

# Introduction to Buffaloism

The following has been printed to give new initiates a brief outline of the objects and internal workings of the **Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes**.

There are a number of sections or “ Banners “ of the R.A.O.B. and whilst they differ in size and the variety of the means they adopt, all have the same end in view, the pursuit of Brotherhood, and most of them are joined in a loose but valuable link known as the Joint Consultative Committee. We operate under the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, which in turn operates under the Grand Lodge of England.

We are a brotherhood firmly based on the family principle, that the total power and strength of the family shall be available to the individual in accordance with his need, and the point must be made at once, that the degree to which needs can be satisfied depends entirely on the fidelity to that principle, of each member of the family – every member of the Lodge.

For administrative purposes, we are a three-tier organization.

- a. The Minor Lodge – the only unit authorized to initiate into the membership of the Order, possessed of a wide range of authority over and responsibility for its own members.
- b. The Provincial Grand Lodge – a body with well-defined authority over and responsibility for all Minor Lodges working within the territory allocated to it.
- c. The Grand Lodge – a body with well-defined authority over and responsibility for all units of the Order established under the Grand Lodge of British Columbia ( GLE )

There are four Degrees : 1<sup>st</sup> Degree – Brother  
2<sup>nd</sup> Degree – Primo  
3<sup>rd</sup> Degree – Knight of Merit  
4<sup>th</sup> Degree – Roll of Honour

The First Degree is conferred on Initiation into the Order.

The Second Degree is subject to an examination by the Examining Council set up for that purpose, plus service to the Order as outlined in our Rule Book, and acceptance by the Brethren of the Lodge. Members of this Degree are now entitled to become members of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Third Degree is awarded for sustained service to the Order over a prolonged period. Members holding the Third Degree or higher are entitled to become members of the Knight’s Chapter in our area if one exists.

The Fourth Degree is awarded on exactly the same basis as the Third Degree, but the period is sustained and the satisfactory service between Third Degree and Fourth Degree is longer. Members of the Fourth Degree are entitled to become members of an ROH Assembly, should one exist in our area.

Periods between all Degrees are clearly shown in the Rule Book.

The functions of Knight’s Chapter and ROH Assemblies are chiefly ceremonial, but they practise, as all units of Buffaloism, benevolence as a primary duty.

Members of any Lodge in the Order are open to all adult males without distinction as to social position, religious faiths or political beliefs. But before a candidate is accepted, he has to convince the members of the Lodge in which his application is made, that he is a loyal citizen, and that he is genuinely desirous of taking part in our work on the basis of giving to the extent of his power, in cash, or in service, whatever is required to meet the needs of a less fortunate Brother, or the dependant widow and children of a deceased Brother.

The method of giving reflects the diversity of our membership, that is, “to the extent of my power“ and the basic contribution expected from members is fixed at a figure it is reasonable to assume all members can pay, without defaulting on their personal or family obligations. It is called a Registration Fee, and is paid each time a Minor Lodge, provincial Grand Lodge or Grand Lodge forms for the maintenance of our benevolent work and for administration.

If, after we have contributed this basic fee, the opportunity arises to practise our undertaking “to give to the extent of our power”, you will be able to donate by your own free will, with no penalty if you do not, or cannot, nor praise if you do, to any form of benevolence that your Lodge is sponsoring.

These opportunities of voluntary giving to our benevolent projects serve a double purpose, for not only do they provide a valued addition to the funds available for these projects, but even more important for the stability of the Order. They serve as a reminder to everyone concerned how much depends on their fidelity to the obligation taken at their Initiation.

There are no rules in this sector of Buffaloism, except to remember that you are meeting on equal terms as members of the same family, and the atmosphere and entertainment will be as good as YOU make it.

Don't judge too harshly, or too quickly, the things of which your understanding for the moment is limited. Stay with it and with us long enough to get a grip of the potential underlying a strong, dominant organization, based on the faiths to which we have jointly pledged our word, and help to make it even more powerful for good.

This brief outline of the operation of our Order as practised by the Minor Lodges under the Grand Lodge of British Columbia is just the beginning of the total concept of our Order. Those of you who possess inquiring minds, can supplement this by close attention to your Rule Book and Manual of Instruction, and lastly, a great deal can be learned by observation of procedure during our meetings, and upon request from any Brother of the Order who is capable of answering your questions.

In conclusion, we, your Brethren, sincerely trust that your Initiation into our Ancient and Honourable Order will give you much pleasure in the years to come.

Signed by the Officers of the Lodge during your Initiation :

Worthy Primo : \_\_\_\_\_

City Marshal : \_\_\_\_\_

Alderman of Benevolence : \_\_\_\_\_

City Chamberlain : \_\_\_\_\_

City Tyler : \_\_\_\_\_

City Registrar : \_\_\_\_\_

City Constable : \_\_\_\_\_

City Waiter : \_\_\_\_\_

City Treasurer : \_\_\_\_\_

City Secretary : \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor : \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor : \_\_\_\_\_

IN THINGS ESSENTIAL – UNITY

IN THINGS DOUBTFUL – LIBERTY

IN ALL THINGS – CHARITY