



# Ideas That Work



Please Forward to Other Leaders in Your Lodge

Vol. 2, No. 84– July 2009

## July...Time for a checkup!

It's now the half way point in the year and time for all us, especially Lodge Leaders and upcoming leaders to look back at that first six months and see if we hit our targets. A year as Master goes by much faster than one would think so good planning is very important if not the most critical item in having a successful year. Equally important is to look back and see what you've done,

learn from your mistakes and successes and re-calibrate your plan for the rest of the year!

Take a deep breath, adjust your attitude if need be, remember your goals, check your mission statement and head for the rest of the year!

## Lodges and Web sites

*(This month, we'll talk about some of the dark sides of the Internet.)*

**If** you've made it this far you are truly on the way to earning your geek street cred!

Congratulations! Take a moment to bask in the glory of your accomplishment!

Before you get too comfortable, however, it's time we remind ourselves about a few of the less palatable aspects of the Internet.

Sometimes we are so focused on our little corner of the world, that we forget that they don't call it the World Wide Web for nothing! Anything you put up on that web site is instantly available to anyone, anywhere, 24/7/365. What's my point? Don't put anything on a web site you wouldn't want on a billboard in public! This means pictures, names, phone numbers and so on. Anything that is on your page is open to the entire world!

This is particularly important to remember if you are making a web site for your Lodge or other volunteer organization. Make sure you have people's permission to put their pictures or other information on the web site before going live. If you are dealing with a children's group, be even more careful. The world is full of loonies and most of them seem to be on the Internet!

A good idea is to not use full names and descriptions (address, town, etc.) unless you have the persons permission. Or if that's information you need to share with a group of people through the web site, use a protected directory. The folks at account support can help you set that up. Using a protected directory will require a username and password to access that part of your website. It's an easy and effective way to keep things safe.

## Grand Master Initiatives

The Grand Master has set a very aggressive schedule of events for himself, the Grand Lodge and the subordinate Lodges for 2009. The GM has done so because experience tells us that an active Lodge is a healthy Lodge! The more things you offer, the wider the variety of things you offer, the better off you Lodge will be.

Let's review what is coming up the next 3 months on the Calendar for your suggested Lodge Activities:

1. **July** – Study Masonry – We all took an obligation to improve ourselves through the study of Masonry. In July the Grand Lodge will launch a web site full of information for you to study. There will be articles and

other resources for all levels of study. See the article below for more.

2. **August** – The Blood Drive- This will be the first time ever for a state wide blood drive. If your Lodge isn't big enough, get together with several other Lodges and hold a drive. Every pint you donate will save at least 3 lives! How can you pass that up?
3. **September** – Appendant bodies' Back to Lodge Night – a night for all of us to go back to our Blue Lodges and share what we've been doing in the appendant bodies and renew old friendships.

If you missed an earlier activity, it can still be done, just check the GL.org web site for more details.

## Special News!

**The Nebraska Masonic Education web site is open for July!** The Grand Lodge Education committee has been working throughout the first half of the year to produce a web site for Masonic Education that has a little bit of everything on it for everyone. Book lists, Jeopardy games for Lodge meetings and some serious work on Masonic education. Something for every level. July is Masonic Education month, check out the web site and expand your knowledge!

[www.nebraskamasoniceducation.com](http://www.nebraskamasoniceducation.com)

**Blood Drive News!** Our Brothers in Alliance have already had a hit with their Blood Drive! Here is a part of an e mail received by the Grand Master:

*Good Morning Joel. I caught up with Debbie this morning and she said that they drew from 37 people and had 5 deferrals... they saw 42 people. In addition, it may be worth noting that we had to turn 5 more away because we were too busy when they came in to donate. I believe this could be quite a deal in the upcoming years.*

Considering that each pint of blood saves potentially 3 lives, the Brothers of Alliance have touched the lives of over 100 people in their area! What an amazing accomplishment!

Let's all try to beat this record in August!

## Leadership and Enrollment Training

Starting in August and running through September, the Grand Lodge officers will be crossing the State presenting the Leadership and Enrollment training programs. These programs are intend to train Lodges in Leadership development and in membership development. Each program will be presented in a Lodge no further than 90 miles from the farthest Mason. So everyone should be able to find a presentation to attend.

If you are about to be a Leader in your Lodge this training is some of the best help you can get. If you are currently JW or SW and are thinking of the East, don't miss these important programs! More information will be forthcoming from the Grand Lodge, so starting planning now to attend. All training's are on the weekend.

## Masonic Relief

The Masonic Relief fund continues to need your help! These tough economic times are taking their toll on our Brother Masons. One way you can help is to go to the Grand Lodge web site, click on the store banner and either purchase product or just make a donation outright to Masonic Relief. All you need is a credit card and the willingness to donate. We've also put up some new items from the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Please send me your ideas for Masonic branded products you'd like to see in the Masonic Relief Store. remember, 100% of the profits go to Masonic Relief. This makes it a great project for your Lodge as well. Send you ideas to me at [tomshop1@me.com](mailto:tomshop1@me.com). And I'll do my best to get stuff in stock!

## Keep Sending In Those Activity Ideas

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](mailto:michelle@glne.org) or mail it to the Grand Lodge Office at: 1240 No. 10<sup>th</sup> 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.