



Ideas That Work



Please Forward to Other Leaders in Your Lodge

Vol. 2, No. 81– March 2009

Welcome to another year of Ideas That Work!

Welcome to a new year of Ideas That Work! This Newsletter is intended to give you ideas for activities that you can use in your Lodge to keep things going or to pep up a Lodge that perhaps has gotten a bit stale.

Each month, we will look at activities and programs that have worked for others that you can adapt for your Lodge. We will also take a look at ideas from other Lodges

around the state and around the world that have resulted in better Lodge attendance and great satisfaction for the Lodge Members.

MW Russ Reno has passed the torch of continuing this newsletter to me, Tom Hauder (Grand Junior Deacon) and I look forward to your submitted ideas and also hearing back from you on how the ideas in this newsletter have helped your Lodge. So let's dig in and make it a great 2009!

From the Field . . .

The following ideas were submitted by Grand Lodge officers.

Youth Night

Hold a Masonic youth group dinner where the lodge officers serve as cooks, waiters and bus the tables.

Membership

Include in your lodge newsletter a return postcard asking each member to write the name of one person who should become a Mason and drop it in the mail. It won't cost

members anything to mail if you place a stamp on the card. Then, vote on the submitted names using the form for Recommendation of a Candidate, which can be found at:

<http://www.gln.org/fileDownload.aspx> and go to Forms-Membership Petitions and Applications.

Attendance of Younger Members

Increase the attendance of younger members by asking Masonic youth groups to offer child-care during lodge meetings.

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** – With the holidays approaching, arrange a party near the date of one, and focus on children..

- **Community Service** – Mount a drive to collect coats for kids. Arrange to have them cleaned.

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 **Cigar Night**.*

One of the greatest benefits of belonging to the fraternity is that of associating with other men that we normally might not have a chance to meet. Younger men put a great deal of emphasis on gathering together to do nothing more than having conversation and enjoying each others company in a relaxed and comfortable environment.

This program is a very simple one for us to enact, while it is not for every member of your lodge, it may very well be exactly what some other members of your lodge are looking for. While we certainly understand that smoking is not necessarily to be encouraged, for those of our members who do like an occasional cigar, the opportunity to join together in friendly conversation over a good cigar is an event they very much enjoy!

Be sure that all of your members know that on the evening of your Cigar Program that there will be smoking on the premises and that those brothers who have an allergy or other issue with smoking should conduct themselves accordingly. This program is strictly voluntary and is not to be construed as encouraging our brethren to take up the habit. However, for those who enjoy a good cigar this evening is for them.

Set an evening aside this month for a Cigar Event to be held at your lodge. Perhaps if the weather is nice it can be held out of doors with a little picnic. Have each brother who wants to attend bring a cigar for himself and one for someone else. Take all the extra cigars and place them in a box or

hat. Pass the hat around and have each participant remove one cigar. This will allow the brethren the opportunity to sample a cigar they might not otherwise have the chance to smoke. If any of the members are knowledgeable about cigars have them make a short presentation on this topic. Where was it made, how is its taste different from other tobacco, is it made by hand, how much does this cigar cost and how are the prices set and so on.

What supplies do we need?

Absolutely none. The members bring their own cigars and if necessary their own ashtrays and receptacles. Make sure that the building has adequate ventilation and that the rooms are properly cleaned afterward. The event can be very negatively received by other groups if it is left smelly and dirty with ashes and butts. We emphasize again, please clean up after the event!

This is also a great opportunity to have the brothers tell a little about themselves. Utilize the “Who I Am” program from April to make this event one that all will remember and look forward to attending in the future. Don’t forget that this is a great chance to let the brethren play a little cards or shoot some pool anything that allows the membership the opportunity to fellowship together is a good thing.

Be sure to have fun on your cigar night! But don't forget those who do not smoke the same opportunity for fellowship as those who do. It would appropriate to host a no smoke night at the lodge. At your no smoke night you conduct all of the same kinds of programs, such as card playing, pool shooting, storytelling and so on, just without the smoke. At this evening’s program, smoking is not allowed; period!

So, while our brothers who smoke are given their time to enjoy their pleasures, so

too, our brothers who do not smoke are given the same opportunities for fellowshiping together.

That makes a great lodge. Focusing on the needs of all of its members and affording them the opportunities to join together and have fun.

Light 'em up and enjoy!

**Enjoy your cigar in moderation.
Break out the cards and let the
membership play a game of Euchre,
Poker or Cribbage!**

March is Masonic Relief Month

The Grand Master has designated March as Masonic Relief Month in Nebraska. The Grand Lodge maintains a fund for the relief of poor, distressed Master Masons, their widows and orphans and receives several applications per year for assistance. This fund has been seriously drained in the last 2 years and it's time to step up to the plate and fulfill our obligations. So how can we do that?

W. John Maxell (Grand Senior Steward) has put together a two part program that is going to really boost our funds and provide our membership with a great opportunity to show their pride in Masonry!

Part 1: For only a \$20 donation you can receive a Masonic Relief pin. This high quality pin shows that you care and support Masonic Relief. For only \$35, you can get two pins. Contact the Grand Lodge office or John Maxell to order. (Makes a great activity for Lodge. See how many members you can get to donate for a pin, then take a picture of everyone wearing the pin and send it to Grand Lodge Office!)

Part 2: John has made arrangements with a Brother Mason to provide us with a variety of casual coats with the Masonic emblem embroidered on them. These are high quality garments at a great price! The price will include shipping and tax and they will come in a variety of sizes and colors. Show your pride in Masonry to the world and get one of these great items. The best part is that you will be able to order them from the Grand Lodge web page! We will be putting a link up soon to a new online store where you can purchase these and other items. Keep watching the Grand Lodge web page for more details!

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@gln.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.