

Lodge Chairman Guide to Masonic Blood Donations

Five Toronto Districts, Grand Lodge
Blood Donor Committee



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Message from Bro. Ben San Juan

Grand Lodge Representative to Five Toronto Districts Blood Donors Committee

On behalf of R.W. Bro. John Forster, Chairman of the Grand Lodge Blood Donors Committee, I thank you for accepting the position of Blood Donor Chairman for your Lodge.

The Blood Donor Chairman is a unique position. Masons have a long history of supporting blood donations. It is truly the gift of life and too precious to standby and leave it to chance. There are many ways our members can be involved.

Being a lodge committee chairman can be a very rewarding job if you give some thought to the position, set some achievable goals and steadily work towards them. From experience we know there are three kinds of committee chairman:

1. A chairman who is experienced and works tirelessly to achieve anything they set their minds to.
2. A chairman, who possesses all the necessary skills, is eager and wants to be successful but is not sure what to do.
3. And finally, one who accepts the position, for a multitude of reasons, but has no desire or ability to do anything.

It is most likely that you are part of the majority who fall within the first and second categories; capable and eager but not quite sure what to do. That is the purpose of this guide. It is *not* meant to be another document telling the brethren to get out there and give blood. It is meant to be a Lodge Blood Donor Committee Chairman's resource to get started and remain active throughout the year.

Please do not restrict your imagination to ideas mentioned here. How you carry out your mandate throughout the year is entirely up to you.

Sincerely and fraternally

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Enthusiasm is the most important thing in life.

Tennessee Williams

The History of Masonic Blood Donations

The Masonic commitment to donating blood can be traced back to V.W. Bro. William Hoyle of the Electric Lodge #495 in 1941 when he persuaded his Masters and Wardens Association to take an interest in donating blood. At this time, blood was not collected, but donated directly to the recipient. As a result, a list of donors was required to ensure that when blood was needed, a donor was available. V.W. Bro. Hoyle and a dedicated group of Masons made up the majority of that list.

On the evening of May 23rd, 1944 the Moose Hall was the scene of a horrific fire. V.W. Bro. Hoyle was contacted to rally the Masons and report directly to the hospital to help save the lives of the people who had managed to get out of the fire. Shortly after this truly charitable act of brotherly love and relief, V.W. Bro. Hoyle, and the Hamilton Masons, joined forces with The Red Cross to improve the system by which blood donors were recorded and could be contacted.

As time progressed, and the ability to store blood arrived, the Masons continued to aid The Red Cross, and later Canadian Blood Services, in their valiant work. We are needed today, more than ever, to help our fellow man.

Lodge Committee Chairman Ideas

Make a Commitment

Everything worthwhile requires effort. Being your Lodge Blood Donor Chairman shouldn't be a difficult task. Set aside one or two hours a week to work steadily towards achievable goals such as compiling a list of potential donors within the lodge, increasing actual donations 10%, arranging volunteers to cover one evening a month at a local clinic or hosting a clinic together with the lodges in your temple or district.

Lead by Example

There's an old saying about the difference between a manager and a leader: "Managers do things right. Leaders do the right things." (It's best to be both a manager and a leader – they're just different processes.)

As the Lodge Blood Donor Chairman, part of your job is to inspire the people around you become involved in the blood donor process. To do this, you must show them the way by donating yourself.

Become Knowledgeable On the Topic

Your knowledge can communicate enthusiasm for your role. The more committed you are the more persuasive you will be. Most of what you need to know is located on the Canadian Blood Services website.

You can find additional information about operating district and lodge blood donor committees in "The Masonic Manual" p. 10, p. 34-36.

Know Your Local Clinic

Prepare yourself for the role of chairman by first finding out the address, operating hours and other details of the local clinic. Local clinics often they have specific day when they have offer special treats such as pizza.

Have Business Cards Made

Have business cards made with the District registration number for Partners for Life and Canadian Blood Services contact information for locations of permanent clinics and their hours within the District. Distribute them personally during your year as Lodge Blood Donor Chairman. Get the District to pay the costs. [Inexpensive business cards can be obtained at Vista Print.](#)

Canvas Lodge Members

Obtain a copy of the membership list from the Secretary, send everyone an email message to get started, and then start phoning. Besides communicating your message it is important to make notes of which members are able to give blood and who is willing to volunteer. This will assist you ascertaining your target group for later programs and efforts. This has the added benefit of getting to know each member better for you future work within the lodge.

Multiply Your Output

Encourage donors within your lodge to take their spouse, family or friends with them. This taps into another group expanding the pool of donors.

Delivering Your Committee Report

A little bit of preparation will ensure your success. A brief report with changing messages will keep members interested. Make sure you describe your efforts such as how many members you called or were contacted, who donated or volunteered and your goals and progress. A committee chair who is unprepared or sounds like a broken record will quickly stop being called upon.

Facilitate the Process

You should identify some members of each lodge who regularly donate and are willing to attend with new donors.

Arrange for several members to meet up at a clinic. It is difficult to avoid when you have commitment from others. Offer rides, go out for lunch afterwards and turn a trip to the clinic into a social event.

Utilize a Special Event

Use a special event such as "Provincial Masonic Blood Donors Week" every February to create a focal point to rally the troops.

Districts could have awards for the lodge that has the most donations, volunteer hours, etc. Lodges could also challenge each other over the course of a year.

Overcome Obstacles

Prepare for the frequent response you will face that "I'm not able to give blood" or "I'm too busy". No one is too busy to save a life! Anticipation will allow you to continue on the conversation and offer alternative ways to get involved. Often members who put up these roadblocks are not aware of other options available to them.

Communicate Your Message

Utilize changing messages in lodge communications such as the Summons, a Newsletter, lodge website or a monthly email to the membership. Catch their attention by including pictures of the members involved in blood donor activities. A picture is worth a thousand words and will communicate enthusiasm for the cause.

Avoid the never changing monthly line repeated in the Summons that no one notices.

Awards Program

Masonic Blood Donor Award of Merit Certificates will be provided to all Masonic Donors; beginning with the *first donation* and followed by certificates for 25, 50, 75, 100, 150, 200, 250, etc, donations.

If a member attains one of the above numbers, contact your District Blood Donor Chairman. He will then make arrangements for the presentation.

Making Donations

Donors are the heart of the blood supply system, the lifeline to hundreds of thousands of Canadians who, each year, need blood, blood products or stem cells. Without generous and committed donors, there would be no blood system in Canada. Canada's blood system is founded on the principle of gratuity.

Just as recipients do not pay for the blood products they receive, donors are not paid for the blood or plasma they give.

The Partners for Life Program

Every Masonic District in Ontario is a member of the "Partners for Life" program.

Canadian Blood Services is proud to work with hundreds of corporations and community organizations nationwide each year in support of our "Partners for Life" program which recognizes organizations for their commitment to blood donation. When registering as donors make sure to register your donations with your Masonic district Partners for Life ID Number.

Grand Lodge Proceedings publish annually the levels of blood donations from the stats collected by the *Partners for Life* Program recognizing our commitment to the program.

Book an Appointment

Calling 1 888 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283).

Partners for Life ID Numbers

Toronto Don Valley District	MASO010395
Toronto East District	MASO011058
Toronto Humber Valley District	MASO011077
Toronto West District	MASO011134
York District	MASO011364

Volunteering

In-Clinic Role

This opportunity occurs in blood donor clinics where volunteers are responsible for creating a welcoming and comfortable experience for blood donors. This is typically a reoccurring role (i.e. –a few shifts per month) and takes place in either mobile or permanent clinics. This role focuses on interaction with donors and staff with the main priorities to provide a positive experience for donors during their donation process, provide information to donors about Canadian Blood Services programs and activities and to assist with clinic flow.

This opportunity is suited for individuals available during clinic hours and is also suited for those interested in making an on-going contribution on a regular basis.

If you are interested in supporting donors during the donation process, being in a clinic setting, meeting new people as well as connecting with those in your community, this may be an opportunity for you.

Volunteer Leader

Volunteer leaders use their leadership skills to help coordinate and host blood donor clinics in their community, workplace or by providing leadership in our permanent clinics. In this role, volunteers set-up mobile clinics in partnership with staff; recruit, train and schedule volunteers as well as promote upcoming clinics in their community.

If you are interested in contributing and developing leadership skills, are connected in your community and would like to be involved in something a few times a year, this may be the opportunity for you.

In-Community Role

This opportunity involves participating in community events with a focus on recruiting new donors and promoting upcoming clinics and is flexible in terms of scheduling. This is a great opportunity to volunteer with groups of people in local communities as well as raise awareness about the importance of donating blood. This is also a great role for individuals who may want to volunteer a few times per year with a varying schedule as well as those who are interested in meeting people in their community.

If you are interested in volunteering in a role with a flexible schedule, speaking to people about the importance of donating blood, this may be the opportunity for you.

Host a Clinic

Your Lodge as whole can take part by acting as a ‘host Lodge’ for a specified period of time at an already established blood donor clinic.

All donations given either individually or by all those who attend your time of acting as a host will count toward our Grand Lodge blood donors’ award program. It is a worthy cause and one that can perhaps revitalize some of those members who are looking for a more active community involvement.

Host a Clinic by calling **1 888 2 DONATE** (1-888-236-6283).

Grand Lodge Awards Program

Masonic Blood Donor Award of Merit Certificates will be provided to all Masonic Donors; beginning with the *first donation* and followed by certificates for 25, 50, 75, 100, 150, 200, 250, etc, donations. If a member attains one of the above numbers, contact your local Lodge Blood Donor Chairman or your District Blood Donor Chairman. He will then make arrangements for the presentation.