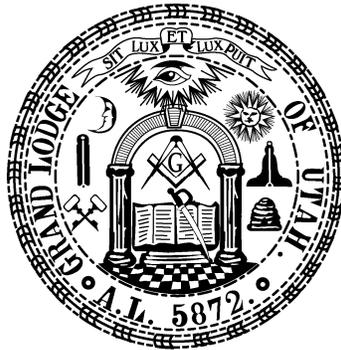


GRAND LODGE EDUCATION MODULE

Revitalizing the Lodge and its Members

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2010 Education Committee Mission Statement

Enlighten, stimulate and strengthen the bonds of Masonic Brotherhood through knowledge and education.

GENERAL NOTE: The intent of the Education Module is to spark discussion and not in reading a presentation. The Education Modules are not required to be lengthy as long as they promote discussion and involvement between the presenter and the audience.

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF UTAH

Revitalizing the lodge and its members

By Definition Lodge Revitalization is a managed process designed to improve our Lodges. It considers and responds to societal change, it looks for good ideas in the broader world, and weighs traditional solutions against new ideas, ideas which still remain "Masonic". It requires that we talk freely about our vision of what we want our lodges to become, then to create viable plans to get there. It requires that we honestly measure our progress toward our goals. Along the way, revitalization inspires us. And it assures and affirms that this Fraternity remains entirely relevant and necessary for our world.

I would here note that Lodges utilizing the "Master Builder Award Program" which is available from the Utah Grand Lodge have a good start on revitalizing their lodges.

The focus of this educational program is twofold – identifying means to support and build a more positive Lodge, and second, to enable a discussion whereby attending members can offer and discuss such means, thereby enhancing the sense of ownership of the same.

This program was conducted at Canyon Lodge #13 on March 2 at our Stated Meeting, and lasted approximately 45 minutes.

During that time, a 'brainstorming effort led to a number of ideas being offered and listed to revitalize the Lodge.

There were three primary areas of focus, existing (senior) brothers, newer or recently obligated brothers, and yet-to-be initiated brothers.

What follows are several tools to assist lodges in conducting a discussion on Lodge Revitalization which they can then tailor to their individual lodges.

1-Discussion Outline

2- Conclusions-

A review of the following conclusions in order:

- a- Existing Members**
- b- Newer Members**
- c-Marketing of a Lodge**
- d- Connecting with other lodges**

These are meant as possible suggestions and solutions only to invite discussion. These are suggestions about things you can do TODAY to make a positive impact on your lodge that will set up a pattern of future success.

Each Lodge will no doubt come up with their own list of recommendations which will be adopted and implemented by their members.

Discussion Outline

1. Veteran' Brothers (those with several years of Masonic service)
 - a. What can be done to re-enforce those who attend meetings and are involved with the Lodge on an ongoing basis?
 - b. Are there recognition programs that would serve to demonstrate appreciation for such service?
 - c. Are Past Masters recognized?
 - d. Does the Lodge make awards for "Mason of the Year", Hiram Award, etc.?
2. Newly obligated brothers
 - a. Recognize degree proficiency, candidate advancement
 - b. More education beyond actual ritual degrees
 - c. Committee assignments
 - d. Coaching
 - e. Lodge of instruction
3. Developing the brothers of a Lodge into one family
 - a. value of good ritual
 - b. involving families of brothers in activities (on-site and off-site)
4. Marketing the Lodge
 - a. Encourage masons to connect with friends to explain masonry
 - b. Maintain a positive image to the public - Be an example of masonry
 - c. Connect to local area
 - d. Online Presence-Lodge Websites
 - e. Volunteer work
 - f. Meet-up groups
 - g. Charity events
 - h. Contributions
 - i. Volunteer work
5. Connecting with other lodges
 - a. Table lodges
 - b. Visitation to other lodges
 - c. Invitation to other lodges

Conclusions

Existing members (For those who have been masons more than several years.)

Here the focus was on both regular and non-attending brothers.

Recognize members:

1. Recognize brothers for years of Masonic service.
2. Recognize Past Masters for their contribution to Masonry and the Lodge
3. Recognize newly obligated brothers
4. Hiram awardees, Mason of the Year, etc awards as determined.

Good ritual: the value of 'good ritual' was emphasized. It was apparent that ritual is the hallmark of the Lodge, and something that brothers were very proud of and wanted to maintain.

Including the family: The value of the family supporting the individual brother was stated as being very important and it was agreed by all present that there is needed more opportunities to involve our families. Suggestions included scheduling activities such as an annual picnic, where family members could meet other brothers' families and perhaps planning family nights with activities such as screening movies, bowling, etc.

Reach out to non-attendees: Non- attending brothers' fall into three basic categories: those living outside the area, those whose health is not consistent with attending Lodge, and those who have lost the connection.

The first two categories are not resolvable, but the third invites consideration. Efforts to encourage them to resume attention focus on three areas: simple communication, i.e., having a committee whose responsibility is to call or visit the brother, re-establishing the connection between Lodge and brother; second, recognizing the brother as previously mentioned: and third, holding a 'Rusty Trowel' event, whereby those brothers might be able to regain the lost words and thereby be more comfortable attending Lodge meetings.

Newer members (recently initiated, passed or raised)

Develop a sense of belonging

1. Committee membership for new members
2. Recognize degree proficiency, candidate advancement
3. More education beyond actual ritual degrees

4. **Marketing of lodge** – gaining new members

1. Encourage masons to connect with friends to explain masonry
2. Maintain a positive image to the public - Be an example of masonry
3. Connect to local area
 - a. Open houses
 - b. Volunteer work
 - c. Meet-up groups
 - d. Parades
 - e. Advertise Fundraisers
 - f. Charity events
 - g. Contributions
 - h. Volunteer work
 - i. Maintain a lodge website with a calendar of events, contacts, etc.
 - j. Set up a Facebook page
 - k. Set up a page at meet up group.com

Connecting with other lodges

- a. Table lodges
- b. Visitation to other lodges
- c. Invitation to other lodges
- d. Hold joint degrees with other lodges

Management of the physical structure- Temple Board

Appearance of lodge

- a. The lodge should be presentable at all times not only for current users but to maintain the best possible presentation to our community and visitors
- b. On-going cleaning, maintenance and repairs need to be managed