11.0   MASONRY IN ORDINARY LIFE

11.1   Conduct

A Mason should conduct his daily life in a way that reflects his membership in the Craft. He should act in a way that presents a positive image of his membership in Freemasonry to the world.

As a Mason, he must be aware his conduct may influence the world with a positive or a negative opinion about him personally and also about any organizations to which he belongs.

Therefore, his actions outside of the Lodge should reflect the highest standards of morality and trustworthiness he would practice within the Lodge.

11.2   The Secrets of Freemasonry

Every Entered Apprentice should be informed of the following basic principles and information.

11.2.1   What You Can Discuss With a Non-Mason

Masonry is not a secret society. Members of our lodges are not in anyway forbidden from telling others that they are Masons. While every Mason should remember his obligations to secrecy, yet we want to inform non-Masons about who we are, what we are, and what we do.

Therefore, it is important that every Mason understand clearly which things he can talk about and which things he cannot.

11.2.2.   What is a Masonic Secret?

What are the things we call the secrets of Masonry?

The first secret is the ballot of a Mason. No one can know how a Mason votes, unless that Mason tells him, and that is considered un-Masonic conduct. The right and privilege of casting a secret ballot are universally respected in this country by Masons and non-masons alike.

Other secrets are:
- The modes of recognition (signs and words):
- The obligations or vows of each degree;
- The procedure of conferring the degrees, and;
- The legend of the Third Degree.

These four items are usually considered to be the "real" Masonic secrets. But we should all realize that any interested party can go to the public library or bookstore and obtain books which reveal all these things. Clearly we cannot consider these to be secrets in the true sense of the word. There is no way we can keep these books from the public.

[End Document]