



2023-2024

The Wayfaring Man Program

R.E.A.P.

- ❖ Reinstatement
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**MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF ARKANSAS**

The Wayfaring Man Program

by R::W:: Mitchell L. Hensley, PM

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Respectfully submitted to

**M::W:: Boyd G. Freeman
Grand Master of Masons in Arkansas**

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“And when he had lifted up his eyes, he saw a wayfaring man in the street of the city: and the old man said, Whither goest thou? and whence comest thou? And he said unto him, We are passing from Beth-lehem-judah toward the side of mount Ephraim; from thence am I: and I went to Beth-lehem-judah, but I am now going to the house of the Lord; and there is no man that receiveth me to house. Yet there is both straw and provender for our asses; and there is bread and wine also for me, and for thy handmaid, and for the young man which is with thy servants: there is no want of any thing. And the old man said, Peace be with thee; howsoever let all thy wants lie upon me; only lodge not in the street.”

-Judges 19:17-20

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Mission and Purpose

Going upon the errand. This is one of the noblest causes that any Mason may enter upon during his Masonic journey. However, Masonic Relief or that ever important precept of Charity may not always take on the usual forms we have become accustomed. Our brethren may require assistance from time to time and not realize it or they may not know how to seek or vocalize the assistance that is needed. The relief does not always come in the form of shelter or financial aid, on occasion the solution is as simple as providing information and guidance, while displaying a sincere concern for every Brother's contentment and enjoyment along his Masonic travels.

The Mystic Bond of Masonic Brotherhood is the fundamental piece of our fraternity's vast pageantry and sacred ritual. With this bond as common ground, strong, lifelong friendships form naturally between men of different generations, religions, races, economic backgrounds, or political beliefs. With this bond as common ground, strong, lifelong friendships form naturally between men of different generations, religions, races, economic backgrounds, or political beliefs. This alone is what sets us apart from other fraternal, civic, and charitable organizations.

Through the institution and adoption of *The Wayfaring Man Program*, resources, knowledge, and initiative have been combined unlike any way previously to ensure a positive Masonic experience for every Mason created in or affiliated with the Grand Masonic Jurisdiction of Arkansas. It is the hope and design of this program to (1) restore to active membership those Masons that have fallen to the wayside for one reason or another by allowing themselves to be suspended in their lodge(s) for nonpayment of dues, (2) engage those Masons that have kept their dues paid but have lost their zeal for the institution and are dormant in their Masonic travels, (3) advise those that seek to relocate within the jurisdiction as well as those that move in from other jurisdiction's on the most detailed level, ensuring a positive result through the appropriate placement, (4) and lastly, to promote the wellbeing of every Mason in the jurisdiction by making this program known as an invaluable resource to be utilized by all, thus paving the way for a more engaged membership and opening up the possibility of growth in the Grand Masonic Jurisdiction of Arkansas.

The details and overall structure of this program is laid out in greater detail in the subsequent pages of this pamphlet.

Committee Formation

Upon the adoption and implementation of *The Wayfaring Man Program*, the sitting Grand Master may elect to appoint (5) five Master Masons of his choosing to serve until the next regularly stated communication of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Arkansas. Each of the committee seats will be two-year terms once regularly elected. The nomination and election of committee members must follow all existing by-laws, rules, and regulations of the Grand Lodge.

If an appointed and/or elected committee member no longer maintains a residence in Grand Masonic Jurisdiction of Arkansas or fails to reply or comply upon the receipt of an appeal for aid through this program, forwarded by the Grand Secretary, it may be the prerogative of the Grand Master to relieve the committee member of his duties by written letter and appoint a pro-tempore replacement to fulfill his vacated seat until the next regularly stated communication of the Grand Lodge where nominations will be entertained to formally replace the committee members seat for a regular two-year term. The notification and election of vacant committee seats shall follow the adopted processes for all other Grand Lodge committees. The initial committee appointment date will be February 8, 2022.

The initial committee members will be: R:W: Kevin Burnham, R:W: Rodney Fry, R:W: Ray Matthew, R:W: Billy Graves,

As part of the program's adoption and initial implementation, R:W: Mitchell L. Hensley, PM, shall serve a maximum of (3) three years as the Program Director. If this position proves to be unnecessary before the initial three years has expired, the position may be dissolved by the sitting Grand Master. If this position is utilized for the entire three-year term and is not explicitly renewed by the sitting Grand Master on or before February 8, 2025, the position of Program Director shall automatically dissolve but the Wayfaring Man Program will continue as designed.

Reinstate/Restore

It is a common misconception that when one of our Brothers falls away and lets his membership lapse as the result of nonpayment of dues, we are not allowed to reach out or talk to him anymore. While it is true that members not in good standing are no longer privileged to engage in Masonic Fellowship, attend meetings or discuss esoteric matters as they pattern to any Masonic degrees, it is well within our right and our duty to engage that Brother when the time is appropriate and ask if he would like to petition for reinstatement. If no one is aware as to why he let his membership lapse, we should be asking, perhaps the circumstances have changed. As we know, the process for reinstating in the Symbolic Lodge depends on how long the Brother has been suspended and how his Lodge would like to handle his past dues situation.

Brethren eligible for reinstatement because of nonpayment of dues is the most fertile ground for increasing membership across the jurisdiction. There is also great opportunity with these Brethren that make up what is known as “unfinished work” meaning those Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts that have not received the Master Masons degree and become a full-fledged member of their Lodge. The same with this scenario, there was a desire to be a Mason, but something happened along the way, and it is incumbent upon us as their Brother to ascertain the cause and determine whether it can be remedied or not. Both scenarios of SNPD and unfinished work fall under the category of reinstating ones’ membership and commencing their Masonic journey once again.

The following duties, delegated by the Office of the Grand Secretary, are what can reasonably be expected of a committee member regarding this section of the program but are not limited to this list:

- Serve as a mentor for an individual member on his journey back to the fraternity through reinstatement.
- Serve as a liaison to an entire lodge that has formally requested membership restoration aid from the Grand Lodge through this program, suggesting best practices.
- Assist lodges with their list of unfinished work through mentoring, waivers of jurisdiction and other appropriate means of assisting in the completion of a man’s journey in the Symbolic Lodge.
- Speak in lodge(s), when granted time by the Worshipful Master, about this program to raise awareness of its resources and availability.
- Work survey forms produced by the Grand Secretary’s Office regarding those individual members that have been suspended for nonpayment of dues and are eligible for reinstatement.

Engage

A Freemason is a man who has taken an obligation to uphold our timeless principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Beyond these basics, being a Freemason means so much more. A Freemason is a man who is committed to bettering himself and his community, having taken a solemn vow to help and mentor his Masonic Brothers do the same. There is no doubt that most men approach the door of the Lodge with an eagerness to be part of something bigger than himself. In most cases, if the investigation committee has done their due diligence, a man's fervency and zeal on the night of his first degree is palpable. However, as many of us are aware, things can fall through the cracks and a man's Masonic experience might not always begin the way it should despite the best of intentions from all parties involved.

Perhaps a Brother has served his Lodge in various ways over the years and feels burned out, perhaps something was said during dinner before a meeting that came across as inappropriate or offensive, perhaps a decision was made in the Lodge that he strongly disagreed with, or perhaps his Lodge has been declining due to lack of participation, so he gave up as well. These are just a few reasons from a multitude of possibilities of why a man might fall to the wayside and become simply a card-carrying member.

Virtually everything covered in this program is Lodge business, but we know that Lodges sometimes struggle and resort to inaction, not because there is a lack of concern but because there is too often a lack of resources and institutional knowledge to properly navigate these scenarios to achieve the optimal outcome for all involved. Again, this program argues that it is every Mason's duty to 'go upon the errand' and ensure a positive experience for every Mason in Arkansas.

The following duties, delegated by the Office of the Grand Secretary, are what can reasonably be expected of a committee member regarding this section of the program but are not limited to this list:

- Serve as a mentor for an individual member struggling to find value in his Masonic membership by assisting with finding his niche or ideal role for his skillset and/or interests.
- Serve as a mediator or counselor for an individual member that has been offended or displeased by another Brother's actions/words by admonishing the precept of 'who best can work and best agree', striving for reconciliation.
- Serve as a liaison to an entire lodge that has formally requested membership engagement aid from the Grand Lodge through this program, suggesting best practices.
- Serve as an administrator and organizational development resource for Lodges that require assistance with more effective and strategic communication with their membership.

Advise

We cannot build our own future without helping others to build theirs. Sometimes an individual's own life experiences and discernment is precisely what may be required to navigate a troubled or challenging situation. We are told that as Masons we should be willing to both give and receive instruction, for nothing is impossible for those who act after wise counsel and careful thought.

On occasion Masons from other jurisdictions move to Arkansas for their job or due to retirement and are faced with the challenge of finding a lodge that best fits them. This program would serve as a sort of 'fraternal welcome party' for these travelling brethren, with the aim to streamline their integration into our Grand Jurisdiction. This is true for members that already reside in Arkansas but are also relocating for one of these same two reasons.

Another scenario that has become more and more common is that of Lodge mergers or the more regrettable case of a Lodge going defunct. In either situation there is an opportunity for members to be affected negatively and be left with few options in their minds. It is very rare that the absorbed Lodge's membership becomes actively involved in the life of the receiving Lodge and we see members fall to the wayside at an even greater rate. Lodge mergers are simply a process that must happen from time to time, and on occasion it is actually best for the local area and the fraternity as a whole, but it is not always the desired outcome of everyone involved. Instead of doing nothing and watching these members slip away into inactivity or suspension for nonpayment of dues, it should be the mission of this committee to actively seek out opportunities to provide advice and guidance throughout these difficult times and respond promptly to those requests for aid made by both Lodges and individuals.

The following duties, delegated by the Office of the Grand Secretary, are what can reasonably be expected of a committee member regarding this section of the program but are not limited to this list:

- Serve as a mentor for a single member during his travels of entering Arkansas from another jurisdiction, assist him in navigating the process of finding the ideal Lodge for his situation, and advise during the affiliation process.
- Serve as a mentor for a single member during his relocates within Arkansas, assist him in navigating the process of finding the ideal Lodge for his situation, and advise during the affiliation process.
- Serve as a liaison to an entire lodge that has formally requested membership advisement aid from the Grand Lodge through this program, suggesting best practices for all members during the process of a Lodge merger.
- Serve as a mentor for an individual member that has formally requested membership advisement aid from the Grand Lodge through this program, suggesting best practices and specific guidance for his specific situation.

Promote

In the business world, promotion serves as a way to separate yourself from the crowded field of competition. Expressing to the consumer why your services or product is superior and how it can positively affect their lives. So, what does promotion do for a fraternal nonprofit organization? In most cases it will increase engagement and the overall effectiveness of the programmatic development within the organization. In the case of promoting programs like *The Wayfaring Man* it shows both internal and external stakeholders that the Grand Lodge of Arkansas genuinely cares and is determined to provide the tools and resources necessary to deliver the best Masonic experience possible and to not just survive but thrive in the 21st century.

When appropriate and when granted the floor by the Worshipful Master, members should be reminded frequently about the value and availability of this program so that it is widely accepted and utilized. By promoting this program and programs like it, we promote the very essence of the Craft, thus making manifest the axiom '*I am My Brother's Keeper.*'

The following duties, delegated by the Office of the Grand Secretary, are what can reasonably be expected of a committee member regarding this section of the program but are not limited to this list:

- Speak regularly about the program when appropriate and when asked to spread awareness and availability of the program.
- Promote the purest form of fraternalism in all of your words, actions and motives.
- Make Lodges in your immediate area aware of your willingness and availability to speak about the program during the Eighth order of business at their regularly stated meeting.
- With the permission and/or direction of the Grand Master, offer any useful information to the District Deputy Grand Master in your district pertaining to the program.
- Foster collaboration between Lodges with the permission and/or direction of the Grand Master.
- Promptly report any stumblingly blocks that have been identified and could impede the implementation and/or progress of the program.
- Suggest any meaningful and helpful corrections, deletions or additions to the framework of the program to the Grand Secretary's Office at the attention of the Grand Master.

R.E.A.P.

If this program is instituted and adopted by the brethren of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, it is the hope that it would serve well the fraternity in its effort to innovate and perpetuate the Masonic experience and Masonic ideals for generations to come. Through reinstating, engaging, advising and promoting the care and concern for our brethren that have lost their way, we will truly be poised to reap untold fruits that will realign us with the most precious tenet of Brotherly Love. For if we do not like what we are reaping, we had better change what we are sowing. The Great Light of Masonry tells us in Corinthians 9:6 that, *“He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”*

We know that we may very well be sowing the seeds of tree under whose shade we may never sit but thus is life, and thus is our duty as men and Masons. Duty without the hope of fee or reward, in its purest form, is what we have been called up to perform.

