

BLUE LODGE OFFICER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING PROGRAM

2014

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Reviewed by the Committee on Education and
Public Relations, Grand Lodge of Alabama

2014

FELLOWSHIP

Source: Masonic Leadership Training Manual. Grand Lodge of Florida 2010

Program Objective

- To provide current subordinate Lodge officers and potential Lodge officers with a foundation for the development of Lodge Fellowship

Friends and Fellowship

- **Survey of New Masons: Masonic Renewal Committee of North America**
- 95% expected to gain new friends and fellowship
- Active & inactive Masons want better fellowship and opportunities for making new friends

Survey of New Masons: Masonic Renewal Committee of North America

- The good example set by leadership
- The absence of cliques
- A warm and pleasant setting
- Effort on the part of all members
- Open & friendly atmosphere

What is Important to Members?

- **Involvement of spouse and family.** The husband and wife both working outside the home limits their time together
- Support of wife is important for husband's involvement.
- Family involvement ranked 3rd in this survey, after fellowship and community involvement

Involvement of Family

- **Men Ages 35-55:** The decision to join an organization becomes difficult if the organization ignores active family involvement
- **Inclusion of family in Lodge activities** (meaningful and relevant programs) can be as little as five events per year
- Events with children as center of activity are most appealing to wives

Fellowship Interaction

- To keep members, your Lodge must provide something for every member
- Give members reasons to stay. It helps attract sons, relatives, and friends to Masonry
- Involve more members in positions of responsibility
- Give members OWNERSHIP

Courtesies Promoting Fellowship

- Officers welcome all members and visitors before and after meetings.
- Give non-officers responsibility to greet all members upon entering the Lodge
- Provide name tags and special attention to guests
- Send Masonic anniversary card on date of a Brother becoming a Master Mason
- Send Birthday, Get Well, and Sympathy Cards
- Hold a Widow's night, presenting widow's pin and card

Courtesies Promoting Fellowship

- Establish a **Widows' Contact Committee**. Contact widows on regular basis to ensure her needs are met. Maintain current contact information of widows
- Establish a funeral information system (telephone, e-mails)
- Establish a Committee to check on, and visit hospitalized Brothers
- Reinforce fellowship after meetings (coffee, etc.)
- Send attendance thank you notes for new members and visitors

Courtesies Promoting Fellowship

- Include biographies (summary of member's interests, family members, etc.) of newly raised Master Masons in Lodge communications (newsletters, etc.)
- Hold open meetings for 50 yr. etc, pins presentations
- Appoint a Bring a Brother To Lodge Committee to re-involve inactive Brothers (provide transportation for those with such needs)
- Discover special needs of inactive Brothers which are not being met

Fellowship-Related Activities

- **Family Activities:**

Activities for wives, county fair, camping, day-long field trip, Father-child night, Sports, Holiday parties, Grandparents night

- Inform wives about Masonry in Lodge newsletter (what we do, what we support, calendar of events)

- **Family Informational Programs:**

Book Club, Safety programs (smoking, swimming, boating), Crisis management; Local history, Personal financial management, Improving marital relationships

Fellowship-Related Activities

- Ritual Work:
 - Outdoor degree
 - Visit other Lodges
 - Friendship Night
 - Vacant Chair Ceremony (honoring armed service members and veterans)



END
FELLOWSHIP
SECTION