

# **LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE BY CLEARING ALL THE HAZE**

*A Presentation on Hazing*

Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge  
2015 Annual Workshop

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# What is Hazing?

- In simplest terms....

*any ritualistic activity that humiliates, degrades or inflicts harm on a person before they can be accepted as part of a group or as a condition of their membership within a group.*

# What is Hazing?

- Legally
  - “Hazing” means any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of an individual for purposes including, but not limited to, initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution.

# What is Hazing?

- Legally “hazing” includes, but is not limited to,
  - pressuring or coercing the student into violating state or federal law,
  - any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding,
  - exposure to the elements
  - forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance,
  - or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual,
  - and also includes any activity that would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation,
  - forced exclusion from social contact,
  - forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment,
  - or other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.

# What is Hazing?

- Legally
  - Hazing does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions or any activity or conduct that furthers a legal and legitimate objective.

*Florida Statute 1006.63*

# What is Hazing?

- Legally, it is not a defense to a charge of hazing that:
  - The consent of the victim had been obtained;
  - The conduct or activity that resulted in the death or injury of a person was not part of an official organizational event or was not otherwise sanctioned or approved by the organization; or
  - The conduct or activity that resulted in death or injury of the person was not done as a condition of membership to an organization.

*Florida Statute 1006.63*

# The History of Hazing

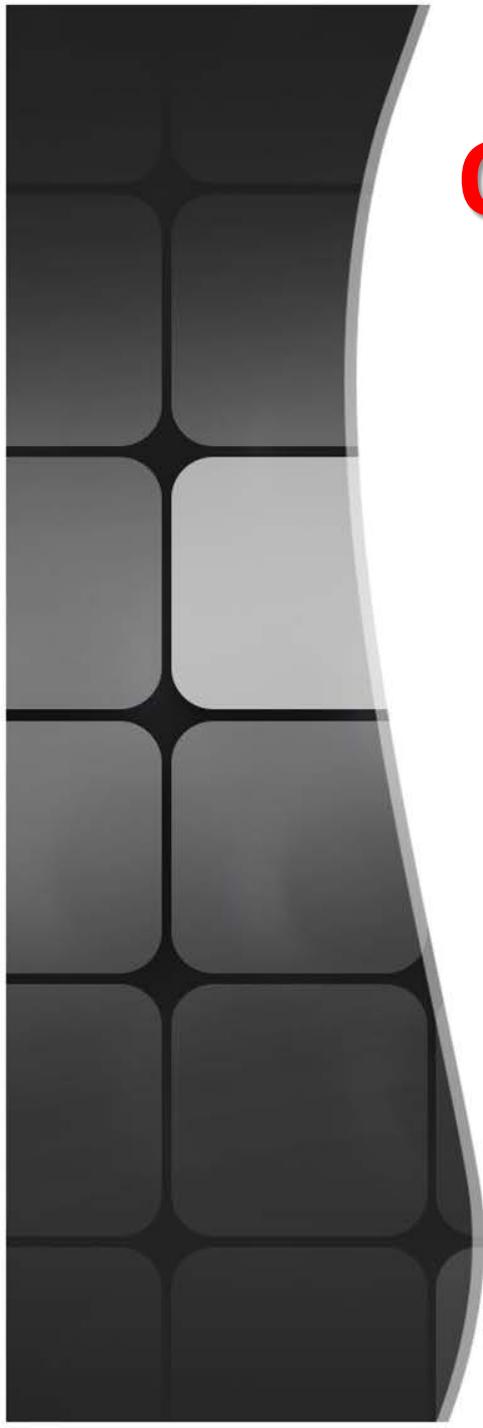
- In colonial times Presidents of American Colleges endorsed hazing, citing that it helped create a connection with their school.
- During the mid-1600s dangerous acts and serious injuries in European collegiate institutions began resulting in student fines and expulsion for hazing underclassmen.

# The History of Hazing

- In the late 1700s the use of hazing rituals/activities became widely used among student groups on many American college campuses.
- By the 1800s most American college presidents began condemning hazing.
- In the 1920s deaths as a result of hazing became more prevalent with fraternities and other student organizations.

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# Our Current Reality

- BGLOs
- FAMU Marching 100
- Armed Forces
- Athletics
- High Schools

# Our Current Reality

- *Masonic Traditions*
- Peer Pressure
  - *If you don't come through like I did you will not get my respect.*
- Storytelling

# What Can I Do?

- A silent friend can be worse than a vocal enemy.
  - The Bystander Effect
- If you have to ask if something is hazing, it probably is.
- Create new tradition built upon establishing brotherhood and unity and making good men better.
- Sometimes you have to make a tough decision.
  - Report when something doesn't seem right.
  - Don't be afraid to leave.

# Something to Think About

- We are an organization of men, yet we trivialize our own order and participate in the antics of boys.
- We say we are the greatest and oldest of all fraternities, yet we do all we can to emulate greek-letter fraternities which all have rituals the stem from our own.

# Something to Think About

- We want to put on collars and call ourselves leaders in this order, yet the only way to get a candidate (who came into your lodges of his own free will and accord) to comply is by beating them, humiliating them, or making them participate in forced servitude. Is that true power and leadership or is it just the good ol' "slave mentality" rearing its ugly head?

# Questions, Comments, Concerns