

“ A Lodge of Confusion ”

by Allen E. Roberts

*Presented by the Dufferin Lodge Masonic Players
Toronto District No. 7*

CAST OF CHARACTERS

- Master
- Senior Warden
- Junior Warden
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Senior Deacon
- Junior Deacon
- Trustee
- Narrator
- Past Master (W.M.'s Advisor)
- Guest Speaker - Past Master
- Visitor (Past D.D.G.M.)
- Visitor (E.A.)
- 1st Past Master (member)
- 2nd Past Master (member)
- E. A. (newby member)
- M.M. (member for more then 40 yr.)

PROPS

- Waste Basket
- Minute Book
- Several envelopes with junk mail - Book of Constitution
- Letter from the Grand Master
- 1 Ballot box + black&white balls
- Large Masonic emblem + Masonic ring worn by the Visitor (E.A.)
- 1 old looking M.M. apron

The Setting: A regular Lodge room. If a stage or another room is the site, it should be set up as a Lodge room. With the exception of the E.A. (member) and P.D.D.G.M. no signs are given.
(Play may be performed in open/closed Lodge. Play should be open to all Masons)

START

(The Lodge is called from labour to refreshment by the Worshipful Master)

Dufferin Lodge Play Co-Ordinator: (Bro. Sheldon Kofsky)

- (Welcome and introduction)

Narrator: (Bro. Sheldon Kofsky) (Notes, before the play)

(Gives explanation to the audience the purpose of the evening . . .) i.e.:

-----> - The play you are about to see, entitled “**A Lodge of Confusion No. 1**”, has been adapted for presentation in Canada by Hans Sanders. The play as you will see, might be subtitled “**How not to run a meeting.**” You may wish to try to identify how many errors are made by the Cast of 17+ players.

I ask you **not** to respond to the knock or instructions given by the Master of the Cast, as this **may confuse the players even more.**

During the play you will hear from me twice, in each case to shorten the proceedings and **thus relieve your distress.**

In accordance with the motto of our order - AUDI, VIDE, TACE - we invite you to watch; to listen and remain silent, and we hope enjoy yourselves.

The Lodge could be anywhere, **the players could be you !**

And with that ----> **MAESTRO - LET THE PLAY BEGIN !**

W.M. of Host Lodge (*the Director Of Ceremonies has already been sent out;* followed by an alarm given by the Tyler)

⇒ starts off:

- Bro. J.W., you will permit “The Group of Masonic Experts” to enter.

Junior Warden of Host Lodge

- Bro. I.G., you will permit “The Group of Masonic Experts” to enter. (*Alarm is given and responded, the Lodge door is then opened.*) (*Pipers & Drummer entered the Lodge room, but “The Group of Experts” does not enter. P First Confusion.*)

W.M. of Host Lodge (*wondering*) :

- (1) - Bro. Senior Warden inform the Tyler to lock the outside door, that nobody may enter nor leave the building; and to tile the Lodge from the inside.
- (2) - Bro. Stewards I request you to search the building for the distinguish “Educators” of the evening.

(The Stewards open all three doors in the Lodge room; this is the sign for “The Group of Experts” to enter the Lodge room)

The Play is about to begin

*(The Officers of The Host Lodge have vacated their chairs. The Cast enters slowly, noisily and nonchalantly through the different doors, and continues talking. After a moment or two: - The **Master, Secretary, Senior Warden and Junior Warden**, assume their stations and using the collars of the Host Lodge Officers. The Worshipful Master of The Host Lodge moves to the I.P.M. chair, the Master of the Cast approaches the East, assumes the gavel, and seats himself in the East.)*

(The scene opens with the remaining Brethren of the Cast standing around chatting and telling jokes - except for one fellow whom we later learn is the guest speaker for the evening. He sits quietly in a corner of the Lodge, close to the S.W. corner.)

(The Master of the Cast asks for order, but is ignored; he raps his gavel loudly and shouts. Again he is ignored. After he continues rapping vigorously there is quiet. Players, except the Officers, take their reserved seats in the audience.)

CAST

Worshipful Master: *(with a smart look on his face)*

- At last I can hear myself think.

1st Past Master:

- Think! I didn't know there was anyone here who could do that!
(Laughter.)

Worshipful Master:

- That's enough sarcasm from you! Now, before I open this Lodge I want to get something straight - as I said last year and repeated last month - I am not going to serve another year as Master of this Lodge. Six years is long enough.

1st Past Master:

- Too long! Would have been all right if you had done something, but you did nothing except warm that seat in the East for fifty minutes or so each month.

Worshipful Master:

- I resent that! Especially coming from you. What did you do when you were Master?

1st Past Master:

- I started the meetings on time! Ever since you took over we've all grown beards between entrance and the time you've opened.

Worshipful Master:

- That's because we can't get any officers here on time.

1st Past Master:

- Nice excuse! (pause) And after you get us open, what do we do?
- **Nothing!**

Worshipful Master:

- Your sarcasm is wasted, my friend. I'm not going to be serving any more after this year is over.

2nd Past Master:

- Look's like you're going to have to. In two months is our Installation Night, and there's no one to take your place. The Senior Warden rarely comes. Anyway, he wouldn't be any better than you are.

Worshipful Master:

- Well, well. We've got another comedian!

Master Mason: (member for more than 40 years)

- There's one thing you fellows haven't been taking into account. Our Master did not *want* to be Master. And if you can remember that far back, neither one of you did either. We haven't had an officer in twelve years that has wanted to be an officer. And that includes **me**. (*points to himself*)

Treasurer:

- You know when it started don't you? It was when you, _____ (*points to 1st Past Master - Use first name*) - were the Master. You went to the Royal York Hotel to attend Grand Lodge and they wouldn't give you a vote because my predecessor forgot to send in our annual return to Grand Lodge. You got angry and came back here and forbid any of us to have anything more to do with those fellows in Hamilton. The only reason you let the District Deputy visit us is because you have to.

1st Past Master:

- And I'd do the same thing again. Who do those guys think they are? I offered to pay the returns out of my own pocket, but would the Grand Secretary let me? **No, Sir!**

Treasurer:

- Tell the whole story, _____ (*1st Past Master - Use first name.*)
He couldn't let you pay because the returns hadn't been sent in and no one could tell how much our Lodge owed, and you insisted on knowing exactly how much, before you would give him a nickel.
Anyhow, there is a book of Constitution and there are Rules & Regulations that must be followed in Masonry as well as in anything else.

1st Past Master:

- Any law that would keep a Lodge from voting at Grand Lodge stinks! And what do you mean by backing up those guys in Hamilton? We ought to throw you out on your ear.

Treasurer:

- That's what's been wrong with this Lodge. We've been ignoring the fellows in Hamilton. Maybe it's time we listened to them.

2nd Past Master:

- Listen to them about what? What have they ever done for us? We never hear from them. We might just as well be in Afghanistan as here in Toronto as far as they are concerned.

Secretary:

- Oh, we hear from them. I get letters all the time.

2nd Past Master:

- Why don't you ever read any of them to us? I haven't heard you read one in all the time I've been coming to Lodge.

Secretary:

- They have been sending nothing but junk! I don't even bother opening the envelopes anymore. In the past I just throw them in the waste basket.

Worshipful Master:

- That's a stupid thing to do! How do we know they aren't sending us some money or something just as good?

Master Mason: (member of more than 40 years)

- That's as stupid a suggestion as the Secretary's action! How can the Grand Lodge send us a cheque when we don't even pay our annual returns.

Junior Warden:

- Worshipful Sir, may I say something?

Worshipful Master: (*Sits with mouth open.*)

- Well, well, well. Our Junior Warden can speak! I believe this is the first time you have said anything since you were elected two years

ago. Sorry, Junior Warden you will have to wait until we are under the heading of "General Business" after the Lodge has been duly opened. After all these years you should know that!

Senior Warden:

- Worshipful Sir, when are we going to get this show on the road? We're more than 30 minutes late already.

Worshipful Master:

- Worshipful Brother _____ (*use the Last Name of Advisor*) hasn't show up yet and you know I can't run this Lodge without him.

Senior Warden:

- How in the world did you ever pass the exam from the Examining Board as required by Grand Lodge?

Worshipful Master: (*Laughs*)

- That was easy, my wife and I invited them for dinner. We finished late, but we all had a good time, and... don't forget the ones nominated to do the job were my long time buddies.

1st Past Master:

- It's way past time, as usual, to open this Lodge.

Worshipful Master:

- (1) - I don't want to hear another wisecrack from you tonight, Brother _____ (*1st Past Master - Use last name*).
- (2) - Now **you** officers, that are here, assume your stations and can someone fill in wherever there isn't an officer present.

(Cast members exchange stations and receives the respective collars; both Stewards leave without being replaced by cast members.)

Past Master (W.M.'s Advisor): (*Rushes into the Lodge*)

- Here I am. Now we can get started.

Worshipful Master: *(Mops brow with handkerchief)*

- Wheew! Am I glad to see you. O.K. fellas. Let's start.

Narrator: *(Voice off stage)*

----> - **Brethren, I interrupt here to say that after much confusion and bickering the Lodge is finally opened.**

Secretary:

- Now this Lodge is opened, I reckon you want me to tell you what to do, don't you Worshipful Sir?

Worshipful Master:

- Not yet, Brother Secretary. First, be sure you record that this Lodge started in due time at 7:30 p.m., and then you go on and read the minutes of the last Regular Meeting so I can find out what we've got to do tonight.

Secretary:

- Worshipful Sir, you can't expect me to do that! Every month it's the same old story! Let me make it clear: **Either**, I record the real time -
or- **YOU** find yourself a new Secretary!

(And starts reading.....)

- The Minutes of the last Regular Meeting was held on March 20th, that being the Friday nearest the full moon. *(Looks up)*
Reckon I shouldn't call that a **Regular** Meeting on the account we didn't elect the officers for next year.

Worshipful Master:

- What difference does that make? Go on and finish reading the Minutes. If there are any errors I'll let you know.

2nd Past Master:

- How would you know? In the middle of the last meeting, you suddenly walked out of here madder than a swarm of hornets. You don't even know what went on.

Worshipful Master: (*Glares at the 2nd P.M.*)

- You go on and finish reading the minutes, Brother Secretary.

Secretary: (*Continues reading.*)

- The meeting was opened by the Worshipful Master. He said that this was the annual election night, and we would have an election of officers immediately. It was called to his attention that reports had to be made from the Trustees and Auditors. He said he didn't care what he was supposed to do, he was going to hold the election. He called for nominations, but no one would nominate anyone, so he left the Lodge. After a lot of discussion, the Junior Warden was called upon to close the Lodge with no business being transacted. (*Looks at the W.M.*) The whole night was wasted because **YOU** got angry.

Worshipful Master:

- (1) - Well, this isn't going to happen again. We *will* hold elections again next month, and *every* month thereafter until my successor is elected. I give you guys an ultimatum, you better elect one! or I will not return after the summer. Enough about that! I am getting tired.
- (2) - What's on the agenda, Brother Secretary?

(5 seconds silence)

E.A. (Member):

- (*Stands, Makes **wrong** S. and S., saying: "Worshipful Sir" and is ignored. Raises his hands in question and sits down.*)

Secretary:

- I think the first thing you should better do, Worshipful Sir, is tell us why you spent \$ 135.65 on Mrs. Smith.

Treasurer:

- You should better do just that, 'cause I ain't gonna pay those bills for food and fuel oil on *your* say so!

Worshipful Master:

- I told you Brother Senior Warden (*Pointing to the S.W.*) that I had no right to do what you said, so you had better get your cheque book ready.

Past Master (W.M.'s Advisor):

- Worshipful Master, this sounds most distressing. You had better tell us about it.

Worshipful Master:

- It was this way: **YOUR S.W.** visits Mrs. Smith. You remember her she's the widow of the fellow who served as our Tyler for years. - Anyway, he finds she has no food in the house and it was cold on account of there's no oil in the tank. He came and got me and talked me into waking Brother Daniels so he could fill a basket with groceries for her at the store. Then he made Brother Andrews fill her tank with oil. He made me guarantee the Lodge would pay these bills. And I told him it would take a vote of the Lodge to spend that money.

Senior Warden:

- That's right! And I'd do it again. And let me make this clear - if this Lodge doesn't honor those bills, I'm going to call the Grand Master tonight and recommend he yank up our charter!

Treasurer: - Well, I ain't gonna pay them!

Past Master (W.M.'s Advisor):

- Hold on there, Brother Treasurer. The Master has the right to spend the funds in your hands for any Masonic purpose and you are obligated to pay the bills he authorizes.

(5 seconds silence - everyone scratches their heads puzzled)

E.A. (Member): - (*Stands, Makes S. and S., saying: "Worshipful Sir" and is ignored. Raises his hands in question and sits down.*)

Treasurer:

- I ain't gonna pay those bills!

Worshipful Master:

- Worshipful Brother _____ (*Use Last Name of W.M.'s Advisor*)
are you sure you're correct?

Past Master (W.M.'s Advisor):

- Of course I'm correct, and if the Treasurer persists in his attitude, you can prefer charges against him.

Worshipful Master: (*With exaggerated sigh of relief.*)

- (1) - You hear that, Brother Treasurer? Now you write those cheques right now or I'm preferring charges against you.
(*The Treasurer busily writes. The W.M. speaks to no one in particular.*)

- (2) - I don't know what preferring charges means, but it sure seems to work.

(*There is a loud knock on the door. The Junior Deacon goes to the door without any instructions while the W.M. is speaking.*)

- (3) - What else do we have to take care of, Brother Secretary? I saw you come in with

Junior Deacon: (*Interrupts the W.M.*)

- Worshipful Sir! The Tyler just said the District Deputy Grand Master is outside - he said he's in waiting!

Worshipful Master:

- For goodness sakes, Brother Junior Deacon, let him in. He's too big a wheel to keep waiting.

Past Master (W.M.'s Advisor):

- Just a moment, Worshipful Sir. You will have to appoint somebody to get out and receive him.

Worshipful Master:

- Well, now ... Ohhhh, I know what you mean. A couple of years ago I saw this done in Australia, during a Lodge visit. I'll appoint the Senior and Junior Deacon and YOU, Worshipful Brother _____ (W.M.'s Advisor) to go out and bring in the D.D.G.M.
- _____ and if you can't find any candles you can use matches or cigarette lighters.

Past Master (W.M.'s Advisor):

- Just a moment, Worshipful Sir. We don't use candles in this Jurisdiction to receive the D.D.G.M., and the person to be sent out is Brother Director of Ceremonies - not the Deacons as they have to cross their wands on his entrance.

Worshipful Master:

- You are correct. Why didn't I think of that? *(A knock sounds on the door. Brother Junior Deacon, tend that alarm.)*

Junior Deacon: *(Goes to the door; confers with Tyler; returns to the W.M.)* - Worshipful Sir, the fellow outside said he heard us talking in here and for me to tell you he isn't the the District Deputy - he's just some Past District Deputy.

Worshipful Master:

- Thank you, Brother Junior Deacon. That's a relief. Please admit him. *(P.D.D.G.M. enters, walks to the altar and makes S. and S.)*
We are happy to have you with us, Right Worshipful Sir, especially since you aren't *(hesitating)* the **District Deputy** himself.

P.D.D.G.M.:

- Thank you Worshipful Sir. It is a pleasure for me to be with you.

Worshipful Master:

- Brother S.D., you will give grand honours.

Senior Deacon:

(rises bewildered, questioning why he, pointing to himself; standing in front of his station while clapping his hands above his head, for the first time ever, at least 10 single times)

Past Master (W.M.'s Advisor): *(jumps up; and the Senior Deacon stops abruptly.)*

- W.M., that's enough! He only gets seven!

Senior Deacon: *(sits down very confused.)*

P.D.D.G.M.: *(since not invited to the East, but ignored, takes a seat in the audience.)*

Worshipful Master:

- As I was saying before I was interrupted, what is next Brother Secretary?

(5 seconds silence)

E.A. (Member): - *(Stands, Makes S. and S., saying: "Worshipful Sir" and is ignored. Raises his hands in question and sits down.)*

(There is a loud knock at the door, J.D. attends the alarm.)

Junior Deacon:

- The Tyler wants something *else*, Worshipful Sir.

Worshipful Master:

- Well - don't stand there. Go see what he wants *this* time.

Junior Deacon: *(Goes to the door, confers with Tyler; turns to W.M.)*

- He says there's *another* visitor out there.

Worshipful Master: - Let him in.

Visitor (E.A.):

- *(Enters Lodge. He is wearing a large Masonic emblem on his lapel that belongs on the back of an auto and a ring that is absolutely huge. W.M. stops him close to the West.)*

Worshipful Master:

- Just a minute, Sir. I don't know you. Are you a Mason?

Visitor (E.A.):

- Of course I am. *(Holds out left hand.)* Can't you see my Masonic ring?

Worshipful Master:

- No, but now that I look I can see your lapel pin. Come in and have a seat. *(Turns to Secretary, but is interrupted.)*

Past Master (W.M.'s Advisor): *(Jumps up.)*

- Worshipful Sir, please don't bring our Lodge in more troubles. He *(pointing to the visitor)* is not even wearing an apron!

Worshipful Master:

- You are right! Does anyone has a spare apron?

Senior Warden: *(Jumps up with an apron; comes down to the altar and dresses the visitor with an apron, and returns.)*

Visitor: *(Takes his seat in the South.)*

Worshipful Master: *(Turns to the Secretary again.)*

- What's all that stuff I see on your desk?

Secretary: *(Holds up several envelopes.)*

- Oh, this is just junk I received yesterday from the Grand Lodge office. Those fellows down in Hamilton don't care about us, as I told you before; so I don't care about them. I have decided

not to read this stuff anymore. *(He throws the envelopes in a waste basket.)*

Worshipful Master:

- I see what you mean. I reckon that's as good a place as any, and I will leave this office soon anyway!

Junior Warden: *(While the W.M. speaks the J.W. taps the shoulder of a fellow close to him, whispers in his ear, then the fellow quietly gets the waste basket and takes it to the J.W. As the dialogue continues, the J.W. looks through the mail in the basket.)*

Worshipful Master:

- As I was saying before I was continually interrupted, what do we do next, Brother Secretary?

Secretary:

- We've got the petition of Mr. William Hunter to ballot on.

Worshipful Master:

- We sure have. But I don't see any point in using the ballot box this time. William Hunter is a personal friend of mine, so all in favour of Mr. Hunter will say ...

P.D.D.G.M.:

- Worshipful Master! You must use the ballot box, and the ballot must not have more than 1 black ball to be in favour to the candidate.

Worshipful Master:

- (1) - Well, all right, if you insist. But it's just a waste of time, because he's gonna be elected anyway.
- (2) - May I have a volunteer to distribute the ballots.
- (3) - Brethren, remember! - pick a colour of you liking.

Master Mason: (member for more than 40 years)

(Walks around with both boxes of black & white ballot balls and let each member choose their colour.) (After the J.W. picks his colour, the M.M., on his way to the S.W. makes a general remark to the audience while looking in the box with black balls)

- If it goes on this way, we will soon run out of black balls!

Senior Deacon: *(Without instructions, follows immediately behind the M.M. and takes the ballot box around the Lodge while collecting the ballots, and back to the W.M. The W.M. looks in the box.)*

Worshipful Master:

- Look here fellows. I told you, Mr. Hunter is a personal friend of mine and he's gonna be accepted. Now I'm sending this box back and please stop putting in those black balls.
- Bro. S.D., this time **YOU** will distribute the ballots.

Senior Deacon: *(Starts distributing the ballots, ignoring any dialog between the members of the Cast))*

Master Mason: *(member for more then 40 years)*

- Worshipful Master, I want to be excused from balloting.

Worshipful Master:

- If that's how you feel, my Brother, don't ballot. I want my friend elected.

Past Master (W.M.' Advisor):

- Worshipful Sir, you can't excuse anyone from balloting.

Worshipful Master:

- You may be right, Worshipful Brother _____ (Use Last Name of W.M.'s Advisor), but I'll check on it later.

Senior Deacon: *(The Ballots are distributed; and without further instruction the S.D. starts collecting them again. Arriving at the J.W.'s station, the J.W.*

who puts his hand in the box, takes it out, puts it in again, and takes it out, and starts doing the same. 5 times.)

Senior Deacon:

- Worshipful Master, Brother _____ (Use Last Name of J.W.) has been at the box an unreasonable length of time.

Worshipful Master:

- Brother _____ (Use Name of J.W.), how many times do you plan on balloting?

Junior Warden:

- Just five times, Worshipful Sir, Brother **Jones, Smith, Johnson,** and **Cavan** couldn't be here tonight, and being your friends they wanted to vote in favour, so they asked me to ballot for them. I don't see anything wrong with that!

Worshipful Master:

- That don't seem right to me, but go ahead. I'll check on it later.

(The S.D. carries the ballot box to the W.M.)

Narrator: *(Voice off stage)*

- > - **Brethren, I interrupt here to say that you are witnessing the conclusion of the NINTH ballot on Mr. Hunter.**

Worshipful Master:

- Well! At last you got the message and have elected my friend William Hunter.

P.D.D.G.M.:

- Worshipful Master! I wondered how far this farce would go - and I've seen it! I fear the Grand Master will tell you that your friend has not been elected, but stands rejected. You are allowed to repeat the ballot ONE time - not EIGHT. If you will excuse me, Worshipful Sir, I would like to leave. I suspect your District Deputy

will be visiting by order of the Grand Master to look into the activities of this Lodge.

(The P.D.D.G.M. approached the altar, and makes S and S.)

Worshipful Master:

- You are excused Brother! *(W.M. makes a sweeping move with his fingers as if to say "dismissed")*

(The W.M. and the Brethren are dumbfounded as the P.D.D.G.M. stomps out of the Lodge.)

Worshipful Master:

- Welllll ... Worshipful Brother _____ (Use Last Name of W.M.'s Advisor), what did I do wrong?

Past Master (W.M.'s Advisor):

- Worshipful Master, it would take far too long to enumerate your mistakes. Suppose we get together tomorrow morning and let me tell you then?

Worshipful Master:

- All right. Brother Secretary, what's next?

(5 seconds silence)

E.A. (Member): - *(Stands, Makes S. and S., saying: "Worshipful Sir" and is ignored. Raises his hands in question and sits down.)*

Junior Warden: *(Stands. Waves letter.)*

- You're asking the wrong man what you should do, Worshipful Sir. Your Secretary has gotten you in a peck of trouble.

Secretary: *(Angrily.)*

- What do you mean by that vicious remark. Let me tell you something. If it wasn't for me this Lodge would have been extinct years ago.

Worshipful Master:

- You'd better explain yourself, Brother Junior Warden. I'm not about _____ to have you or anyone else talk bad to our Secretary.

Junior Warden:

- We all saw the Secretary throw letters into the waste basket. He said it was junk from the Grand Lodge Office and that he never read the stuff. Well, there's at least one letter he should have read. So _____ let me read it. This letter is signed by both our Grand Master and the Grand Secretary. Here's what it says: *(Reads official looking letter.)*

⇒ Dear Worshipful Brother _____ (use Last Name of the Master of the Cast):

- And that is **YOU** *(Pointing to the W.M.)*

This is to inform you that:

- because your Lodge has ignored all letters from your Grand Secretary for over **two** years, **and**
- because your Lodge has filed no annual returns for **three** years, and has ignored all letters from me, **and**
- has refused to let the District Deputy Grand Master make an official visit to your Lodge for **two** years,

----> I have instructed your District Deputy Grand Master to meet with you and your officers on the first day in June, and I gave full authority to remove your charter if he is not satisfied that your Lodge will mend its ways and conform to the laws, rules and regulations as laid down in _____ the Book of Constitution of this Grand Lodge.

Worshipful Master:

- Wow! What does that all mean, Brother _____ (Advisor's Name)?

Past Master (W.M.'s Advisor):

- If you need me to answer that question, you certainly have no business being Master of this or any Lodge.

(5 seconds silence)

E.A. (Member): - *(Stands, Makes S. and S., saying: "Worshipful Sir" and is ignored. Raises his hands in question and sits down.)*

Junior Deacon:

- I'll tell you what that means, Worshipful Sir. It means the Secretary hasn't been doing the job we elected him to do.

Worshipful Master:

- Well, I'm not going to worry about it yet. We've got until the first of June to find out what's we've done wrong. Now - what do we do next, Brother Secretary?

(5 seconds silence)

E.A. (Member): - *(Stands, Makes S. and S., saying: "Worshipful Sir" and is ignored. Raises his hands in question and sits down.)*

Senior Deacon:

- Worshipful Master, before the Secretary gets us more confused than we already are, I want to nominate my good friend Brother Frank Dixon for Honorary Membership in this Lodge. He's been a member for 16 years and has worked hard even though he has never had any desire to play musical chairs and go through the line of progress. He attends at least two meetings every year and hardly ever refuses to serve refreshments while he's here.

Worshipful Master:

- Thank you, my Brother. I agree with you completely, so those in favour of electing Brother Dixon to Honorary Membership say . . .

Past Master (W.M.'s Advisor): *(jumps to his feet)*

- Worshipful Master, you've gotten yourself and this Lodge into enough trouble already. Let's not get into any more. You've got to use the ballot box, because it takes an unanimous ballot to elect an Honorary Member. See the Lodge by-laws.

Worshipful Master:

- Thank you, Brother _____ (Advisor's Name). I don't know what we'd do without you. Get the ballot box again, Brother Senior Deacon.

Junior Deacon:

- Let me tell you, Worshipful Sir, you sure can do without this particular advice of W.Brother _____ (Advisor's Name). Every recommendation for Honorary Membership must lie over for one lunar month - that's a Masonic month for those who may not know - and due notice must appear in the next summons - and anyway, Brother Dixon isn't eligible. He hasn't been a Mason long enough to qualify, see the Lodge by-laws.

Worshipful Master:

- Is that right, Brother Secretary?

Secretary:

- While they were talking I was looking - and that's right, Worshipful Sir.

Worshipful Master:

- Worshipful Brother _____ (Use Advisor's Name), you are fired as my advisor.

Past Master (W.M.'s Advisor): *(Leaves the East and walks in the direction of the West.)*

Worshipful Master:

- Hey, where are you going?

Past Master (W.M.'s Advisor):

- Well, since I'm of no use in the East anymore, I go to the West to seek for that which was lost!

(5 seconds silence)

E.A. (Member): - *(Stands, Makes S. and S., saying: "Worshipful Sir" and is ignored. Raises his hands in question and sits down.)*

Junior Warden:

- Brother Davies of Morning Star Lodge told me his Lodge had suspended Brother Brown of this Lodge because he didn't paid his dues. I note that Brother Brown is here tonight and I'm wondering if he should be allowed here.

Treasurer:

- Brother Brown has always kept his dues paid up in this Lodge. I don't think we should really care whether or not Morning Star Lodge couldn't get any money from him.

Worshipful Master:

- Brother Secretary, what does the Book of Constitution say on this?

Secretary:

- Darned if I know, Worshipful Sir. Never had this happen before. But, personally, I don't think we should worry about it. If all members kept their dues paid like Brother Brown does, we wouldn't have to worry about a busted treasury.

Treasurer:

- I say Amen to that!

Worshipful Master:

- Does anyone here know what we ought to do?

Treasurer:

- What do we care about anyone else? I'll just say this - if he goes, I go, too.

All: *(members of the Cast)*

- *(Ad lib "Me, too." "You betcha." "Right on.")*

Worshipful Master: *(Raps for order.)*

- OK, fellows. You've made your point. Brother Brown will stay. What's next, Brother Secretary?

(5 seconds silence)

E.A. (Member): - *(Stands, Makes S. and S., saying: "Worshipful Sir" and is ignored. Raises his hands in question and sits down.)*

Senior Warden:

- Worshipful Master. We never do anything for our wives, and I think it's about time we did do something for them, so I move we set aside \$ 1,000 to hold a first-rate ladies night celebration.

Treasurer: *(Jumps to his feet.)*

- What a waste of money that would be! I'm opposed to it. And, anyway, we ain't got that money in the treasury!

Senior Warden:

- The trustees have over \$ 2,000 of our money. We can vote to order the trustees to turn over \$ 1,000 to the Treasurer.

Trustee:

- You can vote to do that, Worshipful Sir, if you want to, but the trustees won't do it. We've got that money invested in ironclad securities and we're not about to sell any.

Senior Deacon:

- Worshipful Master, I don't want to start any feud here, but the chairman of our trustees has just made a rash statement. The trustees must use the funds in their hands as this Lodge directs.

Worshipful Master:

- How about that, Brother Secretary?

Secretary:

- Well, *again*, I've been lookin' while you've been talkin' and Brother _____ (use the Last Name of S.D.) is correct. The trustees must follow the orders of this Lodge. So, if this Lodge votes to transfer any amount from their funds to the Lodge treasury, they've gotta do it.

Worshipful Master:

- (1) - Thank you Brother Secretary. You keep on looking and keep me straight. Now Brethren, before we go feuding with the trustees, we better find out if you favour this ladies night proposition. So all who want a ladies night, costing \$ 1,000 say "aye." (*Ayes from the S.W. and J.W., only.*) Opposed, if any? (*No - from everyone else.*)
- (2) - Well, that solves that. We won't have to tangle with the trustees.

Senior Warden:

- Worshipful Master, our guest speaker this evening has traveled over 200 miles to be with us. While I don't know how he is fixed financially, it would appear to me that we ought to pay his expenses.

Treasurer:

- I'm opposed to that. As I've stated time and time again, we don't have much money in our treasury, and anyway, he should be glad

of the chance to talk to us about Masonry *without* getting paid for it.

Senior Warden:

- That sounds selfish to me, Worshipful Sir. This subject was discussed at the last District Education Night, and it was the consensus of opinion that the expenses of guest speakers should be paid.

Worshipful Master:

- What's this District Education Night you are talking about, Brother Senior Warden? I've never heard of it.

Senior Warden:

- I don't know why you haven't Worshipful Sir, even though you attended this Lodge irregularly while you went through the chairs. Our District Deputy Grand Masters and Members of the District Education Committee in the past **HAVE** visited our Lodge - when we used to let them - and pleaded with us to attend. And from what has been taking place here tonight, it looks like all of us should resolve right now never to miss another District Education Event.

Worshipful Master:

- Are you insinuating that I don't know what I'm doing?

Senior Warden:

- Worshipful Sir, I refuse to answer that question!

Worshipful Master:

- Well, if you're so smart, Brother Senior Warden, why didn't you get elected when you could oppose me last year?

Senior Warden:

- Worshipful Sir, I did not mean for us to delve into personalities. But to go back to what I was saying, our guest speaker had to get a

room in the hotel, he has traveled over 200 miles, and it has cost him extra for meals - not to count the time lost from work, for being here early. I therefore move we pay our guest speaker 15 cents for each mile traveled, round trip, plus the cost of his meals and hotel.

Treasurer: *(Jumps to his feet and stammers.)*

Worshipful Master: *(Interrupts the Treasurer.)*

- Sit down, Brother Treasurer. Our Senior Warden has made a good point. Is there any discussion?

Treasurer: - *(Treasurer starts to speak.)*

Worshipful Master:

- Except from the Treasurer? *(Silence.)* Those in favour of the motion will say "aye."

All: *(members of the Cast)*

- "Aye" *(except the Treasurer.)*

Worshipful Master:

- Opposed, if any?

Treasurer:

- **NO!** You can't do that! **NO!**

Worshipful Master:

- The "ayes" have it. Brother Treasurer, you will check with our speaker and write a cheque for his expenses. What's next, Brother Secretary?

(5 seconds silence)

E.A. (Member): - *(Stands, Makes S. and S., saying: "Worshipful Sir" and is ignored. Raises his hands in question and sits down.)*

Secretary:

- I have nothing else, Worshipful Sir, except the notices from the other Lodges in our District about petitions they've received and will ballot on, but we never bother with them nor read them anyway.

Junior Warden:

- Worshipful Sir, I have the feeling everything we've done this evening must be done over.

Worshipful Master:

- What are **YOU** insinuating, Brother Junior Warden?

Junior Warden:

- I'm not insinuating anything. But I just noticed our Charter isn't hanging on the wall where it always is.

All: *(members of the Cast stand up and stare at rear wall.)*

Junior Warden:

- And doesn't the Book of Constitution say that we must have our Charter in the Lodge to open legally?

Worshipful Master:

- By golly! You are right. I had never sat in a Lodge with our guest speaker of the evening and when I sent out a Committee to examine him - he insisted on seeing our Charter. It must have been left in the preparation-room.

Junior Warden:

- I don't blame him for asking to see the Charter. You have been in Grand Lodge with him and you knew he is a Past Master, and a well known member of the Grand Lodge Education Committee. The Grand Secretary has even issued a list of Masonic Speakers, which is stapled to our Bulletin Board in the ante-room for a long time.

Worshipful Master:

- But sitting in Grand Lodge isn't the same thing. The Constitution says I must have sat in a Regular Lodge with him.

Junior Warden:

- Are you calling the Grand Lodge irregular? And doesn't information from the Grand Secretary constitute lawful Masonic information?

Worshipful Master:

- We won't belabor the point, Brother _____ (Use Last Name of J.W.), but I've got to get out of the dilemma of not having the Charter in the Lodge.

Junior Deacon:

- If you will excuse me, Worshipful Sir, I can answer that. It's one of the questions that came up recently during "The Lodge of Instruction" which was put on by Grand Lodge in our District, as well as was dealt with at the Wardens' Association Meeting a couple of months ago. The preparation-room is a necessary part of every Lodge, therefore the Charter is legally in the Lodge.

(Note: For play purpose only, not valid in Ontario.)

Worshipful Master:

- Brother Secretary, is that correct?

Secretary: *(helpless put his hands up)*

- I don't know, Worshipful Sir, but if Brother _____ (use the Last Name of J.D.) says it is, it must be. He knows more about Masonry than any of the rest of us. That's why it took him so long to be elected Junior Deacon. No Worshipful Master would recommend him. They didn't want anyone smarter than them in the line of office.

Worshipful Master:

- I see what you mean, Brother Secretary, but now I wish I had recommended him. Looks like he has saved us from having to go through this meeting again.

Senior Deacon:

- For that I, too, am thankful. I hope we never have to sit through another like it.

(5 seconds silence)

E.A. (Member): - *(Stands, Makes S. and S., saying: "Worshipful Sir".)*

Worshipful Master:

- I don't know who you are, young man, but all night long you've been standing up and then sitting down. Standing up and then sitting down. What is it you want?

E.A. (newly Member):

- I was received into this Lodge as a Member 5 months ago, but Sir you weren't there, and since then nobody has ever been in touch with me. I'm wondering what's happening with the Lodge. I came here tonight to get some instruction on the Entered Apprentice Degree and some assistance in the abbreviations, but frankly after witnessing what has gone on here, I don't think I care to be here anymore.

Worshipful Master:

- Welllll! Now hear this! I'm being insulted by an ruddy Entered Apprentice. Brother Junior Warden, please let this fellow retire.

E.A. (Member): - *(Stands, Makes S. and S., then goes out the door from where he was seated.)*

Worshipful Master:

- Do we have anything further, Brother Secretary?

Secretary:

- Nothing further, thank goodness, Worshipful Sir.

Worshipful Master:

- Well, my Brethren, there being no further business on the agenda for this evening, we will now hear from our guest speaker.

Worshipful Brother _____ (*use Last Name of Speaker*), needs no introduction to any of you , so will you step up here Brother _____ (*use Last Name of Speaker*) and tell us what you came to tell us?

Guest Speaker:

(Walks to the East; pointedly looks at his watch; shakes his head in bewilderment; looks at the W.M. and again shakes his head.)

- Worshipful Master and my Brethren, the hour is now 10:40. I don't know about you, but I'm tired and want to go to bed. This manuscript I have, took about 60 hours to prepare, but I'm too tired to speak on it, and I'm sure you're too tired to listen. So, let me just say, you have had a glorious 100 years as a Lodge - you may not have another year (*pauses for a moment, and continues*) - but if you get straightened out - I hope you will have another glorious 100 years. Now I'm going to head home - Good night!.

(Speaker: Salutes and returns to his seat as the W.M. sits with his mouth open.)

Treasurer:

- I move we adjourn, Worshipful Sir.

Worshipful Master: (*Raps gavel.*)

- So mote it be!.

(The Master of the Cast quietly returns the gavel, and the Cast noisily leave the Lodge through the preparation-room, leaving their temp. collars behind, and return again, placing itself at the N.E. and S.E. side.)

Narrator: (*Introduces the members of the Cast*)

- OVER the years it has been proven that it's easier to teach through laughter. People remember the mistakes of others when they are privileged to laugh along with the players and the audience. This should come as no

surprise, as most people remember the jokes made by speakers, but often forget the serious points he tried to make.

The play was originally performed at the Annual Convocation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia at Sessions of Masonic Education.

- After the first year the attendance became “standing room only.”
- MORE men attended the play than they did anything else at Grand Lodge.
- Nothing was discussed more throughout the year than that what was portrayed at “A Lodge of Confusion”, which was changed annually to suit the circumstances.

It should be noted that everything shown in each play actually occurred in one or more Lodges in Virginia. This made it easier for the audience to empathize with the players. In many instances there was no exaggeration at all.

On your way out a hand-out is available with an explanation of the deliberate errors made by the Cast in relation to the Book of Constitution.

To the audience at large, may this hand-out give you many pleasant hours of recalling the time you joined with your Brethren in “Learning through Laughter”

Play Co-Ordinator returns Lodge to the care of the Host Lodge W.M.

This completes the performance.

Officers of the Host Lodge having resumed their Chairs & Collars; the lodge is called from refreshment to labour.