

Education and Training Steering Group

Minutes of meeting 11th August 2008

Present:- V. Thomas (chair), T. Sherman, G. Crawford, A. Kersley, R. Hirst,
J. Benson, J. Boughton, D. Jackson

Apology:- D. Young

Minutes of meeting 13th May 2008 :- accepted

Matters arising:- none not on agenda

Reports from sub-groups:-

Libraries and Museums:- J. Boughton reported that the card system at Northampton appeared not to be in any recognisable order and that although cards carried a book-case and shelf location books appeared not to be at the stated location. He felt that it needed someone to start from scratch and catalogue each book electronically.

A. Kersley reported that Peterborough was in a similar position but that they had found an interested person to undertake the electronic recording of books at the centre.

J.B. will endeavour find someone for Northampton.

Lodges of Instruction:- J. Benson said that the close season had made progress slow but that some Brethren felt that the Province were “sticking their nose in”. This of course is not the case, we simply want to find out what the current situation in order to assist where needed and to disseminate good practice.

The initial survey continues with the main focus being Huntingdon but other areas joining in where possible. Findings to be passed to J. Benson.

R. Hirst suggested that Preceptors could be invited to join in D.C.’s training sessions. V. Thomas to Talk to N. Young

D. Jackson was asked to find out about Chapters of Instruction.

Mentoring:- R. Hirst reported that “stuff” from Grand Lodge indicates that they see mentoring as important.. Information from Grand Lodge needs to be processed and Provincial Mentoring booklets up-dated with anything that proves to be of use.

He also stated that we need mentor training.

R. Hirst requested that as we visit Lodges could we note whether or not Brethren leaving the Lodge are indeed accompanied and have specific tasks/discussion guidelines been set for the Mentor.

D. Jackson reported that the R.A. has extended its’ mentoring programme with Grand Officers acting as co-ordinators.

Orations In the absence of D. Young V. Thomas reported that the first set of Orations had been received across the Province with , as expected, varying degrees of acceptance. However, the feedback has been useful.

A second set of Orations from Grand Lodge has been seen by R. Hirst, D. Young and V. Thomas and a report submitted to Grand Lodge.

The Provincial Orator is writing his own Orations

Demonstrations:- T. Sherman referred the members to the previously circulated report. He added that other Provinces had expressed envy that this initiative was receiving

Prov. Gr. Lodge support.

The group will be properly formed reporting back to the Steering Group but that it needs a name.(thinking caps on prior to the next meeting)

T.S. asked about finance to which it was replied that Province realised that there would be a cost implication but that funds are limited.

T. S. expressed the opinion that the group should not charge Lodges any more than expenses. He also said that they need more members (thespians or those leaning in that direction); could we mention as we go around.

Officers Training:- R. Hirst stated that several people had responsibility for various aspects of training and that perhaps a review of the current situation is required.

Secretaries seem to be “dumped” in office without any real preparation. There are annual Secretaries training nights and N. Pope and T. Boswell are going “out and about” this year to try and reach more members, but should we target prospective secretaries before they assume office. R.H. to discuss with N.P.

R.H. also suggested that we need a record of those Lodges who attend training sessions in order to be able to “assist” those who find it difficult.

I.T. Data Base:- A. Kersley gave a resume of the progress so far which impressed the I.T. literate and blew the minds of the rest of us.

He set the group homework; to log on to www.dailyadvancement.com/discussion and have a play.

A lot of work has been done for which we are all grateful and yet the system is in its infancy!!!!

A.K. needs more input; access levels need to be thought about etc but all agreed that the prospects are all very exciting.

I.T. Web Site:- G. Crawford reported that the site continues to grow and is updated regularly.

The question was asked as to when the data base should be linked to the Web site. I think the answer was “as soon as is practical”.

A.K. to contact Lodges to advertise the Web site and Data Base

The group thanked A.K. and G.C. for there hard work.

A.O.B.

Note:- Diaries are out next week

Date of next meeting:- **Tuesday 11th November at 2pm**