

■ *LODGE INSTRUCTION FOR EFFECTIVENESS* ■

PREPARING TO BE JUNIOR WARDEN

(INTRODUCTION)

L. I. F. E. TRAINING PROGRAM



**The Committee on Masonic Education and Service
The Grand Lodge of Texas, A. F. & A. M.**

■ *LODGE INSTRUCTION FOR EFFECTIVENESS* ■

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INTRODUCTION

Today, unless something is complicated, we seem to believe it to be of little value. To illustrate, a man was recently overheard saying, "If the safety pin had been invented in this generation, no one would use the darn thing unless it had six moving parts, two transistors and had to be serviced twice a year!"

This very attitude requires that we periodically turn to the simplicity of FUNDAMENTALS which so often get lost in the complexities of modern-day life.

It has long been recognized by Masonic Educators of Texas that a basic training program for lodge officers is a vital necessity if we are to see improvement in the operation and leadership in our constituent lodges. It has also been recognized that such a program must be equally applicable to all lodges regardless of their size or location. The ultimate purpose of this program is to provide a basis for improving the effectiveness of the leadership in the individual lodge. For this reason, the program is entitled "**Lodge Instruction For Effectiveness.**"

* * THE L. I. F. E. PROGRAM * *

The program is divided into three (3) parts or areas. Each portion of the program prepares a brother for one of the principal offices of the lodge. The total program is scheduled under normal circumstances, to be completed over a three (3) year period. An exercise and discussion manual will be used to cover and guide the activities for each of these areas. The first of the areas is the Introduction area, the activity that prepares a brother to be Junior Warden. This part of the program should be worked by anyone who would hold that office. The second area addresses Operation and prepares a Mason to be the Senior Warden. Administration is the third area and covers the things to prepare a Warden to be the Master of the Lodge.

This program uses a guided, "hands on", approach to present a series of self-help study exercises. These study exercises address "how to" subject areas that are relative to the week-to-week functions of the lodge. It is stressed that the exercises of this program are purely of a practical nature and are so constructed that they are applicable to all lodges, large or small, urban or rural. Further, the program is a continuing program, applicable in any year, and requires a minimum of administrative support.

Learning activities are contained within each exercise. These activities are centered around lodge tradition rather than on a fixed text book approach. The exercises are presented in written format, but how they are completed and their completeness is based on the knowledge and guidance of a local lodge brother. These brothers are known as **Lodge Counselors**.

The Worshipful Master is responsible for the appointment of a Lodge counselor (*usually an active brother and Past Master*) who will manage the program within his lodge. This counselor is the key to the program; he works with each of the officers to complete their exercises and certifies their completion for both personal and lodge recognition. By necessity, this individual must be well rounded, experienced as a lodge officer and be knowledgeable in Masonic law, lodge operation, and all three degrees. It can also be the responsibility of the Worshipful Master to replace the Lodge Counselor if the program is not progressing.

Our fraternity almost universally accepts the belief that as a man joins our brotherhood, he must do some proficiency work after each degree. Although the length of that work and exactly what is required may vary from one Grand Jurisdiction to another, we each must show that we are willing to work, learn and perform. The strength in this approach lies in doing, in the participation itself. This program follows that approach. If the exercises are completed within the context of your own lodge and its traditions, you will be better prepared to lead and guide your lodge.

The Committee on Masonic Education and Service, Grand Lodge of Texas, will manage and provide administrative support for this program. The members of this committee feel that the officers who complete this training program should be recognized by the Grand Lodge. In order to do this, we have been authorized by the Grand Lodge to award a wallet-size card to the individuals who complete the program.

Cards that certify completion of each section have been mailed to each lodge. Upon completion of a section of the program, the Lodge Counselor is authorized to complete the appropriate card, sign it, and award it to the brother. The Lodge Counselor then completes one of the forms in the back of each book and sends it to Grand Lodge for their records.

Lodge Certificates for completion of all three programs are no longer available.

* * *

Recommendations or questions should be directed to

**Committee on Masonic Education & Service
Grand Lodge of Texas
P.O. Box 446
Waco, Texas 76703**

On the 15th day of the month of June 1964, the undersigned, being duly sworn, depose and say that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original of the within and foregoing as the same appears in the files of the undersigned, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original of the within and foregoing as the same appears in the files of the undersigned.

The undersigned, being duly sworn, depose and say that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original of the within and foregoing as the same appears in the files of the undersigned, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original of the within and foregoing as the same appears in the files of the undersigned.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on the 15th day of the month of June 1964, at the City of New York, New York.

Notary Public in and for the State of New York

My Commission Expires on the 15th day of June 1965

Notary Public in and for the State of New York
My Commission Expires on the 15th day of June 1965

PREPARING TO BE JUNIOR WARDEN - EXERCISE NO. 1

* * **LODGES** * *

Lodges! Where did they come from? How do they relate to the Grand Lodge of Texas? Does my lodge have anything to say about how the Grand Lodge is run? Does the Grand Lodge do its business like my lodge? What's my lodges relationship with lodges in other Grand Jurisdictions?

These are questions we have all wondered about at one time or another. In preparation to be one of the leaders of the lodge, you should have an understanding of the basic structure of the lodge. The intent of this exercise is to help start you on your way. It isn't all inclusive, so you will have to hit the books for the important details.

Basically our lodges came to America with the English as they settled in this country. As the population grew, the Masons among them gathered together to form lodges, but still under the jurisdiction of their home country.

The lodges followed the same pattern as the country. As the country separated from the home land so did the lodges. Generally, they followed the concept of "**State rule**". Each state formed its own Grand Lodge. Each Grand Lodge then chartered local lodges within its area.

During this period, new lodges were initially chartered by the eastern states. For example, our first lodge in Texas, **Holland Lodge No. 1** was initially chartered by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. The number of lodges increased as we grew into statehood and a year after we became a state our Grand Lodge was born.

Now that we know how the Grand Lodge began, let's take a look at it.

A. The constitution contains a full explanation of the purposes for the Grand Lodge, but a lot is summed up by the opening statement "*to control and regulate the practice of Freemasonry throughout its jurisdiction, according to the immemorial usages of this ancient and honorable Craft.*"

B. The members of the Grand Lodge are composed of:

The **Past Masters** of all Texas lodges.

The **Grand Lodge Officers** during their respective terms of office.

The **Past Grand Masters** of the Grand Lodge.

The **Masters** and **Wardens** of all the chartered lodges are representatives to the Grand Lodge.

Basically, stated another way, the Grand Lodge is the governing body of the lodges in Texas. It could be compared to our state government. It provides laws and rules for the good of all. The Grand Lodge operates by the same principles. Any laws or changes must be voted on and passed by a majority of voting members. The only real difference is that your lodge officers and your Past Masters are your voting members. Another comparison could be when we say the government is of the people, by the people and for the people. We could say Grand Lodge is of the lodges, by the lodges and for the lodges. To sum it all up, we can say the Grand Lodge is run about the same as our local lodges except that different people have the vote.

Even after we have talked about all this, we have not covered relationships. With our local lodges we can put it this way: As long as we stay within the laws established by the Grand Lodge, we can establish our own lodge by-laws and traditions. We can communicate with other lodges in our own Grand Lodge Jurisdiction. The situation is a little different for lodges in other states and countries. Our Grand Lodge must be in fraternal relations with them before we can communicate with them.

*** * LEARNING ACTIVITY * ***

We have talked a lot about laws as they pertain to the Grand Lodge, so let's start by doing some research. The first activity is to identify on what pages of the Grand Lodge Laws the following can be found.

Corporate Charters	Pages _____
Officers of Grand Lodge	Page _____
Who makes a quorum in Grand Lodge	Page _____
Charters granted to subordinate lodges	Page _____
	Counselor's Initials _____

* * *

Since your lodge helps determine what laws are passed at Grand Lodge, it is important to have voting members present when Grand Lodge is in session. The second activity is to work with your counselor and determine how many votes your lodge had at the last Grand Lodge.

Number _____
Counselor's Initials _____

* * *

The discussion for this exercise has raised an interesting question. The third activity is to identify the books that tell us with whom we can masonically communicate.

In the State	_____
Other States and Countries	_____
	Counselor's Initials _____

PREPARING TO BE JUNIOR WARDEN – EXERCISE NO. 2

* * GRAND LODGE ADMINISTRATORS * *

There are many officers and committees within the structure of the Grand Lodge of Texas. Some of these will relate directly to your lodge this year and some later. Let's look at a few; but keep in mind – there are many more.

The **Grand Master** – As the name implies, he is the head, the leader, of all Masons in Texas. His responsibilities are many, and his calendar is full of both ceremonial and administrative duties for his entire year which runs from the first week in December of one year to the next December. He is never too busy to give the necessary services needed by the lodges, although most have to be handled through the District Deputy Grand Master, or by phone or mail. His duties are outlined in "**The Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.**"

The **Deputy Grand Master** is next in line and normally succeeds to the "**Grand East**". His year is filled in assisting the Grand Master and in planning and refining the programs and selecting appointees for his year.

The **Grand Senior** and **Grand Junior Wardens** also assist the Grand Master and are busy formulating their own plans for the future. All of the above officers, in addition to the **Grand Treasurer** and **Grand Secretary**, serve as Trustees or Directors of the Grand Lodge and are in charge of its business affairs.

The **Grand Secretary** and **Grand Treasurer** positions are much the same as your own lodge's Secretary and Treasurer except that they are dealing with much more complex tasks and numbers. You will probably have several reasons to contact the Grand Secretary in the administration of your lodge.

One principal Grand Lodge committee that you may have occasion to contact is the **Committee on Work**. It is composed of five brothers who are proficient in the work and are elected from among the members of Grand Lodge. One member is elected each year for a term of five years. Their duties are to compare the work and lectures of the three degrees and to harmonize any differences therein. They also conduct schools of instruction and hold examinations for certificates of proficiency to teach the work. Your contact with this committee may be through the examination or by your request for their assistance in your lodge degree work.

Assisting the Committee on Work in each district is a brother who has been appointed as **District Instructor**. While there are only five members of the Committee on Work, there is a District Instructor for each Masonic District in Texas. The District Instructor is, therefore, much more available to the Lodges and brethren of Texas. All of these selected brethren are capable instructors and are very proficient in the work of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

The District Instructor is always ready and willing to help any lodge calling upon him for assistance. Use the District Instructor to make your lodge more proficient in the degree work. Perhaps you could use him to provide a little "**touch up**" on your reception of your District Deputy Grand Master. When you ask for assistance from your District Instructor, don't expect to find a sour old brother, quick to criticize your faults. These brethren have been chosen not only for their proficiency in the work, but also for their love of their fellow Masons and for their ability to make the work not only correct but also interesting and an object of enjoyable pride.

Another Grand Lodge Committee which will effect your life as a Mason is the **Committee on Masonic Education and Service**. It is composed of seven brothers who each serve for seven years. Their duty is to assist in instruction of fundamentals, principles and practical application of Masonry. They are also to assist the Grand Master in times of catastrophe.

The most likely and most frequent contact you will probably have with your Grand Lodge is the **District Deputy Grand Master** of your district. His principal job is to serve as the direct representative of your Grand Master. It would be impossible for the Grand Master to visit each lodge to deliver his message, to assist where needed and to perform all of his duties. This is why your District Deputy must perform some of these services on behalf of the Grand Master. He can put you in touch with assistance of many kinds. He is in contact with all the other lodges in your district as well as with Grand Lodge Committees and with the Grand Master. This brother was appointed because of his knowledge of Masonic Law, his service to the fraternity in the past and his willingness and his ability to serve both the Grand Master and your lodge. Make use of the services he offers and listen to his suggestions for improvements in the operation of your own lodge.

* * **LEARNING ACTIVITY** * *

1. List as many Grand Lodge officers as you can. Your counselor can help you complete the list.

Counselor's Initials _____

* * *

2. Fill in the names and phone numbers of your District Service Team.

NAME **PHONE**

District Deputy Grand Master _____

District Instructor _____

Counselor's Initials _____

* * *

3. Discuss the possibility of having your District Instructor attend one of your degree practices or maybe even having an "*exemplification*" of a degree at your lodge and inviting all nearby lodges to attend.

Counselor's Initials _____

PREPARING TO BE JUNIOR WARDEN - EXERCISE NO. 3

*** * PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND LODGE * ***

If someone mentioned to you the "**Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Texas**," would you know what he was talking about? In far too many instances, we receive a blank stare for an answer. "**Proceedings**" are probably the least used reference in our lodges and in our Masonic Libraries. The title "**Proceedings**" should be self-explanatory. They are the recorded activities, discussions, financial statements and reports of the Grand Lodge of Texas for a particular year.

Proceedings are published for each Grand Master's year and are furnished, free of charge, to each constituent lodge in Texas each year. They are, or ought to be, kept in the lodge library and **made available** for use by any member or any officer of the lodge.

We have a tendency, of course, to believe that the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge have little to do with us as individuals or even as lodges. After all, they are the proceedings of the **Grand Lodge**. Yet, they do contain a great deal of information which should be of concern to us. This is the only document where we can find a list of those brethren who passed certificate examinations. It is the only document where we can find a listing of Masonic Districts showing the area covered by each district together with a listing of the lodges comprising each district. It is the only source for determining the disposition of the various Grand Master's Recommendations and the resolutions offered to the Grand Lodge.

*** * LEARNING ACTIVITY * ***

Let's see if we can find out about the membership in your lodge. The first activity is: Using the "**Proceedings**", determine the membership of your lodge for each of the past ten years.

- A. Was there a loss or gain?
- B. What is the primary statistical cause of the loss or gain?

Counselor's Initials _____

* * *

Who in your lodge has a Certificate of Proficiency in the Work? The second activity is: Using the "**Proceedings**" for the latest three years, determine the names and number of your lodge members who hold a current Certificate.

Counselor's Initials _____

* * *

When you attend Grand Lodge, knowing how to find and track a Recommendation is important. The third activity is: Using any of the "**Proceedings**", select one of the Grand Master's Recommendations and answer the following:

- A. What is the number of the Recommendation?
- B. To whom (*what committee*) was it referred?
- C. What was the recommendation of the committee to the Grand Lodge?
- D. What was the disposition by the Grand Lodge?

Counselor's Initials _____

* * *

Do you know the lodges in your district? The fourth activity is: Using the "**Proceedings**", answer the following:

- A. What area is covered by your district?
- B. What lodges comprise your district?
- C. How many Masons belong to lodges in your district?

Counselor's Initials _____

PREPARING TO BE JUNIOR WARDEN - EXERCISE NO. 4

* * **LISTS OF MASONIC LODGES** * *

What's that, you say? Never heard of them? Sure you have! Not only that, but if you've ever been a lodge secretary, you've found them to be **invaluable**, and if you've served on an examining committee, one or both of them has been an **absolute necessity**.

The List of Constituent Lodges in Texas is just that - a listing of all 950 or so lodges in the state. Updated and published annually, the book identifies the lodge by number, its location, name and address of the Master, Wardens and Secretary, the Masonic District in which the lodge is located, the date the lodge was chartered and the number of members. And, as if all that weren't enough, there's also a section that contains a list of demised and/or merged lodges.

Also published annually, **the List of Regular Lodges Masonic** contains the name, number and location of every "*regular*" lodge in the world, including the other 49 states. This one is a **must** when examining an out-of-state visitor. Its primary use, in this regard, is to verify that the visitor is a member of a regular lodge with which the Grand Lodge of Texas has fraternal relations.

Personal copies of the books **can be obtained** by the lodge secretary in the event an individual just wants to satisfy his curiosity about lodge locations, membership, etc. A member who travels a lot would find them useful to locate lodges along his route or at his destination.

These are just two of the many, fine publications which **may be obtained** from the office of the Grand Secretary.

* * **LEARNING ACTIVITY** * *

Before we can use these publications we have to know if they are **current**. The first activity is to locate **(A)** the lodge's copy of the **List of Constituent Lodges In Texas**, and **(B)** the **List of Regular Lodges Masonic** and record the date of each publication.

A. _____

B. _____

Counselor's Initials _____

* * *

Going to visit in Texas? You **should know** if you can visit a lodge. The second activity is to have your L.I.F.E. Counselor select a Texas city; then have you determine if there is an active lodge that you can attend -- **and when**.

Counselor's Initials _____

* * *

With a foreign (*out-of-state*) visitor at the front door, the Master asks you to determine if he can come in. The third activity is to have the L.I.F.E. Counselor select a non-Texas lodge to simulate the visitor's lodge; Then, using the **List of Regular Lodges Masonic**, you should determine if the selected lodge is one from which the visitor may visit your lodge.

Counselor's Initials _____

PREPARING TO BE JUNIOR WARDEN - EXERCISE NO. 5

* * PUBLIC SCHOOLS * *

Every year, the newly-elected Grand Master issues a number of proclamations concerning various subjects; one of these historically concerns the **observance of Public Schools Week**.

During this period, all routine lodge functions, except stated meetings, may be curtailed. A called meeting, open or tiled, with a "*Public Schools*" theme, is a good way in which a lodge can support the Grand Lodge's Public Schools Week program.

You probably know all this from years past, but, as Master of your lodge, it will be your turn to come up with a suitable program to recognize Masonry's contribution to, and continuing interest in, the Public School system in Texas.

Before getting into various program possibilities, let us bone up on some facts that you can use when discussing Public Schools Week. For instance, do you know, or recall, that Stephen F. Austin was instrumental in persuading the Mexican government to include in their **1824 Constitution**, a provision for free public education? Or, that after the war with Mexico the **59-man delegation** to the convention that adopted the **Texas Declaration of Independence** included **22 Masons**, and that these Masons insisted that the declaration include the provision: "*It shall be the duty of Congress, as soon as circumstances permit, to provide by law, a general system of education.*" As it turned out, circumstances did not "*permit*" until **1854** when **Governor Peace (a Mason)** established our **first free Public School system**.

The Masons of Texas were not sitting idly by all this time, however. The Grand Lodge of Texas at its **1845 Grand Lodge Communication** declared that **10%** of its annual revenue would be set aside for public education and even appointed a Superintendent of Education to administer the funds. In **1854**, there were **14** public schools funded by the Grand Lodge of Texas. This number rose to **100** by **1873**. It is unfortunate that records do not identify the first school but historians say that it was either the one opened/sponsored by Orphans Friend Lodge No. 17 at Fanthorp (*now Anderson, near College Station*) or the one opened/sponsored by Graham Lodge No. 20 in Brenham. Both are known to have been in operation in the **1840's**. Masonry's contribution to public education in Texas was summed up in a statement by Dr. Frederick Eby, Texas historian and Professor Emeritus of the University of Texas, and incidentally, not a Mason: "*Education in Texas is indebted to the courageous assistance of the Masonic Brotherhood for their labors in the establishment of the Public School system - - -*".

Lodges throughout the state conduct a variety of activities during Public Schools Week, many of which are topped off with an open meeting at which local educators are special guests.

No doubt you have your own ideas about how to observe this occasion, and good planning will ensure a program that will highlight this heritage of which we can all be justly proud.

* * **LEARNING ACTIVITY** * *

Today, as in yesteryears, we in Masonry are committed to the support of the Public School system. **Support!** What do we mean? One brother from San Antonio told this story. Sitting in a civic meeting one night, someone suggested they ask the Masons why they support public schools. Someone else said, "*What do they mean 'Support'? I've never seen anything they've done.*" The first activity is to look at the way your lodge supports the public schools. Discuss with your Lodge Counselor and lodge brothers the possibility of improving or developing visible support. Following are some examples:

- A. Have your lodge sponsor a summer reading program for slower students.
- B. Have an **Honor Board** display in the lodge of the brothers who are active on school boards or parent/teacher associations.
- C. Consider a contest among the school classes to honor those who have the most visitors during the week. First, second and third place winners could be awarded nominal cash prizes to be used as they see fit.
- D. Sponsor an essay contest at a school near your lodge. Award first, second and third place prizes (*monetary or plaques or cups*), and recognize their teachers.
- E. Sponsor a poster project with a patriotic theme or a free public education theme.
- F. Sponsor a Flag Day project. Every classroom should display an American Flag. See if any are needed, and present them during Public Schools Week.
- G. Hold an open meeting, and provide a guest speaker who is knowledgeable on local education benefits, difficulties, needs, etc.
- H. If a Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association is active in your area, contact them to encourage area-wide participation and coordination.

Counselor's Initials _____

* * *

Sometimes just being there can show support. The second activity is to organize a visit to one or more public schools in your area during public schools week.

Counselor's Initials _____

* * *

The Lamar Medal, named after the "*Father of Texas Public Schools*," **Mirabeau B. Lamar**, was introduced in 1988, and is available to lodges for presentation to outstanding students. It is best, although not mandatory, that the Lamar Medal be presented along with a scholarship or monetary award.

Obtain sufficient information on the Lamar Medal to understand:

1. Its availability and source.
2. Its purpose.
3. Conditions under which it should be presented.

Counselor's Initials _____

The International Order of Job's Daughters was founded in 1920 and is an organization for girls with Masonic relationship. Their Order is based on the book of Job which recommends the virtues of innocense, piety, modesty, straight forwardness and honesty.

To be admitted, a girl must be between eleven and twenty years of age and be related to a Master Mason either by blood or marriage. The organization seeks active young ladies who want to develop leadership skills, public speaking, and community involvement. Parents, whether Masonic or not, are invited to attend their meetings.

Our youth is our future and the following thoughts apply to all of these organizations:

*I found a piece of plastic clay
And idly fashioned it one day,
And as my fingers pressed it still
It moved and yielded to my will.*

*I came again when days had passed;
The piece of clay was hard and fast.
The form I gave it still it bore
And I could change that form no more.*

*** * LEARNING ACTIVITY * ***

Seeing the young people in action is an inspiring thing. Inviting them to help in some of your lodge social activities or open meetings can be very rewarding. The activity for this exercise is to visit (*if possible*) a **DeMolay**, a **Rainbow**, or a **Job's Daughters** meeting. Master Masons are always welcome. If either group is not available in your area, discuss with the Lodge Counselor, the possibility of starting one in your area. Also discuss the possibility of supporting other youth groups in your community.

Counselor's Initials _____

PREPARING TO BE JUNIOR WARDEN - EXERCISE NO. 7

* * OTHER LODGES * *

All lodges are the same! Right? They are about as much alike as you and the brother sitting next to you. Grand Lodge Law establishes some general rules about lodges, and specifies those areas where we should all be the same and entitled to the same rights and privileges. From that point on, **we are all different**, for we are individuals. Our lodge By-Laws differ in numerous ways, but traditions vary far more drastically between lodges.

Your lodge probably has many traditions. More than likely they work beautifully for you. They might be just as effective in other lodges. Staying within the limits of what we "**always do**" and never adding to, or revising our lodge procedures or activities may **not always** be in the **best interest** of our lodge.

None of us were brought up in a single person environment. We all had **someone** from whom to learn. We all constantly learn from **someone** else. We can also apply that principle to our lodges. By association with other lodges, we can see things handled differently (*possibly, more effectively or efficiently*). Perhaps an idea **that works** for another lodge **could work** for yours. If we stay within the four walls of our own lodge and never observe what other brethren are doing, we can never realize the benefit of their ideas or experiences. Neither can they enjoy ours if they never come to visit.

You may visit another lodge and be so **impressed** with the way you are received as a visitor that you would like to take that idea and implement it in your own lodge. **Why not?** It is possible that you enjoyed the Covered Dish Supper so much that you would like to encourage them in your own lodge. Again, **why not?** You might see a great program, or you might hear a fine speaker whom you feel really has something to say. Probably the speaker would be **happy to speak** at your lodge if you would just **ask him**. Good programs can be adapted to fit the situation in your own lodge if you just work at it. **Try it! You might like it!**

Visit another lodge on a "Work Night". You might possibly see some degree work that may **inspire** you to want to make an effort in your own lodge to improve your "**work**". On the other hand, you could see some "**work**" that could induce you to have a deeper appreciation of the quality of the "**work**" in your own lodge. The manner in which the candidate is treated, both before and after the degree, varies sharply among the lodges. **Look -- Compare -- Evaluate!**

There are few situations in life where you can **pick and choose** the parts you like and leave the rest alone. Yet, you can do just that when you visit and observe the activities of other lodges. Take advantage of **what you see**. The lodge you visit will be proud that you saw something that you liked and appreciated enough to copy. It has often been said that "**imitation is the most sincere form of flattery.**"

Then there are the **friendships**. We all have a number of them within our own lodges. Other lodges are also composed of **good men** who are trying to make themselves into **better men**. How many good friendships are you missing just because you have not visited other lodges and thereby have not met those other good brethren. **Make the effort! It works!**

Is your lodge attendance low? Maybe other lodges have the same problem. A visit by a few lodge members might possibly improve their attendance, while at the same time, provide hours of pleasure to both your group and the brethren of the lodge you visit. Besides, you just might inspire a visit from those brethren at the next meeting of your lodge. An **invitation** just might do the **trick**.

* * **LEARNING ACTIVITY** * *

Get a group of your lodge members together and visit a nearby lodge. If possible, it might be a good idea to call the other lodge and tell them you are coming. The first activity is to make a list of interesting things you observed during your visit and discuss them with your Lodge Counselor.

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____

Counselor's Initials _____

* * *

Many brothers **enjoy visiting**. If you tell the lodge about your visit, you may find that there are some who would like to **go along** with you the next time. The second activity is to tell the brethren, at a regular lodge meeting, about your visit to another lodge.

Counselor's Initials _____

* * *

Attending a Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association meeting can be **very informative**. The third activity is to attend a Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association meeting if there is one in your district or area.

Counselor's Initials _____

PREPARING TO BE JUNIOR WARDEN – EXERCISE NO. 8

* * **COMMUNITY RELATIONS** * *

Our brother, Robert Burns, Poet Laureate of Kilwinning Lodge, Edinburgh, Scotland, 1787, was said to have told his brothers:

***I wish the Great Architect of the Universe would give us the gift
to see ourselves as the other fellow sees us.***

Well, he wrote it somewhat fancier when he put it into one of his poems, but that's what he meant.

To truly look at yourself, you must see yourself as others see you. The same is true of the lodge. To learn how the community might view the lodge, we should stand back and take a good look at it.

Sometimes, unfortunately, the only thing the public sees is our lodge building. When you meet someone, in many cases, the first thing you notice is their appearance, and that is what many people judge us by. If we do not want to give a poor impression of our fraternity, we should take a look at our buildings and grounds and view them as others do.

Take the time to approach the lodge from all possible directions and make a critical appraisal of the general appearance of the building and grounds. This might just open your eyes to see how we appear to the average passer-by. You should see a building that is well maintained, in a state of good repair, neat and with a good coat of paint. The lawns, shrubs, grounds and parking lot should be neat and clean. In short, the appearance of the lodge should be a credit to the neighborhood.

At the same time, we must remember that the lodge is not just the building and grounds. The lodge is first, and foremost, the members who compose it. Another way the community views the lodge is by the actions or non-actions of its members in community projects.

Check the lodge roster and see how many of your members live in the community where the lodge is situated. Are these members active in community affairs such as municipal government, public school boards, etc.? Do they attend lodge regularly?

Does the lodge support and participate in community charity projects? Your community might have a program to provide Thanksgiving food baskets, Christmas gifts and food baskets to needy families, a volunteer fire department or some other charitable activities. Do you schedule open meetings in observance of public schools week and actively support public education?

Are the people of the community aware of the charitable activities of Masonry through the Shriners Hospitals, Scottish Rite Hospital and activities of other appendant bodies?

* * **LEARNING ACTIVITY** * *

To start to look at ourselves, let us begin with the physical things. The first activity is to evaluate the lodge building and grounds using the following check list. Review your findings with the Lodge Counselor and discuss your plans to correct any deficiencies.

A. BUILDING

Condition

Is it in good repair?

YES _____ NO _____

Appearance

Is the paint faded, cracked, or peeling?

YES _____ NO _____

Does the overall appearance of the lodge detract
from the appearance of the area in which it is situated?

YES _____ NO _____

B. GROUNDS

Condition

Are there any sagging fences needing repair?

YES _____ NO _____

Are there any unsightly or damaged trash and
garbage racks that need to be replaced?

YES _____ NO _____

Appearance

Does the lawn need to be mowed?

YES _____ NO _____

Does the grass need to be raked?

YES _____ NO _____

Is the parking area clean?

YES _____ NO _____

Counselor's Initials _____

* * *

Since this program is based on doing, the second activity is to organize a clean-up day for the lodge. Arrange to have all the equipment and supplies on hand. Assign specific tasks to small groups under the direction of an able brother in each group. Coordinate this project with your refreshment committee to provide necessary food for the workers. Complete the project and all the brothers will enjoy this constructive fellowship.

Counselor's Initials _____

* * *

Now let's look at ourselves as the community sees us. The third activity is to contact some of the community members to see if there are any projects, programs, charities or activities where the lodge might be able to get involved. Be a little careful with this one. Do not commit the lodge to anything until the lodge approves. Another thing you have to watch is to make sure that any activity you undertake is consistent with Grand Lodge law. Make sure to discuss this one thoroughly with your Lodge Counselor.

Counselor's Initials _____

Since the student is now conducting the research and writing the paper, it is important to provide a clear plan for the student. Arrange to take the student to the library and provide an overview of the research process. The student should be able to identify the research question, the research design, the data collection methods, and the data analysis methods. The student should also be able to identify the research findings and the conclusions. The student should be able to identify the research limitations and the research recommendations.

Conclude the letter

Now let's look at the letter. The letter should be written in a professional and clear manner. The letter should be addressed to the student and should be dated. The letter should be written in the first person and should be written in a clear and concise manner. The letter should be written in a professional and clear manner. The letter should be written in the first person and should be written in a clear and concise manner. The letter should be written in a professional and clear manner. The letter should be written in the first person and should be written in a clear and concise manner.

Conclude the letter

PREPARING TO BE JUNIOR WARDEN - EXERCISE NO. 9

* * ANNUAL PLANNING * *

One of the old brothers told me one time, "You can't **push** a chain, but you can sure **pull** it, and you can't **push** the members in the door to make good attendance and participation, but you sure can **pull** them in with good programs." He told me to take a look at some of those lodges that complain about **poor** attendance and **falling** membership. Their calendars have **nothing** but stated meetings for lodge business and called meetings for degrees. They present **nothing** but business and the ritual, and **nothing** can turn off the brethren faster. **Variety** is the spice of life, and there is **no** substitute. When he said that about the ritual, I got a little upset, but he told me, "Certainly, we all love the ritual of our beautiful degrees, but we must have **variations**. If you want brethren at lodge, other than the usuals, the standard dozen who are always there, you must offer them something more than the bills, broadcasts and bad coffee." He told me, "If there is a secret to a successful lodge year, it lies in the planning and development of a many-sided program with some out-of-the-ordinary, special occasions."

What can you give the brothers in your year? You should try to have no less than one **spice** program per month. And, bear in mind that the one unique thing we have to give to our members is **Masonry!** They can buy better meals and see better shows than the average lodge can provide, but they aren't likely to find Masonic teachings elsewhere. This doesn't mean that you have to get fancy speakers who go on and on about Masonic history, but you can give them Masonic entertainment which mixes good information and teaching with socializing and entertainment.

How do you get it together? Well, you have to build a calendar for the year. Start now, before your Junior Warden year. **Put it together now**, and refine it next year. To get started, **list the annual events** that are traditional to your lodge and apply tentative dates. Following are some examples that might help:

A. Annual Events:

- Installation of Officers
- Past Masters' Night
- Family Night
- Life Members' and Old Timers' Night
- Father - Son Night
- Widows - Ladies' Night
- Lodge Picnic

B. Committed Masonic Dates and Historical Events:

- Grand Lodge Communication
- Public Schools Week
- District Deputies Banquet
- District Deputy's Official Visits
- St. John's Day (*June 24*)
- St. John's Day (*December 27*)
- Certificate Examinations
- Washington's Birthday
- Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association meetings

C. National Holidays, local Holidays, Commemorative Days, etc.

D. Community, State and National events

E. Sports Events:

- Opening day of deer season
- Opening day of bird season
- Football schedule

F. Average number of candidates per year (*last three years*)

G. Number of Candidates, EA's and FC's, currently receiving instruction.

H. Visits planned to other Lodges; other Organization Meetings scheduled in Lodgeroom, etc.

After you have listed these events, think about past successes -- those programs that have been especially effective in the past, either in your lodge or others. **List them.**

Another source is up-coming "*naturals*". Lodge anniversaries, 50-year awards, a Grand Lodge appointment, or other unusual milestones often suggest **special programs.**

Finally, list any programs you have always wanted to see used in your lodge.

Just in case you feel you need some, we have attached some suggested program subjects in **Appendix A.**

By this time you have put together a pretty impressive list of events. All you have to do now is to refine it, and you should have some fine programs to begin your planning calendar.

* * **LEARNING ACTIVITY** * *

Since you have done all this work, your first activity is to discuss your program list with your Lodge Counselor.

Counselor's Initials _____

* * *

It is one thing to plan a good event, but there are some **Do's** and **Don'ts** to making the plan work. The second activity is to check either **Do** or **Don't** for each of the statements listed below. Discuss your answers with your Lodge Counselor.

- A. Clear the program dates with everyone possible.

*HINT: In urban areas, you cannot prevent some conflicts, but you can **minimize** them.*

DO _____ DON'T _____

- B. Schedule a long, three-hour program.

HINT: Be careful not to crowd too many features into one evening.

*Give the audience something worthwhile, then **stop**.*

*Always plan to leave your audience **wanting more**, not just thankful the evening is over.*

DO _____ DON'T _____

- C. Permit the program elements to compete with each other.

HINT: Never schedule a speaker when the Grand Master is to be present.

*The Grand Master is **always** the speaker.*

DO _____ DON'T _____

- D. Schedule twenty brethren to receive their 25-year pins, and then plan on the District Deputy pinning on all twenty pins.

*HINT: The wait for the sideliners is a crashing **bore!***

DO _____ DON'T _____

- E. Give your speaker all the information he needs.

*HINT: Make certain your speaker will encounter **no** surprises.*

He should know things like: time, place, purpose of program, make-up of audience, dress, suggested length of speech, etc.

DO _____ DON'T _____

- F. Make sure everyone gets the word that something is happening.
*HINT: A good program goes to waste if **no one** is there to enjoy it.*

DO _____ DON'T _____

- G. Use a telephone committee to **get the word out** on an upcoming program.
HINT: For smaller affairs, such as speakers at a stated meeting, this type of committee can help greatly, if done right.

DO _____ DON'T _____

- H. Create interest to **motivate** people to action.
*HINT: You **must** generate enthusiasm. Send letters to your members and out-of-town lodges. Don't forget your lodge bulletin and, perhaps news releases in local papers.*

DO _____ DON'T _____

- I. Make every person who enters the Masonic doorway **feel** comfortable and at ease.
HINT: Seating should be reserved for special guests. New Masons and visitors should never sit alone. Someone should be specifically appointed to get extra chairs if they are needed.

DO _____ DON'T _____

- J. Leave the lodge condition to chance.
HINT: Is the air conditioner or heater turned on? Is there a rostrum for the speaker? Do the lights work?

DO _____ DON'T _____

- K. Control the program.
*HINT: Start on time. Once started, keep it moving. **No** long-winded explanations and descriptions. **No** remarks by each guest.*

DO _____ DON'T _____

- L. Mistreat your speaker.
*HINT: Some business items can be held over until the next meeting. Introduce visitors before the speaker talks, not after. **No** announcements after the speaker. **No** comments, rebuttal or other review of the speaker's text. **Thank him and close.***

DO _____ DON'T _____

Counselor's Initials _____

PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

This appendix lists over 65 suggested program subjects and ideas. We have developed the list in the form of a Lodge calendar, beginning with July, the first month in the Texas Lodge year. Each month is overloaded with suggestions, for we want you to have as much choice as possible.

Some of the program ideas listed are extremely simple, and would require the average member only a little work to prepare, and consume only 5-10 minutes of Lodge meeting; others are more elaborate, and require the full range of planning and preparation. And, of course, it should be readily apparent that not all program suggestions will fit all Lodges. You must pick and choose carefully for your Lodge, to assure the best mix for your membership and your community.

One ingredient in every program suggestion is missing: **Manpower**. The simplest assignment still requires some Brother to say, "I will do it."

Generally, the most successful programs are those in which you involve the most people. Open meetings that involve families, members of various organizations, even other Lodges, get the best results. For example, where your Lodge has a Past Masters' celebration, and asks the Eastern Star to prepare and serve, and the DeMolay and Rainbow to greet, usher, sing, or whatever, you also tend to bring more of your members out. Don't underestimate the drawing power of involving a cross-section of your community, whether it be Masonic-affiliated, Church, school, or civic.

Many Lodges find that tying programs to specific themes, slogans, and purposes works the best. For example, name November (*just before the Grand Lodge*) "**Rededication Month**." Included during the month could be a "*Rededication Night*" program, perhaps led by a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Work; an "*Old Timers' Night*," honoring everybody with over 25 years of service; and a talk on the Grand Lodge of Texas, how it began, where it has met, what it's like today. All in one month? Sure, why not? These programs don't all have to be elaborate, but they do require some work and planning.

There's a world of other "*theme*" months you could name. "**Past Masters' Month**," for example. Here a Past Masters' Degree team could be scheduled on a work night (*caution: some Past Masters do not care for this kind of "honor," and will stay away*); an open meeting to honor Past Masters and their ladies - and don't forget the Past Masters' widows; and perhaps a "*Past Masters' Memories Night*," where each PM spends three minutes reminiscing about the odd and funny things that have happened in and to the Lodge in years past. Led by a sharp M.C., this can be a gem! And, of course, there's *Lodge Anniversary Months*, and "*Great Patriots' Month*," (February, for instance), "*Citizenship Month*," and "*Public Schools Month*." It's almost endless. Use your imagination!

Sources for the materials listed in the following include:

Masonic Service Association (M.S.A.)
8120 Fenton Street
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Grand Lodge Library
Box 446
Waco, Texas 76703

Macoy Publishing and Supply Company
P.O. Box 9825
Richmond, VA 23228

SOME SUGGESTED PROGRAM TOPICS

Although the following series of program ideas are listed by month, for convenience, most would work equally well at any time of the year.

JULY

Family Picnic

Ever try a multi-Lodge picnic? And why not go all out for a real old-fashioned picnic, with Shrine clowns, sack races, games for children, softball, bingo.

Special entertainment: "Masonic Presidents" (15 minutes)

One source: "**10,000 Famous Freemasons**," by *Denslow*, available from your Grand Lodge Library.

Special entertainment: "Freemasons in American History." (15 minutes)

One source: "**Freemasons In American History**," a digest, can be purchased from Masonic Service Association. (M. S. A.)

(Name July "Patriotism Month," and fill July with the feeling that, as Masons, we're proud to be Americans, and we're proud of the part Masons have taken in building Texas and America,)

Lodge Officer's Meeting and Social

Never let the first full month of the Lodge year go by without having your Lodge Officers and their families together for an evening. You must work together all year. **Get acquainted!**

AUGUST

Masonic Visitors' Night

It's time to get acquainted with the new officers of all the Lodges in your District or area. Send a special invitation to them all. **Honor them!** After a good speaker, or program, serve them fresh strawberries and ice cream. **Make it an annual highlight.**

Special entertainment: "Due and Timely Warning" (15 minutes)

A short story found in Carl Claudy's "**These Were Brethren**," and available from your Grand Lodge Library.

Special entertainment: "Why Men Love Freemasonry" (15 minutes)

Carl Claudy tells this story in "**Old Tiler Talks**," available from the Grand Lodge Library. This great story will inspire any Brother to add his own thoughts to make this an inspirational message.

Special entertainment: "From Left to Right" (5-10 minutes)

This talk appears in Joseph Fort Newton's "**Short Talks on Masonry**," available in your Grand Lodge Library.

SEPTEMBER

Past Masters' Night

An open program could include a short memorial service, a tribute to Past Masters' widows, a special speaker. A singing group can add character with "**The Empty Chair**," "**Let me call you Sweetheart**," "**Stout Hearted Men**," etc.

Family Fun Night

One Texas Lodge has made this program the "*talk of the town*," by incorporating some good-natured ribbing of some of their members; a skit giving an interpretation of a Mason from the Moon and his "*Moonlighters Lodge*," and the establishment of an organization called "*The Social Order of Suffering and Pathetic Masonic Widows*." Some fifteen "*Masonic widows*" and their husbands were brought before the Master's station to participate in the founding of this important new "*sorority*." The "*Widows*" were given a password, grip, and an official distress signal, all of which were received "*under oath*." Each "*Widow*" was presented a special "*Masonic Widow's Pin*," a small rolling pin. **See what a little imagination will do?**

Special entertainment: "The Good Old Days" (15 minutes)

It's sometimes helpful to recall the true facts about "*the good old days*," so we can put our present activities in proper perspective. See Darrah's "**History and Evolution of Freemasonry**," (*Grand Lodge Library*) which has a chapter by that title, and which will frame an entertaining talk.

Special entertainment: "Early Craft Customs" (15 minutes)

The book referred to above, "**History and Evolution of Freemasonry**," will also serve as the basis for this talk. See chapter by the same title.

OCTOBER

Special entertainment: "The Boston Tea Party" (15 minutes)

The "*Indians*" who dumped 342 cases of tea in Boston Harbor came from the Green Dragon Tavern, which was the home of St. Andrews Lodge. This lodge has been implicated in several revolutionary activities contrary to Masonic practice, but most of the evidence is hearsay or circumstantial. In any event, the subject makes an interesting talk. See any of your Masonic encyclopedias or Vol. 3 of the "**Little Masonic Library**" (*Grand Lodge Library*).

Special entertainment: "William Preston" (15 minutes)

William Preston was one of four eminent Masonic scholars who have given us a Masonic philosophy. Preston's key word was "*knowledge*," and his philosophy is encompassed in our American work. This young English Mason took it upon himself to write the lectures of Craft Masonry which were subsequently accepted and handed down to us. Material on Preston is available in Masonic encyclopedias and in Chapter I of Roscoe Pound's "**Masonic Addresses and Writings**" (*Grand Lodge Library*).

Special entertainment: "Masonic Poets" (10-15 minutes)

Our major Masonic poets include *Robert Burns, Rudyard Kipling, Edgar Guest, Rob Morris*. Their Masonic history can be found in Masonic encyclopedias, and the reading of some of their poems would be enjoyed in any Lodge and by any group including wives.

Special entertainment: "Shooting the Masonic Gun" (5-10 minutes)

A topic on which many Brethren deserve instruction. Carl Claudy speaks to this subject in "**Old Tiler Talks**." (*Grand Lodge Library*)

NOVEMBER

Old Timers' Night

Don't just advertise that you're going to present 25-year pins and 50-year Awards on empty-ump date. Broadcast that you are going to have an "*Old Timers' Night*," and then make a special effort to invite **all** of your "*over 25-year*" members. Give 'em supper and lead a short period of reminiscing. Honor **all** of them, and pick out the oldest and the one who came the farthest for recognition. **Make It an "Event!"**

Rededication Night

This was discussed above, but we list it here so you won't forget it. Properly planned, this can be one of the most important meetings of the year. And you're giving everybody what we all need: **some basic Masonry!**

Special entertainment: "From Whence Came We?" (15 minutes)

This is the title of the first chapter of Carl Claudy's "**Masonic Harvest**" (*Grand Lodge Library*), and makes for an excellent short talk!

Special entertainment: "Lodge and Grand Lodge" (15-20 minutes)

On the night you review the Grand Master's recommendations and other resolutions to be considered at Grand Lodge, and prior to your departure for Grand Lodge, assign an experienced Past Master this subject. How Grand Lodge began, how it works, who are members and can vote, and generally what it's all about, are all areas of interest to every Mason.

DECEMBER

Special entertainment: "Review of Grand Lodge Proceedings"

Your most experienced Past Master should be assigned the task of bringing back the actions, decisions, color and flavor of the Grand Lodge session. If your Lodge isn't going to be represented at Grand Lodge (*and this should NEVER happen*), get a Brother from another Lodge committed in advance to speak to your Lodge on the subject. **Don't neglect this one!**

Special entertainment: "Johann Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart" (10 minutes)

Mozart was one of many famous artists and musicians who were Masons. He wrote several pieces specifically for Masonic occasions. His Masonic history can be found in any Masonic encyclopedia. This history, plus playing one of his Masonic works, should make an excellent presentation.

Special entertainment: "St. John the Evangelist" (15 minutes)

Why do we observe December 27 as one of two St. John's Days? Why are the two Sts. John the Patron Saints of Masonry? Your Grand Lodge Library can supply information on which to build a great talk. Better yet, invite a Minister who is a Mason to discuss the subject.

Family Christmas Program

Try a potluck dinner for a change. Have an old fashioned Christmas program, with everybody singing and taking part. Climax with a speaker or program on the Christmas theme, understandable to the children.

JANUARY

Special entertainment: "Interpretation of Ecclesiastes XII" (10 minutes)

Discussion of the meanings of the words of the Twelfth Chapter of Ecclesiastes can be found in almost all Masonic libraries. And the M. S. A. has a Short Talk Bulletin entitled "**The Three Scripture Readings**," December, 1931 (15 cents)

Special entertainment: "The Book of Constitutions" (15 minutes)

Available from Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, or from the Grand Lodge Library, information on Anderson's "**Constitutions**" should be easy to develop into a fine presentation.

Open Forum (30 minutes)

Invite a panel of well-informed Brethren who will answer questions on all phases of Masonry. There are numerous ways this can be accomplished: a question-box for several previous meetings, with the members regularly reminded to submit questions; a mail-out to the membership seeking questions; or "**planted**" questions, plus those asked from the floor - or a combination of these processes. The moderator of the panel should be very carefully selected for his knowledge and ability to lead a discussion.

Special entertainment: the motion picture "This is Freemasonry."

This movie, especially suitable for open meetings, family nights, and for non-Masonic groups, is available for only the return postage from the Grand Secretary. Specifically developed for Texas Lodges, the film is also available from most Scottish Rite offices, and from Texas Shrine Temples.

FEBRUARY

Washington's Birthday Program

There is a multitude of ideas and information available on George Washington, Master Mason. Your Grand Lodge Library has several books on Washington; a portfolio of materials entitled "**George Washington, Master Mason**," is available from the M. S. A. for \$1.50 (*see address under July, above*) including Facts for Speakers, a prepared speech, and 20 pictures; and a slide presentation is available on loan from the Washington National Masonic Memorial, Alexandria, Virginia.

Special entertainment: "Freemasonry in the Civil War" (15 minutes)

Every Mason is entitled to know his heritage. No story is more moving than that of the role Freemasons played in healing the wounds of our Civil War. It's available in Allen Roberts' "**House Undivided**," available from our Grand Lodge Library, or purchase from Macoy Publishing and Supply Company.

Special entertainment: "Hiram Abif." (15 minutes)

All the information your speaker needs is available from the Grand Lodge Library, and from all Masonic encyclopedias. The Hiram Legend was introduced into Masonry to teach a vital lesson. The truth about Hiram is of interest to every Mason.

Fellowship Night

Invite all the Lodges in your District or area, along with all other Masonic Bodies. Recognize their leaders. Give them a:

Special Program: A Masonic play.

This is an ambitious undertaking, but any Texas Lodge worth its salt can do it. Many have, and with great success. You'll have great fun, you will get some Brethren *involved*, and you will entertain and teach. What more could you ask? There are many fine Masonic plays available from the Texas Grand Lodge Library. Carl Claudy's "*Where Your Treasure Is*" contains a collection. You can also buy scripts for the Claudy plays from the Masonic Service Association at \$1.00 each. Some of the old standards are:

- The Greatest of These** One Act
- He That Believeth** Two Acts
- Greater Love Hath No Man** Three Acts
- A Rose Upon the Altar** Two Acts and Interlude
- Judge Not** One Act
- The Hearts of the Fathers** One Act

A play for presentation to a mixed audience is:

- ...And Not Forsake Them** One Act

Special entertainment: "Why Symbolism?" (10 minutes)

Every Mason will appreciate a discussion on this subject. Page 136 of Volume 5, "*The Little Masonic Library*," available in the Grand Lodge Library, has what you need.

Special entertainment: "In My Heart" (10 minutes)

A good reader will thoroughly entertain the Lodge with this little story, found on Page 69, Volume V, "*The Little Masonic Library*," in your Grand Lodge Library, or you can purchase all five volumes of the "*Little Masonic Library*" from Macoy.

MARCH

Public Schools Week

Here's an opportunity to have a leading local educator speak to your Lodge. You could also honor all educators in an open meeting, or have a buffet dinner for them. Who knows, perhaps one or more might get interested in becoming a Mason.

Special entertainment: "To Entertain Strangers" (15 minutes)

Another outstanding short story from Carl Claudy. Find a brother with a well modulated voice and give him a copy of Claudy's "*These Were Brethren*," available on loan from Grand Lodge Library. *It's as simple as that!*

Masonic Spelling Bee

Using the new Masonic Pronouncing Dictionary your Lodge has received in The Lodge System of Candidate Information, pick two or three teams to spell *and* define words common to Blue Lodge. The award: the losers get to perform some special chore for the Lodge.

Special entertainment: "Is it a Dream?" (10 minutes)

Freemasonry sets each of us to building a temple of kindness and good will in the midst of a world where neither kindness nor good will has an easy time of it. "*Is It all a Dream?*" is a short essay by Henry Reed in Malcolm Bingay's "*Twice Two Is Four*," from the old Dollar Masonic Library, which is available from your Grand Lodge Library. *An excellent topic!*

Old Fashioned Beans and Cornbread Night

Invite all the sojourning Brothers who live in your area, and make a *real effort* to go out and round up Brethren who don't drive at night, or simply won't come by themselves. *You can do it!* And this time, limit your program to food and *real fellowship*, with strictly limited formalities. Have a very short talk like:

Special entertainment: "Breaking Bread" (10 minutes)

This is the title of an essay on the joys of good food and fellowship that have drawn men together throughout the ages. It's by R. J. Meekren, in Bingay's "*Twice Two Is Four*," from the Dollar Masonic Library, available from the Grand Lodge Library. Another source might be the "*Knife and Fork Degree*" by Elbert Bede, in "*3-5-7 Minute Talks on Freemasonry*," also available from your Grand Lodge Library, or by purchase from Macoy.

Special entertainment: "A Little Scrap of Paper" (5 minutes)

On September 22, 1951, Brother Frank Bertell delivered a three minute talk which began:

"I hold in my hand a little scrap of paper, 2½ X 3¾ inches in size. It is of no intrinsic worth, not a bond, not a check or receipt of values, yet it is my priceless possession. It is my membership card in a Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons."

Ask a Brother to expound upon all that this card represents and entitles him to, and you will have a superb 5 minute talk.

APRIL

Special entertainment: "The Fourth Point" (10 minutes)

Another of Carl Claudy's short stories from his "*These Were Brethren*," in your Grand Lodge Library. Give a copy to a Brother with a good voice, and watch the Brethren *enjoy Masonry!*

Special entertainment: "The Meaning of Masonry" (15 minutes)

Borrow a copy of Volume V, "*The Little Masonic Library*," from the Grand Lodge, give it to a Brother and ask him to read Albert Pike's famous lecture beginning on Page 13. This lecture is just as pertinent today as it was in 1858.

Special entertainment: "The Ancient Badge Wi' the Apron Strings"

The apron lecture is an excellent topic for a short talk. Give a Brother a copy of Archie Gibbs' article by the above title in Bingay's "*Twice Two Is Four*," from the Dollar Masonic Library, (*get it from the Grand Lodge Library for postage only*), and ask him to prepare a ten-minute talk.

Special entertainment: "Atheist or Agnostic" (15 minutes)

This is the title of another Carl Claudy short story in "*Old Tiler Talks*" which will make excellent entertainment.

Special entertainment: "Thomas Smith Webb"

Here's one for your favorite ritualist. Thomas Smith Webb was responsible in large measure for the present system of work and lectures in America. Information for a short talk can be found in any Masonic encyclopedia or book on the history and evolution of Freemasonry.

MAY

Special entertainment: "The Foundation" (10 minutes)

Another excellent source for Masonic talks is Joseph Fort Newton's "*The Builders*," available from your Grand Lodge Library, or purchased from Macoy. The first chapter is entitled "*The Foundations*," and makes an excellent source for a short inspirational and education message.

DeMolay Night

Invite a DeMolay Chapter to put on Degree Work, and by all means be sure someone gives the "*Flower Talk*." Every Mason should hear this at least *once each year!*

Special entertainment: "The Morgan Affair" (15 minutes)

The story of William Morgan is one which should be aired in every Lodge. An account can be found in any Masonic encyclopedia. Another source is the "**Little Masonic Library**," Volume II, page 170.

Special entertainment: "What Does It Benefit a Man?" (15 minutes)

A frank discussion of what Masonry brings about in a Mason, and what it brings about in the world, makes an **excellent Masonic talk**. Material for this is everywhere; however, the sixth and seventh letters of Johann Fichte serve as a good source. See pages 154 - 162 of Roscoe Pound's "**Masonic Addresses and Writings**," from the Grand Lodge Library.

Special entertainment: "Not Blotted" (10 minutes)

Another short story with a moral lesson, from Carl Claudy's "**These Were Brethren**." Again, from your Grand Lodge Library.

JUNE

"Back to Blue Lodge" Month

Develop a detailed program, and go all out, with telephone calls, special committees, personal visits, publicity, you-name-it, to see if you can't set a record for getting your members back in Lodge just "*one more time*." **We dare you to try it!**

Special entertainment: "The Key to Freemasonry's Growth" (15 minutes)

Every Texas Lodge Officer should own, or have local access to Allen Roberts' book, "**The Key to Freemasonry's Growth**." For your Lodge program, have a Brother paraphrase the material on pages 68 - 74 of the book. It's especially timely for June. Oh, yes, you can buy the book from Macoy.

Election of Officers

The time spent in electing officers in the average Texas Lodge is very short, and a short program to follow is most appropriate, particularly if this special night brought out some extra sideliners. Try one of Claudy's short stories, such as:

Special entertainment: "At Midnight" (15 minutes)

A short story that will be enjoyed by every Master Mason. Find it on Page 79 of Claudy's "**Masonic Harvest**," available from the Grand Lodge Library.

Special entertainment: "The Masonry You Make" (10 minutes)

Another fine story for an election night program, appearing on Page 95, Volume 5, "**The Little Masonic Library**," from the Grand Lodge Library.

Special entertainment: "The Fundamental Landmarks" (15 minutes)

Texas has never adopted an official set of landmarks, although most of the fundamental landmarks are recognized, and some are part and parcel to Texas Masonic laws, customs and usages. A discussion of the landmarks is always of interest to the Brethren. Material can be found in almost any Masonic encyclopedia, and a good discourse appears on pages 141 - 158, Volume 5, "**The Little Masonic Library**," available from the Grand Lodge Library.

St. John's Day Program

Consider inviting a Minister to discuss St. John the Baptist, and the importance of the two Sts. John to Freemasonry.

Public Installation of Officers

We could write for hours on this one, for here is the key affair of your Masonic year. **Make it perfect through careful planning!** Pay absolute attention to every detail. Get the best possible program, with the best Installing Officer and Marshal you can find, and give every ounce of energy you can muster to communicating "*the word*" to your membership. This **is not a routine meeting**. Don't treat it as such.

OTHER PROGRAMS FOR THE ACTIVE LODGE

St. Valentine's Night - special recognition and praise of wives, sweethearts, and daughters.

Lodge Anniversary or Charter Night -

Law Night - Invite a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Jurisprudence, a Past Grand Master, or a Grand Lodge Officer to discuss the history of Masonic Law, and set aside some time for the Brethren to ask questions pertaining to Texas Masonic Law.

Ben Franklin - Unlimited possibilities; dinner and a talk on Franklin's Masonic history and his witty writings.

Table Lodge - a most unusual evening. The Table Lodge has a special short ritual of opening and closing around the dining room tables. A truly festive board, with fellowship the prime aim.

Thanksgiving Program -

Masonic Birthdays -

Lodge Debate -

Paul Revere Night -

. . . . and literally hundreds more! We repeat once more what we said at the outset: no matter what kind or how many programs you develop, ***Give your Members Masonry!***

"Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood."

EXERCISE RECORD

Exercise No. 1 - LODGES

First Activity Completion Date _____
Second Activity Completion Date _____
Third Activity Completion Date _____

Exercise No. 2 - GRAND LODGE ADMINISTRATORS

First Activity Completion Date _____
Second Activity Completion Date _____
Third Activity Completion Date _____

Exercise No. 3 - PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND LODGE

First Activity Completion Date _____
Second Activity Completion Date _____
Third Activity Completion Date _____

Exercise No. 4 - LISTS OF MASONIC LODGES

First Activity Completion Date _____
Second Activity Completion Date _____
Third Activity Completion Date _____

Exercise No. 5 - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

First Activity Completion Date _____
Second Activity Completion Date _____
Third Activity Completion Date _____

Exercise No. 6 - YOUTH GROUPS

First Activity Completion Date _____

Exercise No. 7 - OTHER LODGES

First Activity Completion Date _____
Second Activity Completion Date _____
Third Activity Completion Date _____

Exercise No. 8 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS

First Activity Completion Date _____
Second Activity Completion Date _____
Third Activity Completion Date _____

Exercise No. 9 - ANNUAL PLANNING

First Activity Completion Date _____
Second Activity Completion Date _____

EXERCISE RECORD

Exercise No. 1 - LOGS

First Activity Completion Date
Second Activity Completion Date
Third Activity Completion Date

Exercise No. 2 - GRAND LOGS ADMINISTRATORS

First Activity Completion Date
Second Activity Completion Date
Third Activity Completion Date

Exercise No. 3 - PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND LOGS

First Activity Completion Date
Second Activity Completion Date
Third Activity Completion Date

Exercise No. 4 - LIST OF MEMBERS LOGS

First Activity Completion Date
Second Activity Completion Date
Third Activity Completion Date

Exercise No. 5 - PUBLIC SCHOOL

First Activity Completion Date
Second Activity Completion Date
Third Activity Completion Date

Exercise No. 6 - YOUTH GROUPS

First Activity Completion Date

Exercise No. 7 - OTHER LOGS

First Activity Completion Date
Second Activity Completion Date
Third Activity Completion Date

Exercise No. 8 - COMMITTEE REPORTS

First Activity Completion Date
Second Activity Completion Date
Third Activity Completion Date

Exercise No. 9 - ANNUAL REPORT

First Activity Completion Date
Second Activity Completion Date

Blank lines for recording activity completion dates.

(CUT ON LINE AND RETURN IN ENVELOPE)
GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS COMMITTEE ON MASONIC EDUCATION AND SERVICE

(FIRST NAME) (MI) (LAST NAME) (TITLE, IF OFFICER) (ID NUMBER)

of _____ Lodge, No. _____, District No. _____

has completed the following manual (s)

Preparing to be Master _____, 20 ____
(MONTH) (DAY)

Preparing to be Senior Warden _____, 20 ____
(MONTH) (DAY)

Preparing to be Junior Warden _____, 20 ____
(MONTH) (DAY)

Counselors' Lodge mailing address: _____,

_____, Texas _____
(CITY) (ZIP CODE)

LODGE COUNSELOR

(CUT ON LINE AND RETURN IN ENVELOPE)
GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS COMMITTEE ON MASONIC EDUCATION AND SERVICE

(FIRST NAME) (MI) (LAST NAME) (TITLE, IF OFFICER) (ID NUMBER)

of _____ Lodge, No. _____, District No. _____

Preparing to be Master _____, 20 ____
(MONTH) (DAY)

Preparing to be Senior Warden _____, 20 ____
(MONTH) (DAY)

Preparing to be Junior Warden _____, 20 ____
(MONTH) (DAY)

Counselors' Lodge mailing address: _____,

_____, Texas _____
(CITY) (ZIP CODE)

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(MONTH) (DAY)

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(MONTH) (DAY)

Counselors' Lodge mailing address: _____,

_____, Texas _____
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LODGE COUNSELOR



