



Ideas That Work



Please Forward to Other Leaders in Your Lodge

Vol. 1, No. 7 – August 2008

Aug. 31 is Deadline to Register for Mark Twain Award

You have a very short time to register your lodge for the Mark Twain Masonic Awareness Award and have a chance to win \$1,000. The deadline is August 31.

North Bend No. 119 and Cotner No. 297 each won an award the first two years of the program.

The purpose of the award is to recognize lodges that “seriously support Masonic

awareness both within the lodge and throughout the community.”

For more information, check out the Twain Award Web site at:

<http://www.msana.com/twainaward/>.

The Award is sponsored by the Masonic Information Center at the Masonic Service Association of North America.

From the Field . . .

The following ideas were submitted by Grand Lodge officers.

Table Lodge

Hold a Table Lodge for members and area lodges. Present a short program, but mainly focus on camaraderie. Order the ceremony from the Grand Lodge for \$1.25. Go to: <http://www.gln.org/ReportSupplyForm.aspx>

Fundraiser

Use your lodge parking lot or rent a lot to

sell fireworks for Independence Day. Also sell hot dogs and soda.

Open House

Invite your community to an open house in your lodge. Provide food and soda. Extend a special invitation to targeted audiences, such as law enforcement and firefighters. Give a tour of your lodge and explain the basic tenets of our fraternity. Also describe any other Masonic-related organizations that meet in your building.

Ideas from the Lodge Leadership Manual . . .

The following are just a few of the more than 400 ideas in the Lodge Leadership Manual. To review the manual and to start planning the year you'll serve as Master, or for ideas this year, go to:
<http://gln.org/fileDownload.aspx>.

Activity ideas are suggested in these areas of lodge performance.

- **Fellowship** – Hold family events such as a family day-long field trip, father-child dinner or cookout, and father-child softball or basketball.
- **Community Service** – Volunteer time for events or occasions identified by a school, such as keeping the library open for adult reading or literacy, beautify the

school grounds, refinish the gym floor, raise funds for a significant school event.

Membership – Invite prospective members and their wives to a “Who Are the Masons?” meeting. Serve a dinner and present a program about Freemasonry, its history, tenets and your lodge’s activities. Present them a petition and ask them to fill it out before they leave for the evening.

- **Communication** – Mention upcoming activities every time members meet. Regularly review your lodge’s schedule at meetings and degrees, but don’t forget ritual practice or even when passing on the street. Hand out the lodge schedule at the installation of officers when you may have the highest attendance of the year, post it in your lodge and put it on your agenda at every meeting.

Program Ideas Available from Masonic Renewal Committee

*The Masonic Renewal Committee of North America provides monthly program ideas at: <http://www.masonic-renewal.org/>. Click on “Resource Library” to see all 19 program ideas. We will feature one each month. This month’s suggested program is **Masonic Presidents Night**.*

“Back when I first entered the Masonic Fraternity I was struck with just how many Presidents of the United States were members of our craft.

And not just members, but active Masons. My lodge used to hold, every February an event to remember and honor those men who had distinguished themselves, the fraternity and most importantly, the Nation.

This program is designed to reignite that tradition.

If your lodge currently conducts a program to pay homage to our brethren that have been elected to the highest office in the land, by all means continue that program. If your lodge however, does not currently set aside an evening to remember these men and Masons then we heartily encourage you to do so.

To quote our most famous member George Washington who writes in a letter to Prince Georges Lodge No. 16 in Georgetown South Carolina, in response to a letter of welcome from that lodge to him: “*assuring the fraternity of my esteem, I request them to believe that I shall always be ambitious of being considered a deserving brother*”.

He certainly was a most deserving brother!

Learn all you can about their lives. More books are available than can possibly be listed here. Suffice it to say that an enjoyable presentation could be made with cherry pie, coffee, punch, and some wonderful insight into the minds of these distinguished and insightful men and Masons. Their impact on this nation, and on us as modern Masons is immeasurable and immensely satisfying.

Press into service a couple of brothers that would like to make a presentation to the lodge regarding one of the Presidents already mentioned. Give them 10 minutes and be sure and thank them and properly recognize them for the job they do. All of us will be.

Web Site for 2009 Masters Available

Next year’s Masters can learn about 2009 Grand Lodge activities and begin planning for their lodge’s year by visiting a Web site geared specifically for them. It can be found at: <http://www.lodgeleaders09.com/>

Included on the site are:

- **Planning Tools** – A lodge planning site that each month will provide a guide to planning the year they'll serve as Master. Those who complete each section, each month will have next year planned before the end of this year.
- **2009 Trestle-Board** – An explanation of the activities and programs of the Grand Lodge in 2009.
- **2008 Programs** – An explanation of this year's Grand Lodge activities and programs.
- **Leaders Blog** – A chance for next year's Masters in Nebraska Freemasonry to comment on ideas, thoughts, activities and events.
- **From the DGM** – Comments from the Deputy Grand Master.
- **2009 Calendar** – The 2009 calendar that will be updated throughout the year.

Keep Sending In Those Activity Ideas

You should have already noticed the three preceding articles in this issue of *Ideas That Work* from the Brethren. We know there are many, many more activities lodges have performed that have been successful. Don't be shy. Share them with us. Your lodge activity ideas may end up helping another lodge.

What may seem commonplace to you, because your lodge has held an event for many years, may be new to someone else. If

it's working for your lodge, please send it to us. Write a short summary and send it to: michelle@glne.org or mail it to the Grand Lodge Office at: 1240 No. 10th St., Lincoln, NE 68501-1852. If additional information is needed, we'll call.

This newsletter will be sent to you as often as we have ideas. It will take you only a few minutes, but it could help our fraternity across the state. Thanks for your help.

Past Issues of *Ideas That Work* Are on Grand Lodge Web Site

To ensure the information in *Ideas That Work* is available in the future, the tips and issues of this

publication can be found on the Grand Lodge Web site at: <http://www.glne.org/Ideas.aspx>.