



Ideas That Work



Please Forward to Other Leaders in Your Lodge

Vol. 2, No. 86– September 2009

September...A Month of Transition

September is a great month. Not quite Summer, not quite Fall. It's a great time for Masters to be looking at upcoming activities for the Fall for Lodge. It's also a great time for the Wardens to really be putting the

polish on their plans for next year. November elections will be here before you know it! In the mean time, there is much work to do in the Craft!

Lodges and Web sites

(This month, we'll talk about what comes next now that your site is up and running.)

Where you go from here is up to you. You now have the knowledge to get just about any kind of web site up and running.

Conclusion and Parting Thoughts

If you've followed the steps outlined in this book then by now you should have your web site up and running and are receiving rave reviews and lots of hits. Step back for a minute and review all that you've done and give yourself a well deserved pat on the back for learning a new skill!

Be prepared, Web sites are a lot like potato chips, you just can't have one! Before you know it, you'll have a personal site and one for your hobby and one for your kids.

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 your Lodge will be.

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

1. **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. More on this below.
2. **October - Ladies Festival Weekend** – In appreciation for all that your wife and significant other means to you, a Ladies Festival Weekend will be held October 9-11, in Omaha. The weekend will include site seeing, shopping in the Old Market and finishing with an elegant

dinner and a new Ladies at the Table ceremony, followed by a concert by the UNL symphony orchestra featuring music by composers who were Masons.

3. November - **Veterans Day Observance / George Washington Masonic Memorial** – On or near Veterans Day, hold or join in an

observance honoring veterans. And, hold a fundraiser or make a donation for the George Washington Masonic Memorial totaling at least \$1 per member in your lodge.

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

A Letter from the Grand Master to all Worshipful Masters in Nebraska

Dear Nebraska Worshipful Masters,

Included in the Lodge Planning Guide, and mentioned several other times in various venues since then, was holding a Back to Lodge Night at your regular meeting in September. With your September meeting just around the corner, I want to remind you that Nebraska's Masonic-related bodies support this effort to get their members to return to their home lodge and talk briefly about their involvement in and describe the work of those bodies. At your next meeting, a brother who is involved in another body may ask you to allow him to speak at your lodge meeting. If you are participating in Back to Lodge Night, you may already be aware of this. If not, please be prepared to give him a brief time to talk.

This is a win-win for your lodge. September is a chance for you to reacquaint long-absent brothers with your lodge. I urge you to plan an interesting and fun night. This can range from a stimulating Masonic education presentation to an activity before or after lodge, or it can be just a chance to tell them what your lodge has done and plans to do in the coming months. In other words, you have the opportunity to re-gain his interest in Blue Lodge.

It would be to your advantage to offer a meal before the meeting. Not only will a dinner be appealing, but it also allows him to talk with his brethren and re-establish a bond. If he is unsure of the signs, words and grips, take him aside before the meeting and explain them to him so he isn't embarrassed. Or, perform the Rusty Nail Degree, which was in your Lodge Planning Guide.

Best of luck at your September meeting! Please share any positive experiences that result from your effort.

Sincerely,
Russ Reno
Grand Master
Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. of Nebraska

September Ideas!

Here are some things you can try in you Lodge!

What do you think? – Sit down around coffee and snacks and go through each line of an Obligation (especially the Master) and discuss why it was put in there and what does it mean to you. You will find out some fascinating things about how your Brothers interpret the obligation. (Thanks to Mid-West Lodge #317 for this idea)

Habitat for Humanity Masonic Style – With Fall nearly upon us, now is a good time to get a few Brothers together and help some of your less fortunate or older Brothers with preparing their houses for Fall and Winter. A few dollars of weather stripping, some caulk and a little elbow grease and you can help a Brother save money on those upcoming heating bills. Plus it will be a great bonding experience for the Lodge. Might even want to partner with several

other Lodges. Great way to get some press from the local paper too!

Masonic Radio Night – Remember the good old days when people would sit around the radio and enjoy their favorite programs and news? Well, now you can do that every Sunday night live or any other time for the weeks Masonic news. Brothers Greg Stuart and Dean Kennedy (not of Nebraska's

Jurisdiction) are producing a free online podcast of Masonic news, interviews and call in comments every Sunday night. You can listen directly on the web site or download past programs to listen to later. They have great guests, encourage your participation and generally produce a great show. You can find it at www.freemasoninformation.com

Leadership and Enrollment Training

The training programs are off and running and the Grand Lodge officers are 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. Attendance has been pretty good but could be much better, please find a program in your area and sign up today!

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! All training's are on the weekend.

Masonic Relief

The Masonic Relief fund continues to need your help! And with the coming colder weather, getting a new jacket or hat for Fall just might be on your things to do list. So go to the Grand Lodge web site at www.glne.org and click on the store banner in the upper right hand corner. You can buy a variety of Masonic branded products or just make an outright donation. All you need is a credit card and the willingness to donate. We've also put up some new items from the 150th 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. 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 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.