



Ideas That Work



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What an Opportunity You Have Before You!

As a leader of your lodge, you not only have the responsibility but also the opportunity to make your lodge enticing, meaningful and relevant to your members.

You can accomplish this by making a plan for the year you'll serve as Master. Every Master can achieve a meaningful year for his lodge if he diligently prepares himself and his lodge by entering the year with a plan of activities aimed at meeting the needs of its members.

It is essential that those who follow you in the line of leadership be involved in a planning process to ensure consistency and eliminating peaks and valleys in the performance of your lodge from year to year.

You can do nothing greater in the year you serve as Worshipful Master than to set a precedent by exhibiting the positive impact of short- and long-range planning, and

implementing your plan so that your lodge benefits. The potential of developing a plan could result in an effective year that will be felt for many years after your term of service has passed.

Don't miss this opportunity. Start now! Go to the Lodge Leadership Program manual on the Grand Lodge Web site at: <http://gln.org/pdf/lodgeleadership.pdf>. The manual contains a step-by-step approach to planning a year, and includes more than 400 activity ideas.

In addition, check out the awards programs to use as a guide in planning your year. Forms have been e-mailed to lodge contacts, or go to <http://gln.org/fileDownload.aspx> to download the forms for the Rock Maul Award, Nebraska Pillar Award, Grand Master Leadership Award and Gold Pan Award.

Grand Master Outlines 2008 Initiatives

M.W. Grand Master Reg Kuhn spelled out his programs for the coming Masonic year to delegates attending Annual Communication. He encouraged all Nebraska lodges to participate in the following programs.

Who Are You?

He challenged each lodge to develop a mission statement which will best answer the question, "Who are you?"

"It will require a lodge to seriously consider those core values which are most important to it, and then put those values

into words," he said. To assist lodges, resources that will be helpful in this process will be sent in the next month. At Annual Communication next year, the lodges' mission statements will be displayed about the lodge room.

Building Maintenance

The Grand Master also expressed concern about the maintenance of Masonic buildings. To begin to address the situation, he announced that four, \$1,000 grants will be presented to lodges to make improvements. To be eligible to submit a

grant application, a lodge must raise at least \$750 of new funds to support either Masonic youth programs, such as CHIP, our youth groups, the band camp, or a youth program in the local community.

Ritual Work

In addition, he challenged each lodge to ensure that its ritual is done in the best possible manner. He urged everyone to double their efforts to maintain and improve the quality of the ritual.

“I do not believe the ritual is the holy grail of our fraternity,” he said. “Rather, it is the bonds of fraternal brotherhood and the lessons taught by the ritual which are of the utmost importance. However, our ritual does set us apart from every other social order and association, and I suggest provides many useful insights and tools to assist us in

answering the complex question which I have put before us today.”

Grand Lodge

He added the Grand Lodge will respond to similar questions about its own functions, including exploration of new ways of doing business to ensure it is both relevant and nimble in these times of rapid technological change. He said the Grand Lodge also recognizes the current Grand Lodge committee structure is cumbersome, hard to coordinate and leaves many committee members unable to answer the question, “What do you do?” At the 2009 Annual Communication, he will offer a recommendation to restructure the Grand Lodge committees. “I hope that a new structure can make more effective use of Grand Lodge resources and the expertise of our members,” he said.

Rock Maul Winners Hold Active Years

Lodges that earned awards at Annual Communication filled the past year with busy schedules and creative activities.

Cotner Lodge No. 297 in Lincoln won the large lodge Rock Maul Award. Among the activities it held:

- A community concert performed by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Symphonic Band comprised entirely of Masonic composers.
- The Master and Wardens each completed a plan for the year they will serve as Master.
- Held a George Washington dinner and the meal was made from recipes from the colonial era. In addition, a Washington impersonator provided a presentation on his life and the UNL Brass Quintet performed.
- Lodge members visited four other lodges.
- Hosted the widows of deceased members at a dinner at a restaurant.

- Held a community blood drive.
- Worked with elementary school students to promote reading by providing four bicycles for a drawing.
- An outdoor meeting and a Table Lodge.

Hooper Lodge No. 72 in Hooper won the small lodge Rock Maul Award. Among the activities it held:

- A Table Lodge.
- Three special Masonic events.
- Two activities in support of an organization or school.
- Prepared a lodge brochure to give prospective members.
- A Friendship Night and presented a program to prospective members.
- Three fellowship-building activities.

Both lodges completed plans for the year and distributed them to members by the second meeting of the year.

Active Lodges Earn Awards at Annual Communication

Awards were presented at Annual Communication to the following lodges:

Rock Maul Award (large lodge)

Winner – Cotner Lodge No. 297, Lincoln
1st Runner-up – Mizpah Lodge No. 302, Omaha
2nd Runner-up – Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6, Plattsmouth

Rock Maul Award (small lodge)

Winner – Hooper Lodge No. 72, Hooper
1st Runner-up – North Bend Lodge No. 119, North Bend
2nd Runner-up – Custer Lodge No. 148, Broken Bow

Gold Pan Award – North Bend Lodge No. 119

Membership Awards

Large Lodge – Cotner Lodge

Small Lodge – Minnekadusa Lodge No. 192, Valentine

Grand Master’s Recruitment Award – 1st place – Patrick Barger, Cotner Lodge; Pepper Aasgaard, Nebraska Lodge No. 1, Omaha

Grand Master’s Leadership Award – John Ramsay, Hooper Lodge; Doug Rasmussen, North Bend Lodge; Bill Lichtenberger, Custer Lodge; and Dean Stockman, Mizpah Lodge.

Grand Master’s Leadership Award with Distinction – Patrick Barger, Cotner Lodge.

Master of the Year – Patrick Barger, Cotner Lodge.

Nebraska Pillar Award – Plattsmouth Lodge, Hooper Lodge, North Bend Lodge, Custer Lodge, Cotner Lodge and Mizpah Lodge.

Men Have Simple Needs When Joining a Group

Men who join organizations have relatively simple needs:

- They want to **meet new friends**.
- They want to **have fun**.
- They want to **feel proud**.
- They want to be **well led**.

- They want a **role for their family**.
- They want the **lodge active in the community**.

Plan activities for your lodge that will meet these needs.

From the Field . . .

Rusty Nail Degree

Many members will never show up at your lodge out of fear of becoming embarrassed because they don’t remember what they must do to enter a meeting. The Rusty Nail Degree educates them about the steps, due guards, signs, grips, and words of the degrees. This “degree” requires only a few men to perform it and can be completed in about 35 minutes. An informal version could be combined with a Saturday morning coffee. Individually contact non-active

members to attend, and offer to pick them up. If held before a meeting, serve a dinner, perform the degree and urge them to attend your meeting. The degree is available from the Grand Lodge at: toll free – 800-558-8029; Lincoln – 475-4640; or michelle@glne.org.

BBQ Fundraiser

Papillion Lodge No. 39 holds an annual BBQ which is the lodge’s main money maker. Every member receives two tickets

in the mail with a request for payment, and a number of out-of-town brethren pay for tickets as an opportunity to support the lodge. Awards are also presented at the BBQ, including band scholarships and service awards to non-Masons active in Papillion. For more information on the Masonic Achievement Award and Masonic Community Service Award, go to: <http://glne.org/fileDownload.aspx>.

Bottle Auction Supports Charities

A highly-visible event for the Masonic family in Tekamah is a potluck dinner and bottle auction held by the Lodge and Eastern Star Chapter. Attendees wrap a bottle and it is offered for the auction without the bidders knowing what's inside the package. It makes for a fun evening. Proceeds from the auction are given to local food pantries. The event is open to the public and attendance has increased each year. Its first year, the auction raised \$300, \$900 in the second year, and last year the amount was \$1,300.

Ideas from the Lodge Leadership Manual . . .

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

Activity ideas are suggested in these areas of lodge performance.

- **Meetings** – Save time in monthly meetings by summarizing minutes, correspondence and communications. Post the minutes and the report of the treasurer instead of reading them, or make copies to hand out.
- **Ritual Work** – It is wise to not only ensure your officers are proficient, but to also build a backup of brothers proficient in the parts who can perform the work for your Lodge. Rotate presentation of the parts so all have the opportunity to reinforce what they've memorized.
- **Grand Lodge Programs** – Provide a valued community service and increase awareness of your Lodge by holding a Child Identification Program (CHIP) in your community.
- **Fellowship** – Charge officers to welcome all members and visitors before and after every meeting.
- **Community Service** – Hold an event with a local school to raise funds for a specific need, such as computers.
- **Membership** – Target men who would make good Masons. Ask members to list men who are relatives, neighbors, work associates, professionals, coaches, business owners, teachers, service providers, community leaders, and members of civic group and your church. See chapter 7 in the manual for a form to use.
- **Communication** – Refer to the form news releases in the manual or your secretary's binder to help promote your lodge's activities.
- **Finances** – Prepare a budget for your lodge by referring to previous expenditures and income.

Let Us Know about Your Lodge's Activities

The purpose of this publication is to give you activity ideas to freshen up your lodge's

annual calendar of events for the year you serve as Master.

You play an important role in its success. We are relying on you to send us activity ideas to share with other lodges. 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 we need additional information, we'll contact you.

While all ideas are welcome for the next issue, but we ask you to also think about spring-related activities your lodge holds or has held that were successful.

This newsletter will be sent to you as often as you and the Grand Lodge Officers provide good ideas about activities that have worked for your lodge. It will take only a few minutes but it could help our fraternity across the state.

Past Issues of *Ideas That Work* Are on the Internet

To ensure the information in *Ideas That Work* are available in the future, the tips can be found on the Grand Lodge Web site at: <http://www.glne.org/Ideas.aspx>.