vehicle for self improvement and spiritual development; a quest for maturity in masculinity, and the discovery of one's inner potential. Our new brothers know what they want from a fraternity and have high expectations that their lodge will meet their needs as men.

The MRF provides education and training to individuals, lodges and Grand Lodges on ways to establish quality programs, academic excellence and social relevance in their Masonic communities that will be a match with the needs of the new Mason.

As American Freemasonry faces some of the most important challenges in its history the MRF stands to ensure a sense of purpose and identity for the Craft.

ORGANIZATION, MISSION AND GOALS

The Masonic Restoration Foundation (MRF) was organized to identify and distribute, through its research, the time-tested cultural and fraternal Masonic practices that have proven successful in the North American, Central American, South American and European Masonic experience. The focus of MRF is to identify the most successful lodge practices currently in place, both in America

FOUNDATION

and abroad, and promote the characteristics which form the best lodge meetings, fraternal and social practices across the Masonic landscape. Our aim is to serve the initiatic needs of American males, while preserving Freemasonry's landmarks and upholding its tradition as a transformative art.

The MRF is a group of regular Freemasons who are devoted to the study and implementation of Masonic lodge and related social practices that focus on the psychology of being which forms the basis for all Masonic teachings. The foundation promotes those traditions in Freemasonry which are centered on the shared dialogue of men embracing the nature of God, self improvement, and civic duty. We believe Masonry creates sacred places and social environs that foster harmonious, transforming, and fulfilling experiences for men; and, thus, members of the Masonic fraternity.

MRF membership is restricted to Master Masons in good standing in a lodge chartered by a Grand Lodge that is a member of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America. The MRF has an annual membership meeting each year during the month of February in conjunction with the Allied Masonic Week held in Alexandria, VA. The MRF may hold additional meetings in various locations around the country.

The mission of the MRF is to assist and support, through education, communication, example, and coordination of efforts among lodges, Grand Lodges, individuals and groups of Masons belonging to regularly and duly constituted lodges; the overall improvement and happiness of the individual Mason and his fraternal relationships.

The goal of the foundation is to cultivate and develop a culture of learning and growth within the American Craft by encouraging and demonstrating quality programs, academic excellence and social relevance within the Masonic community; thus restoring the dignity, efficacy and integrity of Freemasonry to its historical and rightful place of honor and respect in society.

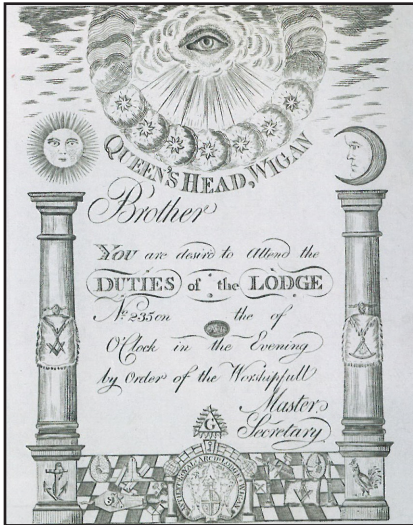
THE MRF IS NOT A MASONIC LODGE, ORDER, CONCLAVE, ENCAMPMENT, OR RITE; NOR WILL IT EVER ATTEMPT TO CHARTER, CREATE, OR ESTABLISH LODGES. IN MASONRY, ONLY A GRAND LODGE CAN CHARTER A LODGE. THE MRF DOES NOT AND WILL NOT CLAIM MASONIC AUTHORITY OVER ANY MASONIC BODY. IT HAS NO RITUAL, BUT UPHOLDS THE HIGHEST RITUAL STANDARDS IN PRESENTATION

AS LEGALLY PRESCRIBED BY THE ADOPTED PRACTICES OF REGULAR GRAND LODGES.

MRF activities may only happen with the permission of a Grand Lodge.

Lodges that support the MRF operate solely under the Grand

Lodge in whose jurisdiction they are chartered and, as such, have an independent existence from the MRF. Lodges that support the mission, purposes and goals of the MRF may be styled “Traditional Observance” Lodges only in the sense that their practices align with the traditional practices of Freemasonry, as listed in Section 2 of this Manifesto.



regional and national Masonic education conferences upon request of members or lodges, and with permission of the Grand Lodge in which its events are held.

The MRF is a non-profit, 501c(3) educational foundation incorporated in the state of California. The mailing address is 5100 Celtic Drive, #202, Alexandria, VA.

THE TRADITIONS

The MRF endorses the following tenets as being traditional to the Masonic institution, and widely accepted as representing the best practices in Masonic Lodges across the world:

- It is a tradition of Freemasonry that the fraternity is, above all else, an initiatic order whose main purpose is to teach good men to subdue their passions, become masters over themselves, and grow in life to be better men.

- It is a tradition of Freemasonry that only those who are duly and truly prepared are eligible to be admitted as members. In keeping with the Masonic statement “to make good men better,” a man should only be initiated into a lodge if he is already good and capable of being made better. Determining the qualifications of men in seeking admission is an essential aspect of upholding the integrity of our ancient institution.
- It is a tradition of Freemasonry that its ceremonies should be conducted with the utmost reverence and solemnity. Masonic ritual ceremonies should always be performed in a solemn and dignified manner. All efforts pertaining to the presentation of the degrees of Craft Freemasonry should be focused on the candidate, providing each with the most profound and transformative initiatic experience possible.
- It is a tradition of Freemasonry that every Mason should be desirous to learn and apt to teach. Sufficient time between degrees should be given to each candidate so as to enhance his self transformation through personal intellectual study, reflection and contemplation. It is incumbent on every lodge to be aware of the progressive nature of its teaching curriculum, and to provide its candidates with a ritual coach and the mentorship of well informed brethren.
- It is a tradition of Freemasonry that each candidate should demonstrate his proficiency in learning at each individual stage or degree before he can be advanced to the next stage. Traditionally, Masonic learning includes a demonstration of the candidate’s understanding of the journey from darkness to light, ignorance to knowledge; and his insight into the uses and applications of Masonic symbols, allegories and myths introduced by the ritual ceremonies. The aspirant should be able to articulate to

his lodge brethren some positive changes in his character and demeanor as he advances in his understanding and proficiency. Every newly raised Master Mason should feel that he has grown intellectually and spiritually by his Masonic experience.

- It is a tradition of Freemasonry that members of Masonic Lodges should be actively engaged in Freemasonry. Historically, attendance at Masonic meetings and functions was mandatory, with fines paid for absences not excused by the lodge. Active participation in the business and purposes of Masonry by a large majority of those who belong is essential to the growth and vitality of a lodge, and in carrying out its role in improving society.
- It is a tradition of Freemasonry that Masons come together to seek fellowship and fraternity in a common pursuit of virtue and moral improvement. This has historically best been accomplished in small and intimate gatherings of fraternal association. Lodges should be large enough to be efficient, but small enough for all the brethren of the lodge to closely know each other. Fraternal ties must always be stronger than social ties. Masonic relationships are expected to be forged between members in the same way a brother grows close to a sibling.
- It is a tradition of Freemasonry that, through the exercise of genuine brotherly love, men become better enabled to regard humankind as one family. Charity, being the chief of all social virtues, encumbers Masons to aid, support and protect each other, relieve the distress and misfortune of family members, and consciously contribute to the betterment of society at large.
- It is a tradition of Freemasonry that Lodges should make regular time for feasting, communal dining, and embracing the social enjoyment of their members. Holding an Agape or Festive Board after meetings has long been a traditional

element of Masonic evenings. Table Lodges and Feasts of St. John offer opportunities to observe this important Masonic tradition with the larger Masonic community. The fellowship of men is best embraced in the convivial environs of sociability.

- It is a tradition of Freemasonry that its formal and tyled assemblies should be dedicated to the attainment of a deeper knowledge and understanding of Freemasonry by all members. To this end, the presentation of lectures, poetry, music; discussions of the arts, philosophy, and history; and the interpretation of symbols, allegories and myths of Masonic ritual all play an important role in furthering the aims and growth of a Masonic lodge and its members. Each tyled meeting should be devoted, at least in part, to the realization of this profound purpose.
- It is a tradition of Freemasonry that only the ablest among us should serve in an office of Masonry. Serving in a Masonic office is a privilege and not a right. Officers of Masonic lodges should be elected and appointed based solely on their merit. Officers who are invited to progress in the offices of Masonry should be able to demonstrate their qualifications to lead and execute the duties of their office.
- It is a tradition of Freemasonry that the Master of a Masonic Lodge must be well versed in Masonic teachings and traditions; be a proven leader of men; possess a character worthy of respect; and be the kind of man who cultivates in all his undertakings the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.
- Above all, the most important tradition of a Freemason is self



improvement. The improvement of the individual is the most fundamental aspect of improving society. Thus, the most important tradition of Freemasonry is societal improvement made manifest through the best efforts and examples of its members.

APPLICATIONS

The MRF achieves its mission and purposes through the following activities:

- a) Dissemination of information on traditional practices of Masonry, Masonic Lodge meetings, fraternal and social activities through websites, Masonic forums, and any and all electronic or printed means of communication;
- b) Supporting Masonic educational organizations, societies, research lodges, academies, Grand Lodge education committees, regional Grand Lodge Masonic education conferences, and other Masonic sanctioned endeavors aimed at improving member and societal knowledge about Freemasonry;
- c) Promoting professional standards in lodge administration and management and the highest standards of ritual proficiency and presentation in the adopted work of Freemasonry within all regularly constituted Grand Lodges;
- e) Providing a clearinghouse for information, knowledge and communication, networking, technical assistance to individuals, Masonic groups, Lodges, Grand Lodges and assemblies of Grand Lodges when called upon in the pursuit of excellence in all things Masonic;
- f) Developing networks of lodges, individuals and groups of Masons to foster excellence in lodge practices and improving the overall health of Craft Freemasonry;
- g) Maintaining a strong, dynamic, and viable website, Facebook page,

and other social networking sites and venues focused on the pursuit of Masonic knowledge and excellence in the practices of Freemasonry;

h) Serving as a resource for Grand Lodges in offering assistance in areas of Masonic research and education, and serve as a liaison with Grand Lodges when requested to support their Masonic education goals and initiatives;

i) Sponsoring and coordinating MRF events;

j) Conducting an annual meeting of the MRF during Allied Masonic Week in Alexandria, VA; and state and regional meetings and symposiums focused on the purposes and mission of the MRF, when requested, by permission and in accordance with the laws of the Masonic Jurisdiction in which said meetings/symposiums are held;

k) Manning information and membership tables at larger Masonic events and Grand Lodge Communications when requested;

l) Disseminating an online newsletter of MRF happenings and events, and the events of lodges committed to traditional practices as these are made available to the MRF Secretary; and

m) Adopting, maintaining, and reporting all information required of the MRF in regard to the preservation of the MRF's legal status as a non-profit educational foundation under section 501c3 of the laws promulgated by the Internal Revenue Service of the United States

**THE MASONIC RESTORATION FOUNDATION'S HOPE
FOR AMERICAN FREEMASONRY**

The many Lodges, Grand Lodges, and individual Masons who support the work of the MRF believe that when lodges practice Masonry as a transformative art, they become a part of the true heritage of Freemasonry that has been established over hundreds of years and has been energized through hundreds of rituals, which have been repeated thousands of times. Such places have spectacular reserves of energy, all focused on a single, foundational hope—the improvement

in the individual man and Mason.

We believe the focus on a quality fraternal, educational and social experience for each individual Mason determines the uniqueness and effectiveness of the lodge. And its potential power rests in this—*such a place does not exist anywhere else in the world.*

To assist in creating such a culture, and to experience it in lodge after lodge, within Grand Jurisdiction after Grand Jurisdiction, is the mission of the Masonic Restoration Foundation.

We invite you to join us in the restoration of Freemasonry to its rightful place in society.

