

# GFN CYBER MASON

[www.masonic-network.com](http://www.masonic-network.com)

## Supplement to May News Letter

Suggestions to improve the GFN and reply from our Founders

### 1. Rotate Officer and Rep terms on a 3-year basis.

If we are having problems attracting Reps, we can't really afford the luxury of limited their terms. On the other hand, to be elected or selected to become a Representative MUST be considered an honour and the position MUST be appreciated as such. There will always be "title seekers" among those that want the position but let's assume that in time even these Brothers will fall in line and become team players. Of course, we must stipulate, when the Reps are installed, that they must know that certain duties come with the job. These tasks must be spelled out at the beginning. All Reps have a right to have Deputies. In fact, they all should have one or even two Deputies.

### 2. Obtain Grand Lodge recognition internationally.

We have heard that more Brethren would be motivated to join the GFN if only their respective Grand Lodges (mainly UK?) would recognize the Global Fraternal Network. These Brothers should realize something basic. It has to do with "What's in it for me?" There is no special incentive for a Grand Lodge to go out of its way to recognize us. Why? Because the GFN is, as its name states, a Global Network. It is not a voice for one particular Grand Lodge but it is dedicated to all the Grand Lodges everywhere in the world. For some Brethren in high places, the GFN is too independent – too aloof. Not "useful" for local vested interests.

Having said this, we are however very interested in "indirect recognition" from Grand Lodges. What is "indirect recognition"? It means that Grand Lodges that have a website place a link on their Website to the GFN. Quite a few Grand Lodges have already done that. By placing a link on their Site to us we are recognized as a Site of Interest and we remain what we intended to be: global and independent. Of course many Grand Lodge websites do not have "links to Masonic websites of interest". There isn't much we can do in those cases.

I would also like to bring to your attention that the sitting Grand Master of the State of Maryland is the GFN Representative to Maryland. Also, the past Grand Master of Washington is the GFN Representative to his state. Past Grand Master, MW Carl J. Fitje, is the GFN Liaison with other Past

Grand Masters. The General Grand Scribe of Royal Arch International, R.E. Edmund D. Harrison, is the GFN Representative to New York State. There is, in fact, no shortage of general direct recognition and involvement by highly respected and influential Brethren.

How to create "indirect recognition"? It should be the task and objective of every GFN Country or State Representative to contact the appropriate Grand Lodge Officer in his jurisdiction and request that his Grand Lodge, if they have a Website, place a link on it to the GFN as being a Site of Interest. In addition the Steering Committee may want to look into setting up a small dedicated group, a committee if you will, that lists which Grand Lodges have a Website and work together with the GFN Representatives to have these Grand Lodges establish a link to the GFN. If a specific Grand Lodge has a website, its Webmaster or other authority in charge of links should be approached about a link to the GFN. In order to introduce them to the GFN they should be directed to the following page, which shows the objectives and parameters of the GFN: <http://masonic-network.com/blue.html>. Then they should be requested to establish a link to us.

### 3. Allow EAs and FCs to join.

>> As previous stated.....We never gave access to the GFN to EA or FC.  
>> We had set up a voting page a number of years ago and it was defeated by a  
>> large margin to admit them. As usual this is just a ploy for looking for  
>> more heads and personally it will complicate the verification process. It's  
>> not worth it!  
>>  
>> ran

### 4. Introduce individual member mailboxes for private messages.

This is available in usual manner

### 5. Publish member profiles in the Newsletter.

Profiles of individual Members should be published. If we claim to be a special Community of Brethren, profiles, including a photo for all the Members to read and see, would be logical

### 6. Publish non-Masonic items in the Newsletter.

Publishing non-Masonic items in the Newsletter is within the realm of the Editor. He is in charge. If he finds items he thinks would be beneficial and/or interesting for his readers, he should publish them. The reaction from his readers will tell him if he made the right choices.

7. Update the Chat Forums to make the more "user friendly" and real-time / streaming.

To upgrade the system is not really a choice. It will have to be done. We are talking to programmers who know the language of the Site. Revamping the whole Site is just too much.

8. Roster members to be available in the forums at given times.

Restarting the manning of the Forums 24/7 has always been a project that interests me very much. It is my belief that that (the 24/7 Forum attendance) and the Hospitality Committee will be the instruments that will re-activate many Members. It is quite disheartening when Members surf to the Forum and hardly ever see anyone there to "chat" with. The GFN is like an actual Lodge. Many Lodges make the error of placing the emphasis on getting new Members. They hold New Membership Drives. What they do not give enough attention to is Membership Retention. It is the treasure of the "old" and the present Members that are the heart and soul of a Lodge. It is they that keep the Lodge going. It is they and their spirit of Masonic Brotherhood that will welcome and educate new Members. It is they that will cause the new Members to come back to Lodge. It is my firm belief that the Hospitality Committee and the 24/7 Attendance Group will make the GFN turn the corner, again. We had such a Group or "Circle". I don't know what happened to it.

It won't be easy to organize such a group. It needs a dedicated group of Brethren and, of course, the logistics of placing who in which time slots. It can be done – because it was done and it worked very well.

9. Improve the menus and appearance of the site overall.

**Important: Last and not least: we appreciate all the hard work and efforts all of you are putting into the Global Fraternal Network. Again, as you know so well, like any old Lodge, 10% of the Members do 90% of the work. We admire and we applaud you!**

Your Friends and Brothers

RAN and René



