

## **A checklist for the Personal Mentors/Lodge buddies in Scheme Lodges**

This checklist is not a replacement for any of the guidance in the Member's Pathway. It is only to be a reminder of some useful and important actions for the Personal Mentors and Lodge buddies in the Scheme Lodges; so that they can better support the new Member and the Lodge Mentor in delivering the Member's Pathway.

This role is NOT supposed to be exhaustive or a burden on your time or Masonry. If it becomes so, then it is probably being operated wrongly and will not be sustainable. It is simply extending supportive friendship to a new member.

Pairing of the new member and the Personal Mentor/Lodge buddy, will be planned, and recorded (by the Lodge Mentor) prior to their first meeting together. At such meeting, they will be formally introduced to one another and exchange details (at least their email and phone numbers).

The idea (primarily) is to keep the new member's company before and after each meeting; so that they don't feel alone. Also, to help them feel that they belong to the Lodge and are a part; and that they grow to understand what is going on.

Please consider the following as the necessary support needed by every new member:

**Company:** Keeping the Candidate's company before each meeting following arrival and after the meeting until the end of the festive board. This will mean sitting with them when possible (at the festive board or even the meeting if/when appropriate).

Introducing the new member (sometimes repeatedly) to the Lodge members is usually very nice, as they often feel shy to come forward and do so themselves.

**Masonically:** Introduction to the Tyler and Treasurer as needed. Teaching him the signs if he needs. Answering or helping him find answers to any questions that he might have; and giving information on our traditions, symbolism and what is happening (within the compass of your attainment and based on his interest). Acknowledging that there might be a lot to take in; and learning by seeing and practice is a part of our fun.

**Absence:** If there is an established relationship, you would probably be informed of this in advance. In any case, please Contact the member if he misses a meeting or if he doesn't respond to the Summons (You will/could ask to be informed of the latter in advance of the meeting).

**Your absence:** If you cannot be there personally, then please make sure that someone carries out this important responsibility in your stead: that the Candidate is not left alone, feels that he belongs, understands what is going on and is overall enjoying the experience. It would be nice to inform him and the Lodge Mentor in advance.

**Beyond the Lodge:** Finding out if he is interested and if so, then helping the new member (Personally or via other Brethren) to have the opportunity to visit other Lodges and take part in the local, Hall or Provincial events. It is especially important to inform him of the local "Light blues club" and give him information on how to join them or their activities. It will be useful to put him through to a club member who can introduce him further.

If the new member is being Passed or Raised in a different Lodge, it is important to accompany and support him at that meeting; or at least make sure that sufficient replacement or representation is arranged. In such case, it would be nice to send him a note of apology and to make the necessary introductions. It would also be nice to send him a congratulatory note after such ceremony.

**Communicate with the Lodge Mentor:** This will include Positives, such as: Interests in getting involved, **Possible Migration;** or Negatives: Concerns and Early signs of disinterest or dissatisfaction