

TO: District Education Officers

FROM: Grand Lodge Education and Information Committee

RE: 2017 Recommendations for Lodge Education Officer Programs

Brother District Education Officer,

To ensure that we provide Education and Information to our members on a regular annual schedule the Grand Lodge Education and Information committee has established these 2017 Recommendations for Lodge Education Officer Programs which are to be completed between the Annual Installation of Officers and the subsequent (November) Annual meeting (The Masonic Year.) The criteria of these standards will be the basis of the Lodge Education Officer's report to the District Deputy and will reflect the effectiveness of the Lodge's educational programs.

It is imperative that this information be covered with the Worshipful Master-Elect as it becomes effective when he and his corps officers are installed.

A strong education program will not merit any award but rather a lasting reward of a successful Lodge.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Education & Information Committee at 330-618-9553 or rlrunion@gmail.com .

2017 Recommendations for Lodge Education Officer Programs

(A Guide for Lodge Education Officers)

PREFACE

The role of the District Education Officer provides the necessary link between the Grand Lodge of Ohio, Committee on Education and Information, and the Lodge Education Officer (LEO). Historically, the LEO was required to present a certain number of programs to the Brethren of his lodge. These programs were crafted by the Grand Lodge Committee on Education and Information. Over nearly the past decade, the role of the DEO has moved from being a teacher/instructor for the LEO to that of being a key trainer in their districts. In the meantime the programs have moved from a prescribed set to an unstructured environment, which engages the creativity of the LEO to build programs that fall into one of three, intentionally broad categories that more closely match the education opportunities of his lodge. The themes of these categories are: (1) Becoming a Better Man, (2) Serving our Community, and (3) Sharing our Mystic Ties.

2017 Lodge Education Officer Programs should be fulfilled during the course of the local Lodge's Masonic year, i.e. from installation of officers through the next annual meeting.

- I. Lodges are encouraged to provide as many educational opportunities for the Brethren as possible.
 1. **Becoming a Better Man** – This theme is most closely aligned with the Masonic value of *Brotherly Love*. Programs presented within this theme:
 - a. may seek to assist the Brethren with a better understanding of how they can apply the lessons and symbols of Freemasonry in their everyday lives;
 - b. provide either Masonic or non-Masonic information relevant to becoming better fathers, husbands, and men;
 - c. improve the moral and spiritual health of the Brethren,
 2. **Serving Our Community** – This theme is most closely aligned with the Masonic value of *Relief*. Programs presented under this theme:
 - a. May seek to showcase various areas of need (financial or volunteer) in a Lodge's local community or region, providing ideas for how the Brethren could assist in those areas – either individually or collectively.
 - b. Additionally, programs may highlight the actions of Brethren who have served or are serving their community on a national, state, or local level as a positive example.
 - c. Utilize programs that highlight our Masonic Charities - the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation, Ohio Masonic Home and the Masonic Service Association.

3. **Sharing Our Mystic Ties** – This theme is most closely aligned with the Masonic value of *Truth*. Programs presented under this very broad theme would include aspects of Freemasonry such as:
 - a. history
 - b. philosophy
 - c. ritual symbology
- II. Each Lodge is to hold training for its Master Craftsmen or alternatively, the LEO and Master Craftsmen shall attend a training session held at another Lodge or by the DEOs.
- III. All candidates are to participate in the Apprenticeship program with the assistance of Master Craftsmen.
- IV. The LEO is to attend the annual program provided by the DEOs. Generally, these are held on or near the time of the annual Past Masters Convocations.
- V. Each Lodge is to promote www.freemasonuniversity.com to its members in its emails, newsletters, Facebook page, through Twitter, etc.
- VI. The LEO is to encourage all officers to successfully complete the online courses for the Officers Manual, Masonic Code, and Charges of a Free Mason.