TWENTY-FIVE IDEAS TO IMPROVE A LODGE MEETING

Ideas to make meetings more enjoyable and fun for the membership

1. Place all correspondence (extra copies for announcements of events or sign-ups) on a table 1 hour prior to a meeting, so that all members can have an opportunity to read or review if desired. (This shall eliminate a great deal of time for Secretaries to read all the correspondences during the meeting)

 2. Provide refreshments (beverages and food) prior to each meeting. This creates a

 wonderful social setting where all members can interact and find common ground

 and/or interests.

 3. Read the minutes (under *Good of the Order*) from one of your Lodge’s meetings held

 100 years ago.

 4. Try having a meeting backwards! (The Ritual allows the agenda to be moved around

 for the convenience of the Lodge or Noble Grand).

 5. Have a drawing for an attendance prize! Under *Good of the Order* draw for

 attendance prizes; i.e. lottery ticket(s), bottle of wine, or any prizes.

 6. Prior to each meeting, place brochures and other I.O.O.F. items on table for members

 and prospective applicants to take and/or read.

 7. Place vintage and historical I.O.O.F. items and photographs out (in display cases, if

 possible) prior to each meeting for members to enjoy and discuss.

 8. Share an “on-line” experience with older members, who are not connected or are

 familiar with the internet. (Set up a computer and do an internet search for an older

 member who may be interested in something; hobby, etc. or look on EBAY at all of

 the I.O.O.F. items listed for sale, etc.)

 9. Bring items no longer wanted (clothes, stationary, tools, books, kitchen items, etc.) to

 Lodge meetings so members can enjoy picking through items for their own use and

 enjoyment).

 10. Send out *Birthday* cards to members! (Everyone at the meeting sign cards.)

 11. Send *Get-Well* cards to members! (Everyone at the meeting sign cards.)

 12. Send *occasion* cards to members and non-members to show the Friendship, Love, &

 Truth of the Lodge members.

 13. Have a fun meeting that is based on a theme, dressed in character (i. e. clowns, retro

 clothes).

 14. Challenge each member to bring in an applicant each meeting. Make it a contest. Buy a

 member a dinner-for-two at a restaurant for bringing in a new member. (This would be a

 promotional for membership growth).

 15. Have a meeting where everyone greets one another (This is a brotherly and sisterly

 gesture that we do not do enough of; and a good way to learn everyone’s names).

 16. Get involved in the community and invite those organizations to a Lodge social or an

 “open meeting.”

 17. Fill all of the chairs of the appointed officers, including Scene Supporters, Inside and

 Outside Guardians, Left and Right Supporters of the Vice Grand and Noble, Color Bearer,

 Conductor, and Musician. (The Chaplain and Past Grand should already be filled.)

 18. Have different members fill the position of Musician. Play a variety of music. In addition to

 having a pianist, have a guitarist, drummer, and other types of musicians.

 19. Involve all of the membership by appointing the members to committees. Have an “Event”

 Committee!

 20. Have a discussion period, where new members and applicants can and may ask

 questions about the and the functions of the Lodge (Too many of the members, who

 have not been in a Lodge very long feel they are kept in the dark and not privileged to

 make inquiries of the business of the Lodge, etc.)

 21. Have the entire Lodge visit other Lodges. (This introduces members of one Lodge to other

 members of other Lodges; it is an example of fraternalism. Don’t wait to do a visit in

 conjunction with an event; make the visit your Lodge’s event!)

 22. Update the Lodge’s By-Laws. Work toward being less restrictive. If the “code” or the Ritual

 allows something or occur, be sure the By-Laws reflect those permissive items. (An

 example: The Ritual – in the fine print – permits Lodges to conduct “two or more degrees

 at the same meeting” provided this is legislated at the Grand Lodge of a given jurisdiction.

 A Lodge may admit 16-year olds, if codified by the Grand Lodge of a jurisdiction. The list

 goes on and on.)

 23. Create an email list for the Lodge members to share and communicate.

 24. Send out a paper newsletter!!!! This is probably the most important indicator to a

 successful Lodge. A Lodge should have a newsletter even if it only mentions the current

 officers and the times and dates of each meeting. It is ALL about COMMUNICATION!

 25. Clean out your attics and closets and create a display of I.O.O.F. historical items. There

 are historians within the Order, who could enlighten a Lodge as to the current value of the

 items, the significance of items, and how to best preserve items. Allow your membership

 to read and review old minute books. (Solidify your current membership with the Lodge

 and allow everyone to know the history of the Lodge.)