

Value of the Lodge's Friendship Programs

The goal of this topic is to create a DISCUSSION in Lodge that might cause members to think a little more about membership and the value of a friendship night program. The leader should ask the following questions, and try to have the brethren participate in the discussion with their comments and answers. The leader should be ready to ask follow-up questions, or rephrase the questions, to encourage discussion. The leader can create additional or substitute questions, and can add comments and explanations during the discussion.

The length of the program should be 7 to 15 minutes, but could go longer if the discussion is interesting.

What good things can happen to our Lodge, if we raise more Master Masons? (Some of the answers the brethren might say include: Opportunity to share fellowship with others. More dues money. More people to share committee and officer work. More ritual practice for our officers and candidate counselors. Insuring the Lodge's future for another generation.)

Who do you know that would be, could be, or should be a Master Mason? What would it take to have that man petition? Let's create a list of possible candidates.

The leader should explain that: There has been much confusion over the years about discussing possible membership with a non-member. The Grand Lodge Code, in fact, has been changed to provide a very precise explanation of how far a member can go in asking another to join. The code (Chapter 34:01 (b) says: "...there is no objection to selectively identifying a man whom you believe would make a good Mason and explain that you would be proud to sponsor him for membership in a symbolic lodge. After the procedure for obtaining membership in a Masonic Lodge is explained, the potential candidate should be left to make his own decision and come of his own free will."

Friendship nights have been an extremely valuable tool for recruiting new members. (Review details of Friendship Program, if the Lodge is interested.)