

2010



Grand
Lodge

Programs



Brethren,

Not since the 1940's has Freemasonry received so much attention in the media; not since those days have so many men sought out our Lodges. These next few years mark a critical time for our Fraternity. We can either grow and develop to meet the expectations of the young men who seek to be Masons, or ignore them, and wither on the vine.

And the good news, the very good news, is that in making Freemasonry the kind of rich and rewarding experience for which they are searching, we also make it richer and more rewarding for ourselves. It's a win—win situation.

Grand Lodge programs over the past years have been designed to help create a deep and rewarding experience of Masonry for everyone. We know that in order to meet the needs of our members, we have to focus on Masonic education, on fraternalism, on the transforming experience of initiations well performed, and of the pure joy of being a Freemason.

That's the purpose of the 2010 Programs.

I ask you to join me in continuing to build a Fraternal experience which is second to none in the world, attracting good men, and forming us into a fellowship which is deeply satisfying.

Fraternally,



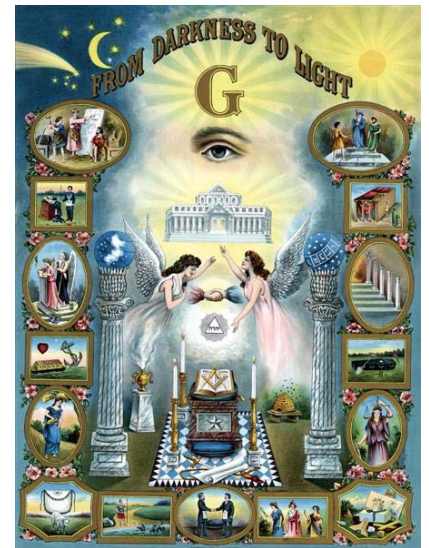
Charles Belknap

Masonic Education in Your Lodge



No one would boast that a concert they attended was over in half an hour, or that they only spent ten minutes detailing their car. But you will hear Masons brag that their Lodge opens, takes care of business, and closes in less than 30 minutes. It's true that if a meeting is going to be boring, it's better if the torture ends quickly. But it's much better to have a good meeting! **Lodge meetings should be educational, informative, and include a comprehensive study of the Mysteries.**

All Lodges will incorporate Masonic Education in their Lodge Meetings during each meeting this year.



Sources of Masonic education include BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

Masonic Speakers

Reading aloud the Short Talk Bulletins

Masonic Education Courses

A "Tour" of the Lodge Room—learn and discuss the meanings of Lodge paraphernalia

Mackey's *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*

Various video tapes and DVDs

Masonic web sites

DVDs by experts such as Joseph Campbell

Lodge of the Year

The Lodge of the Year Program WORKS!

FUN

FACILITIES

FINANCE

FELLOWSHIP

FRATERNALISM

The purpose of the Lodge of the Year program is to encourage all Oklahoma Lodges to rebuild and strengthen those 5-F's. It is the best way to create the excitement for a new generation of Masons, and to pass on the joy of Freemasonry to our children and grandchildren.

The **Lodge of the Year** program works a little differently than programs in the past. It is not a checklist on which your Lodge must score specific points to qualify. We know that each Lodge is different, with different circumstances, size, resources, and everything else.

We are not telling you what to do in the 5-F areas, we're asking you to tell us what you are doing!

To enter, your Lodge creates a binder with pages showing what you have done in each area of the 5-F's.

MOST LODGES HAVE DONE MORE THAN THEY THINK, so make sure to look at the examples below. If you can include some photographs, that will be even better. **The binder must be completed by October 10th, and then given to your DDGM so he can sign off on it.**



FUN Fun is anything the Lodge members do, with or without families, for the purposes of pleasure and relaxation. That can include Lodge dinners, cookouts, fishing trips, meeting somewhere else for dinner, holding a Friends Night, going to a movie or drive-in or a baseball game, playing dominoes, and much more. It is important that we do not lose the fun of the Fraternity. Brainstorm what you have done, and make plans to do something, just for the fun of it.

FACILITIES What have you done to fix up the Lodge? Some examples: given it a good cleaning, repainted all or part of the interior or exterior, planted some shrubs, made a special effort to keep the grounds in good shape, changed or improved the lighting, acquired a new sign, fixed or updated the plumbing, polished the Lodge jewels or rods, waxed the furniture, or anything else which helps the Lodge room or building?



FINANCE Have you set up a fund to save for Lodge improvements and repairs? Have you increased dues to keep pace with increasing costs? Have you added to the Lodge investments? What fund-raisers have you held?

FELLOWSHIP What has your Lodge done to extend Masonic fellowship? Tell us if you have supported the Youth Groups and how you did. Have you made it a point to reach out to Brothers who do not attend Lodge to see if they need transportation to the meetings? What have you done to make the Lodge experience as rich and meaningful as possible? Here is where you tell us about your Masonic Education program. Let us know what you have done as a part of the Educational program. Have you brought in a guest speaker, added books to the Lodge library? Have you asked your newest and youngest members what they are looking for in Masonry and tried to make it available to them?

FRATERNALISM What has your Lodge done to take care of our Brothers? Have you started the **“No Mason Left Behind”** program? Does your Lodge send cards to Brethren on their Masonic anniversaries? Have you used Lodge funds, Matching Funds, or **Promises Matter funds** to aid a Brother or his family? (You don't have to tell us the name or amount, just tell us if you did it.)

Especially, survey your members to see if their needs are being met. **If you are not sure how to use Promises Matter, ask the Charity Foundation to send a speaker to do a program in your Lodge.**

How good does your Lodge “feel?” Does it feel warm and friendly, as though you were visiting the home of a good friend?

Grand Lodge Building Capital Campaign

Grand Master's Club

The Grand Master's Club is for individuals or Lodges who contribute \$1,000.00 or more to the Grand Lodge building Fund. Names will be recognized on a permanent plaque in the Grand Lodge Atrium, and an invitation to a luncheon at noon at Grand Lodge.

Brick Campaign

Commemorative Bricks are available for purchase to memorialize a Lodge or loves one. They will be placed in the Memorial Mall in front of the Grand Lodge Building.

Large bricks are 24 X 15, with 9 lines of 30 characters/spaces per line for \$300.00.

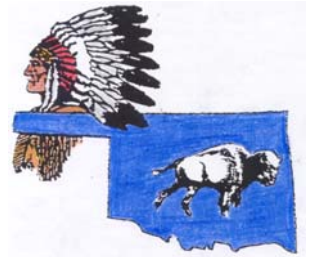
Medium bricks are 12 X 12, with 12 lines and 22 characters/spaces per line for \$200.00.

Small bricks have 3 lines with 13 characters/spaces per line for \$50.00.

Artwork is available on medium and large bricks, but will limit the number of lines available. Order forms on the website or at the Grand Lodge Building.

Order of the White Buffalo

Plans are being more to revitalize the Order of the White Buffalo. Initiation is open to men, women, and families. Initiation fees and yearly dues go to support the Grand Lodge Building Fund.



OETA

The OETA campaign will be in February. You are one of the largest supporters of this fine program, which gives Masonry lots of good exposure. Lodges contribute \$1.50 or more per member, and apply to the Masonic Charity Foundation for matching funds.

Prevent Blindness Oklahoma



Oklahoma Masonry supports this fine program—our oldest partnership with another organization. You can help by volunteering a small amount of time as a helper during your school's eye screening.

CHIP Program

The **CH**ild **I**dentification **P**rogram uses cutting-edge technology to provide parents with a sure means of identifying their child in the case of abduction or other emergency in which positive ID is essential. The importance of such identification can hardly be overstated. There are two ways in which the Lodge can support the CHIP Program:

- Host a CHIP Program in your town
- Contribute monetarily

Mr. Mason

To honor a brother who really makes a difference for your Lodge, the Lodge sends his name and the name of the Lodge to the Grand Lodge (e-mail okmason1@coxinet.net or fax 405-282-3244) The Grand Lodge will prepare a special certificate and mail it to the Lodge for presentation.

These are the highlights of the Grand Lodge Programs for 2010. As you can see, they stress the necessity of becoming more informed about Masonry as well as being of service to the community. We are faced with an unique opportunity to make our Fraternity stronger and more relevant in the lives of men that it is been in many long years.

We've got to get it right!!!!