TOOLBOX



Hold A Lodge Debate

A debate is a great method to explore an issue and works very well within a Lodge meeting. It requires several brethren to do some initial thinking and preparation so as to provide the catalyst for other brethren to contribute.

How:

- 1. Firstly identify a topic with a Masonic theme. One successfully used has been the motion: "This Lodge believes that the Three Grand Principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth are Incompatible with Modern Society's needs".
- 2. Then identify four brethren (perhaps the wardens?) confident in speaking to a topic. Appoint one to open for the 'affirmative' of the proposition and another to lead the 'negative'. Appoint the others to assist them by acting as the seconders.
- 3. Promote the debate and ask brethren to come along prepared to contribute either affirming or negating the motion a maximum of 3 mins. Definitely ensure that there are several contributions from either side.
- 4. Let the debate continue for as long as there are contributions or for about a maximum of 40mins. Once the wrap up has concluded appoint two counters and call for a show of hands for those supporting the negative and then for those supporting the affirmative.
- 5. Highlight the winning result is not that important the outcome of brethren having their masonic understanding expanded and challenged is a more worthy outcome.
- 6. The Master can chair the debate and set the ground rules:
 - 5mins each for the lead speakers
 - 3mins each for the seconders
 - 3mins each for contributors
 - contributors to stand, state their name (and Lodge & No. if a visitor) for the Secretary's benefit and whether they are 'for' or 'against' right at the beginning of their 3 minutes (max).
 - 3mins wrap up for each of the leaders, first the negative and then the affirmative.
- 7. Ask the Secretary to time-keep ring a bell 1 min before the speakers time is up and then at the conclusion of the allocated time.



